

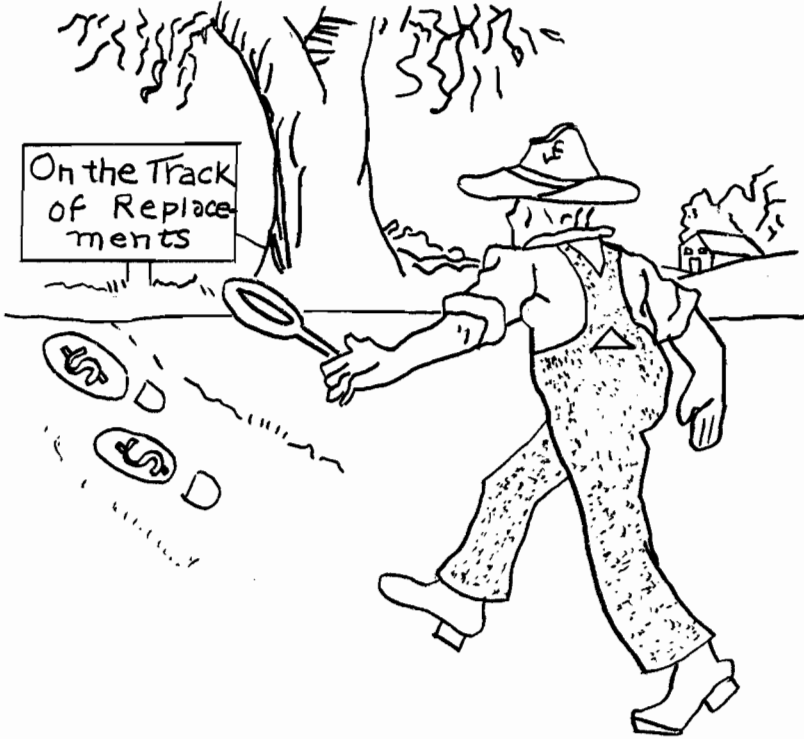
THE COST OF RAISING DAIRY HEIFERS

DY-NC-51

IN SONOMA COUNTY

1950 - 1951

Results of a Survey  
on 18 Dairies



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Received upon special request UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## INTRODUCTION

This survey was made to throw light on the important question of what it cost and did it pay to raise heifer calves for replacement in Sonoma County dairies. It was entirely a mail survey with a 2-page questionnaire being sent to around 150 members of the Sonoma County Dairy Herd Improvement Association. Complete data were returned by 18 dairymen and these are shown as furnished in the following 3 pages. Questionnaires were sent out in the early spring of 1951 so the cost data furnished probably apply to cost conditions in 1950 and 51. These figures show direct costs for an average single animal but no allowance to cover death loss.

## SUMMARY

The average for 14 grade herds shows a cost to 2 years of age of \$176 and for 4 purebred herds a cost of \$290 the principal difference being in the value of the calf at birth since other costs were not much different. With cows worth considerably more than this cost of raising even on dairies with little pasture available, it does pay to raise replacements here on these dairies.

## ADVANTAGES OF RAISING YOUR OWN REPLACEMENTS

1. It costs less than buying them.
2. You know what you are getting.
3. Yours are usually better than you can buy.
4. Less danger of introducing new diseases.
5. You can control time of freshing to fit your need for fresh cows.

