

DAIRY PRODUCTION
IN
RIVERSIDE COUNTY - 1975

Riverside County dairymen, close to high population centers, stress the production of Class I milk. This is the most specialized and highly developed dairy area of the state. Competition for use of land for production of high value fruit and vegetable crops, or for residential subdivisions, prohibits dairymen from growing their own feed. Cows are continuously kept in drylot corrals, all feed being placed before them. Because of high land values most dairymen own only 10 to 40 acres of land. Few calves are raised on these dairies, replacement animals either being purchased as fresh heifers or milking cows, or grown out for the dairymen by other people. Ranches that specialize in the growing of replacements on a contract basis are located outside of the local area.

MANAGEMENT: Local herds range in size from 50 to 5000 cows. The majority of dairies are milking between 300 and 600 animals. Dairies in Riverside County are primarily owned rather than rented.

Average production per cow varies from 12,000 to 20,000 pounds of whole milk, and 450 to 800 pounds of butterfat annually. Under conditions of high production, the average productive life of a cow would be about 3 years. Mortality in the milking herd varies from 2 to 6 percent. Many of the cows are still milked in stanchion barns although all of the new dairies are now building parlors. Because of the mild climate, cows are not housed but shade may be required for maximum production in the warmer valleys.

LABOR: Approximately 90 percent of all labor on the dairy ranch is done by hired help and only about 10 percent by the operator and his family. With machine milking, one man can milk up to 135 cows in a flat barn and 250 in a parlor. Additional labor for the care of the milk produced from 135 to 250 cows will take approximately two man-hours per day. The feeding and care of this number of animals will require four man-hours per day. Total labor required per cow per year ranges from 30 to 40 hours.

FEED: Lactating cows are fed alfalfa hay produced either in the desert or the San Joaquin valleys, plus commercial concentrate mixes. Individual cows will be fed 25 to 40 pounds of hay equivalent a day and 15 to 30 pounds of concentrates, with or without varying amounts of green feed and ensilage produced locally. Where a normal relationship exists between the prices of roughage and concentrates, dairymen frequently give the cows all of the good quality hay they will eat and in addition each cow is fed concentrates equal to the amount of butterfat she produces per month divided by 2 1/2.

MARKETING: The bulk of the milk produced in Riverside County is sold directly to creameries and processing plants located in adjacent counties near centers of high population. Although only 25 percent of the cows in the state are located in southern California, over 35 percent of the milk is produced in this area. Approximately 85 percent of the milk is sold as Class I. If a dairyman is to sell milk to a creamery, it is necessary for him to have a milk marketing contract known as a pool quota. Prices paid for milk are set by the California Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Milk Stabilization.

EXAMPLE EXPENSES PER COW PER YEAR*

<u>Feed Costs:</u>	<u>Total Herd</u>	<u>Per Cow</u>	<u>Percent of Total Costs</u>
Hay or equivalent - 6.3 tons @ \$72 =	\$226,750	\$ 453.50	
Concentrates - 2.8 tons @\$140 =	<u>196,000</u>	<u>392.00</u>	
Total Feed Costs	\$422,750	\$ 845.50	62.0 %
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<u>Labor:</u>			
Hired labor - 30 hours @ \$4.00 =	\$ 60,000	\$ 120.00	
Total Labor Costs	\$ 60,000	\$ 120.00	8.8 %
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<u>Operation and Maintenance:</u>			
Breeding & Veterinary	\$ 5,000	\$ 10.00	
State & Ass'n Charges	12,500	25.00	
Repairs & Maint.	9,000	18.00	
Insurance & Taxes	15,000	30.00	
Utilities	7,500	15.00	
Supplies & Equipment	12,500	25.00	
Hauling - 15,600 lbs @ 21.5¢/cwt =	16,750	33.50	
Miscellaneous cash	<u>8,750</u>	<u>17.50</u>	
Total Operation and Maintenance	\$ 87,000	\$ 174.00	12.8 %
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<u>Replacements:</u>			
Herd depreciation plus the gain or loss from sale of culls (30% turnover @ \$275 per cow) =	\$ 41,250	\$ 82.50	6.0 %
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TOTAL CASH COSTS PER COW PER YEAR	\$611,000	\$1,222.00	
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Depreciation	\$ 14,750	\$ 29.50	
Interest on Investment @ 9 % =	<u>56,000</u>	<u>112.00</u>	
Total Depreciation & Interest	\$ 70,750	\$ 141.50	10.4 %
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TOTAL ALL COSTS PER YEAR	\$681,750	\$1,363.50	100.0 %
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<u>CAPITAL INVESTMENT PER COW*</u>			
Land, grading, fences - 35 acres @ \$6,000 =	\$210,000	\$ 420.00	28.2 %
Wells, pumps, irrigation lines =	32,500	65.00	4.4 %
Milking Plant & equipment =	100,000	200.00	13.4 %
Corrals & Pens =	55,000	110.00	7.4 %
Hay & machinery sheds =	17,500	35.00	2.3 %
Paving =	20,000	40.00	2.7 %
Feed wagons, tractors, pick-up =	22,500	45.00	3.0 %
Cows - 500 @ 575 =	<u>287,500</u>	<u>575.00</u>	<u>38.6 %</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT	\$745,000	\$ 1490.00	100.0 %

*Based on a well-managed herd of 500 cows in the Corona-Chino area.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
21150 Box Springs Rd.
Riverside, California

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