

Commercial Dairy Production in

San Bernardino County - 1976

By Farm Advisor James C. Oliver, San Bernardino County

San Bernardino County is the largest county in the United States in area. With 20,160 square miles it could contain the entire states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Delaware--a total area of 18,315 square miles.

The lush San Bernardino Valley is in the extreme southwestern tip of the county. It is south of the beautiful San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains. The major portion of the dairy industry is located in the west end known as the Chino-Corona Valley. There are 306 Grade A commercial dairies in the county. Of this total, 293 are located in the Chino area, one of the largest concentrations in the world.

In 1975, total commercial milk production of these 306 dairies was 18,517,200 cwt. The annual dairy income of \$173,486,000 was slightly over 56 percent of the total gross agricultural return of \$308,673,500. Since 1950, the number of dairies nearly doubled and milk cow numbers increased almost eight-fold (table 1).

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LEADS THE NATION IN MILK PRODUCTION

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF DAIRIES, COWS AND VALUE OF MILK SOLD

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Dairies</u>	<u>No. of Cows over 2 Yrs.</u>	<u>Value of Milk Sold</u>
1950	166	16,440	\$ 10,670,286
1960	244	37,700	25,973,500
1970	327	107,230	77,973,600
1975	306	127,000	173,486,000

Between 1950 and 1975, the value of milk sold increased at an even higher rate than the number of cows (table 1), due primarily to a better than 50 percent increase in the average milk production per cow, and increases in prices received for milk.

ONE - SHEET ANSWERS

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TABLE 2
EXAMPLE EXPENSES
FOR EACH COW *

PER YEAR	Total Herd	Per Cow	Percent of Total Costs
Feed Costs:			
Hay or equivalent - 5.6 tons @ \$85 =	\$238,000	\$476.00	
Concentrates - 3.5 tons @\$130=	<u>227,500</u>	<u>455.00</u>	
Total Feed Costs	\$465,500	\$931.00	61.3%
Labor:			
Hired labor - 30 hours @ \$4.67	<u>\$ 70,000</u>	<u>\$140.00</u>	9.2%
Total Labor Costs	\$ 70,000	\$140.00	
Operation and Maintenance:			
Breeding & Veterinary	\$ 6,000	\$ 12.00	
State & Assn. Charges	13,750	27.50	
Repairs & Maint.	10,500	21.00	
Insurance & Taxes	18,750	37.50	
Utilities	10,000	20.00	
Supplies & Equipment	15,000	30.00	
Hauling - 16,000 lbs @ 23.0 /cwt=	18,500	37.00	
Miscellaneous cash	<u>10,500</u>	<u>21.00</u>	
Total Operations and Maintenance	\$103,000	\$206.00	13.6%
Replacements:			
Herd depreciation plus the gain or loss from sale of culls (30% turnover @\$300 per cow)	\$ 45,000	\$ 90.00	5.9%
TOTAL CASH COSTS PER COW PER YEAR	\$683,500	\$1,367.00	
Depreciation	\$ 16,750	\$ 33.50	
Interest on Investment @ 9%	<u>58,750</u>	<u>117.50</u>	
Total Depreciation and Interest	\$ 75,500	\$ 151.00	10.0%
TOTAL ALL COSTS PER YEAR	<u>\$759,000</u>	<u>\$1,518.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

TABLE 3
CAPITAL INVESTMENT
PER COW *

Land, grading, fences - 35 acres @\$6,000	\$210,000	\$ 420.00	26.2%
Wells, pumps, irrigation lines	35,000	70.00	4.4%
Milking Plant & equipment	120,000	240.00	15.0%
Corrals & pens	65,000	130.00	8.1%
Hay & machinery sheds	20,000	40.00	2.5%
Paving	24,000	48.00	3.0%
Feed wagons, tractors, pick-up	27,000	54.00	3.4%
Cows - 500 @\$575	<u>300,000</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>37.4%</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT	\$801,000	\$1,602.00	100.0%

* BASED ON A WELL-MANAGED HERD OF 500 COWS IN THE CHINO-CORONA AREA