

SAMPLE COSTS TO
RAISE DAIRY HEIFERS -
SAN MATEO COUNTY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
SAN MATEO COUNTY

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Dairy cattle

SAMPLE COSTS TO RAISE DAIRY HEIFERS IN SAN MATEO COUNTY - 1961

0 to 2 months (weight 90 to 148 lbs.)

Milk substitute, 50 lbs. @ \$20.00 cwt	\$10.00
Calf concentrate, 80 lbs. @ \$75.00 per ton	3.00
Alfalfa hay, 50 lbs. @ \$30.00 per ton	.75
Total Feed Cost 0 to 2 months	\$13.75
Original cost of calf	30.00
Veterinary supplies	1.00
Bedding	1.50
Death loss (5% loss)	2.30
Interest @ 6%	.45
TOTAL COST TO 2 MONTHS	\$49.00

2 to 6 months (Weight 148 to 355 lbs.)

Concentrate: 200 lbs. @ \$3.75	7.50
250 lbs. @ \$3.00	7.50
Hay: 500 lbs. @ \$30.00 per ton	7.50
Total feed cost 2 to 6 months	\$22.50
Bedding	1.00
Interest @ 6%	2.20
Total cost 2 to 6 months	\$25.70
ACCUMULATED TOTAL COST TO 6 MONTHS	\$74.70

6 to 10 months (Weight 355 to 550 lbs.)

Concentrates: 200 lbs. @ \$3.00	6.00
Hay: 1450 lbs. @ \$25.00 per ton	19.15

10 to 12 months (Weight 550 to 630 lbs.)

Pasture @ \$4.00	8.00
Total feed cost, 6 to 12 months	\$33.15
Interest @ 6%	3.25
Total cost to 6 to 12 months	\$36.40
ACCUMULATED TOTAL COST TO 12 MONTHS	\$111.10

12 to 24 months (Weight 630 to 1050 lbs.)

Pasture for 6 months @ \$4.00 per month	24.00
Hay: 2 tons @ \$25.00	50.00
Total feed cost, 12 to 24 months	\$74.00
Interest @ 6%	11.10
Total cost to 12 to 24 months	\$85.10
ACCUMULATED COST TO 24 MONTHS	\$196.20

(Not including labor, investment in equipment, or miscellaneous costs such as taxes)

To pay a man \$6,000.00, he would have to care for 300 head and labor charge would be \$40.00 (or \$20.00 per year per head).

Pasture income at \$32.00 per head or \$16.00 per head per year
(\$16.00 x 300 = \$4,800.00)

Prepared by
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<u>AGE</u>	<u>PRODUCTION COST</u>	<u>ESTIMATED WEIGHT</u>	<u>PROD. COW PER LB.</u>
0 - 2 months	\$ 50.00	150 lbs	33-1/3¢/lb
0 - 6 months	75.00	355 lbs	21¢/lb.
0 - 12 months	111.00	630 lbs	17.7¢/lb.
0 - 24 months	200.00	1050 lbs	19¢/lb.
2 - 6 months	25.00	200 lbs	12.5¢/lb.
6 - 12 months	36.00	275 lbs	13.1¢/lb.
12 - 24 months	89.00	420 lbs	21.2¢/lb.

Successful calf raising depends in large part on experience and application of proper methods. Methods will vary from ranch to ranch depending upon available feed, equipment, buildings, labor, etc.

The dairy calf producer may decide to raise calves for all or part of the growing period. This determination will to some degree be influenced by experience, facilities, preference, availability, and price of different age heifers and market future.

The new booklet, MANAGING YOUNG DAIRY STOCK IN CALIFORNIA, describes some of the principles applied by dairymen in California. This booklet may be obtained without charge from the Agricultural Extension Service, Half Moon Bay.

The raising of dairy heifers requires more experience and skills than many other types of livestock enterprises. The following cost estimates outline was prepared with the assistance of Robert Appleman, Extension Dairyman, and Cleo Sare, Half Moon Bay dairyman. It is hoped that this information will assist other dairymen in making their own cost analysis or comparisons.