TABLE I General Information on Raising Heifer Calves to 2 Years of Age

Ser. No.	Breed	Age to Freshen Mo.	No. Raided Per Year	% Sired Artificially	Cost of Calf Barn	Days Fed Whole Milk	Total Lbs. Whole Milk	Day Fed Calf Meal	Total Pounds Calf Meal	Lbs. Concentrate Mix	Hrs. Labor	No. Months of Pasture	Lbs. of Hay
1	Jersey	25	40	20.0	\$1000	70	350	180	180	460	15	18	1907
2	Jersey	24	20	----	100	150	600	150	75	330	30	12	3200
3	J.H.G.	24	30	7.5	150	60	360	---	---	585	24	18	1580
4	Jersey	26	10	----	250	60	480	180	20	280	24	22	1920
5	Jersey	24	4	75.0	50	75	350	150	100	280	35	---	3850
6	Jersey	30	15	7.5	200	180	1800	180	150	600	60	18	2160
7	Jersey	28	15	----	---	42	280	172	258	360	32	3	11850
8	Jersey	24	33	----	600	90	180	120	480	600	21	16	1640
9	Guern.	27	50	50	2000	60	600	120	360	750	9	18	2460
10	J.H.G.	26	80	85	150	90	1080	150	70	1131	14	19	2025
11	Jersey	27	16	----	500	60	360	---	---	625	13	21	4050
12	H.G.	27	25	----	500	20	160	90	23	680	30	23	4800
13	Jersey	26	7	----	50	10	80	180	475	450	23	22	2130
14	Guern.	26	10	----	550	30	30	60	50	175	47	23	3100
Ave.	(Grades)	26	25	----	469	71	479	124	160	522	27	17	3334
15	Guern.	33	3	100	75	50	800	150	20	38	35	27	2850
16	Jersey	24	11	----	---	60	260	150	75	540	25	23	3650
17	Jersey	25	19	----	300	30	220	110	200	480	40	5	5650
18	Ayr.	30	50	----	3500	42	357	75	210	837	12	18	4390
Ave. P.B.		28	21	----	1292	46	409	121	126	474	28	18	4125

Data furnished by 18 dairymen on their raising of heifer calves are listed above. Numbers 1 to 14 are for grade herds and 15 to 18 are for purebred. Although some heifers did not freshen at 2 years of age all inputs and costs shown in these tables apply only to the first 2 years so they may be compared from herd to herd. Notice the variation in feeds used - some used more milk and for a longer period where others used less milk and calf meal. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

TABLE II Detailed Costs Per Calf for the First Six Months

Ser. No.	Whole Milk	Skim Milk	Calf Meal	Conc. Mixture	Hay	Pasture	Total Feed Cost	Labor	Misc.	Int. & Deprec. On Barn	Subtotal Raising Costs	Value Dropped Calf	Total Cost 6 Mo. Heifer
1	\$ 17.50	\$ ----	\$14.40	\$12.60	\$ 6.75	\$6.00	\$ 57.25	\$ 9.00	\$5.00	\$2.07	\$ 73.32	\$20.00	\$ 93.32
2	36.00	----	7.13	5.40	6.75	----	55.28	15.00	5.00	.08	75.36	25.00	100.36
3	21.60	----	----	22.05	4.80	----	48.45	18.00	.50	.75	67.70	20.00	87.70
4	20.00	2.50	2.46	3.50	2.25	4.00	34.71	18.00	----	2.50	55.21	10.00	65.21
5	17.50	----	6.25	3.50	3.00	1.00	31.25	15.00	1.00	1.47	48.72	25.00	73.72
6	112.14	----	13.50	17.10	9.00	----	151.74	30.00	3.00	1.34	186.08	5.00	191.08
7	12.94	.49	10.58	----	18.00	----	42.01	7.90	2.20	1.00	53.11	10.00	63.11
8	21.60	6.30	31.16	8.64	4.37	----	72.07	9.00	2.50	1.81	85.38	10.00	95.38
9	20.11	----	22.46	10.08	15.00	----	67.65	7.20	2.50	2.59	79.94	25.00	104.94
10	-----	3.58	6.34	9.18	15.00	2.50	36.60	8.85	3.90	.27	49.62	50.00	99.62
11	24.75	----	----	11.75	16.87	----	53.37	7.50	2.00	2.61	65.48	25.00	90.48
12	9.00	----	1.80	4.20	11.55	3.00	29.55	22.50	----	1.80	53.85	15.00	68.85
13	3.00	10.60	----	17.33	4.50	----	35.43	12.00	1.50	.83	49.76	10.00	59.76
14	12.40	9.20	8.49	----	6.00	6.00	42.09	15.50	9.00	5.50	72.09	20.00	92.09
Ave for Grades	23.47	2.33	8.90	8.95	8.84	1.61	54.10	13.96	2.72	1.76	72.54	19.29	91.83
15	32.00	6.24	1.20	1.33	1.00	6.67	48.44	15.00	5.00	1.62	70.06	125.00	195.06
16	11.00	----	2.63	----	11.25	5.00	29.88	13.50	5.00	1.00	49.38	100.00	149.38
17	5.40	6.48	14.00	5.40	4.37	----	35.65	20.00	5.00	2.25	62.90	150.00	212.90
18	17.24	3.60	8.76	7.25	8.83	----	45.68	8.68	2.85	6.30	63.51	100.00	163.51
Ave for purebred	16.41	4.08	6.65	3.49	6.36	2.92	39.91	14.30	4.46	2.79	61.46	118.75	180.21

