

Average Cost of Raising Dairy Calf

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 1.—According to investigators in the Department of agriculture the average net cost of raising a dairy heifer one year old on a Wisconsin farm is \$39.52 and of a two year heifer \$61.41. These figures are applicable to other dairy districts in the North and East where land and feed values are similar to those in Wisconsin. They are based on data obtained from raising 117 calves from birth to the time they enter the dairy herd. The details, with a complete summary of the investigation, have recently been published by the Department of agriculture in Bulletin No. 40, under the title of "The Cost of Raising a Dairy Cow."

There are in the United States over 21,000,000 dairy cows. These figures give some idea of the importance of this economic problem to the country as a whole, for these cows must be replaced every few years. The cost of the production of these helpers is a large item in keeping down the profits of the dairymen.

The new bulletin contains numerous tables and several illustrations of the Jersey calves from which the items of cost were obtained.

The most important item was the cost of the food, which was estimated at market value and amounted to nearly two-thirds of the total net cost of the heifer, while labor formed 12½ per cent of the cost.

Figures for the average net cost of the one-year-old heifer are as follows:

Feed.....	\$24.67
Labor.....	4.45
Other costs.....	6.36
Total.....	\$35.48

To this should be added the initial value of the calf, which was estimated to be \$7.04, making a total cost at the end of one year of \$42.52. This charge is justified in view of the fact that dairy cows are credited with this item in determining the cost of milk production. By allowing \$3.00 credit for manure, it leaves a net cost of \$39.52 at the end of the first year.

Figures for the average net cost of the two-year-old heifer are as follows:

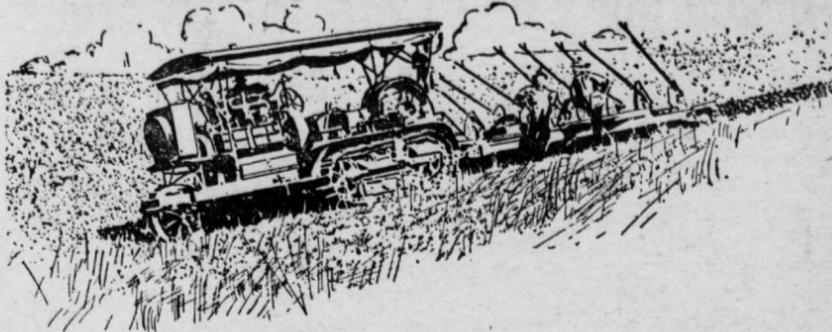
Initial value.....	\$ 7.04
Feed.....	40.83
Labor.....	7.81
Other costs.....	13.73
	\$96.41
Credit for manure.....	8.00
	\$61.41

One-half of the feed cost the first year and one-third for the full two years is for whole and skim milk.

By far the most expensive period in the life of the calf is the first four weeks, the cost being nearly double that for any other four week period. This high cost is occasioned by its being dependent almost entirely upon whole milk.

The foregoing figures show that it costs more to raise calves to maturity than is commonly supposed, and they support the advice which the Department is continually trying to impress upon dairy farmers, that it does not pay to raise any but the best heifers. Raising scrub heifers and selling them at \$2 to \$540 apiece, as many do, is unprofitable except on cheap land or under other very favorable conditions. But it does pay to raise the best heifers, for in good dairy sections well-bred heifers are worth considerably more than \$60 when two years of age. Furthermore, dairy farmers as a rule are obliged to raise their own stock, as it is difficult to buy productive cows at a reasonable price. In some sections of the West where alfalfa is worth only \$4.00 or \$5.00 a ton, or in the Southwest where pastures furnish feed the greater part of the year, this cost may be greatly reduced. Even where it costs \$60 to raise a heifer, two-thirds of this amount is charged for feeds at market prices, a large part of which can be grown on the farm at a profit. Thus by raising the heifers the dairy farmer finds a home market for feeds grown on the farm at remunerative prices, and at the same time aids in maintaining the fertility of the farm.

The fight of the Pacific Northwest for the location in this section of one of the federal reserve banks provided for in the new currency bill has been lost for the present, at least. The committee, which made a detour of the country to ascertain where these banks should be located, decided to place but one of them on the Pacific Coast and that at San Francisco. Others were located at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Dallas, Texas. The committee, it is announced, called attention to the fact that it could not find grounds for the establishment of more than one bank on this Coast, but held out the hope that in the near future another would be authorized for the Northwest. It is probable that branch banks will be established at Portland and Seattle.—Ex.



Fifteen cents an Acre

Gottlieb Schorzman of Quincy, Washington, owner of a 60-h. p. Caterpillar, says: "I plowed 1100 acres 6 and 7 inches deep at a cost of 30 cents an acre. I seeded 450 acres for 10 cents an acre. I farmed with horses and mules for 22 years, but never before had as good work done as this year with the Caterpillar. It also makes my boys stay on the farm."

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Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

Here is a statement of a year's work and the expense. It was sent to us by David Jassman of Odessa, Washington. He also owns a 60-h. p. Caterpillar. He says: "The statement speaks for itself as it brings the cost a trifle over 15 cents an acre. [For the year's work.] I did not figure any labor, as my son and I did the work, except in harvest we had two more men. My Baby Holt Harvester worked splendid with the Caterpillar and did a good job."

Here is the statement: Acres	Expenses were:		
Seeded.....	750	Distillate 3157 gallons.....	\$410.00
Double disced stubble.....	800	Cylinder Oil.....	242.09
Harrowed.....	750	Black Oil.....	61.17
Plowed.....	1525	Cup Grease.....	31.00
Packed with subsurface packer.....	240	Repair Parts.....	77.45
Harvested with Holt Harvester.....	750	Total.....	\$822.12
Double Disced stubble in fall.....	690		
Total.....	5475		

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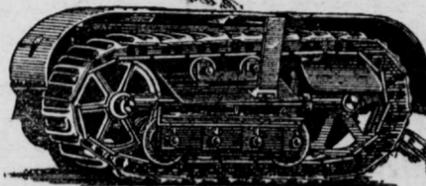
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