The above table shows costs in detail for the first 6 months. Feed costs are figured at reported prices for the quantity reported as used. Total feed cost for the 6 months may be seen to vary from a low of \$35 to a high of \$151 with differences in the value of milk used.

TABLE III Detailed Costs Per Calf from 6 Months to 2 Years of Age

Costs 6 months to 1 year of age													Total Cost at 2 years	
Ser. No.	Conc. Mix- ture	Hay	Pasture	Total Feed Cost	Labor	Misc.	Total	Conc.	Hay	Pasture	Labor	Misc. & Breeding		Total
1	\$ 3.60	\$ 8.40	\$18.00	\$30.00	\$ 3.00	\$3.00	\$36.00	\$-----	\$ 8.00	\$36.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 6.00	\$53.00	\$182.32
2	6.48	12.96	-----	19.44	15.00	-----	34.44	-----	12.00	24.00	-----	-----	36.00	170.80
3	-----	5.00	9.00	14.00	3.00	1.00	18.00	2.16	6.00	18.00	5.00	6.00	37.16	142.86
4	6.30	4.05	6.00	16.35	4.50	-----	20.85	-----	8.10	24.00	1.00	1.00	34.10	120.16
5	6.30	21.60	6.00	33.90	10.00	-----	43.90	-----	21.60	24.00	10.00	5.00	60.60	178.22
6	5.70	5.00	10.00	20.70	15.00	1.00	36.70	-----	5.00	20.00	15.00	6.50	46.50	274.28
7	13.50	43.20	-----	56.70	2.10	-----	58.80	-----	81.00	6.00	1.50	-----	88.50	210.41
8	8.64	6.75	8.00	23.39	6.00	.50	29.89	4.32	9.38	20.00	6.00	.50	40.20	165.47
9	5.40	3.75	20.00	29.15	.60	-----	29.75	10.80	12.00	30.00	1.20	7.50	61.50	196.19
10	13.50	9.18	15.00	37.68	1.96	-----	39.64	11.25	4.59	30.00	1.48	-----	47.32	186.58
11	9.45	33.50	-----	42.95	3.00	2.00	47.95	-----	-----	24.00	2.00	.50	26.50	164.93
12	13.50	13.50	9.00	36.00	-----	-----	36.00	-----	24.00	20.00	-----	-----	44.00	148.85
13	-----	2.40	12.00	14.40	1.00	-----	15.40	-----	14.40	24.00	10.00	1.00	49.40	124.56
14	-----	18.00	15.00	33.00	15.00	-----	48.00	-----	15.00	36.00	1.00	7.00	59.00	199.09
Ave. Gr.	6.60	13.38	9.14	29.12	5.72	.54	35.38	2.04	15.79	24.00	4.08	2.93	48.84	176.05
15	-----	12.50	15.00	27.50	10.00	-----	37.50	-----	15.00	30.00	10.00	10.00	65.00	297.56
16	6.30	13.50	12.00	31.80	13.50	-----	45.30	12.60	13.50	24.00	10.00	10.00	70.10	264.78
17	16.20	22.50	-----	38.70	18.00	-----	56.70	-----	43.75	15.00	10.00	10.00	78.75	348.35
18	23.81	14.40	-----	38.21	10.68	-----	48.89	-----	20.86	14.43	1.00	-----	36.29	248.69
Ave. B.	11.58	15.72	6.75	34.05	13.05	-----	47.10	3.15	23.28	20.86	7.75	7.50	62.54	289.85

Cost for the 2nd six months and for the second year appear above with total cost for the entire 2 years in the last column. Notice that with certain items not included total cost varied from a low of \$120 to a high of \$348 in different herds. Some included no breeding feed or a nominal one since they considered this was at no cost.