

*W. S. Reed*BEEF CATTLE FACTS FOR EL DORADO COUNTY

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The following information has been developed by the Agricultural Extension Service and several leading successful cattlemen for the guidance of those wishing to enter the beef cattle business in El Dorado County.

For the post-war period, a minimum of 100 breeding cows will be necessary to produce income sufficient for a suitable standard of living for one family. Suitable cows would cost, at present, a minimum of \$80 per head.

One-hundred breeding cows means that at least 300 head of stock must be carried, including steers, heifers one and two years old, and calves. 80 per cent calf crop raised is the maximum to be expected.

This number would require a minimum of from two to three thousand acres of range land, depending on the quality of the range. This must include summer range in the mountains or an equivalent of one hundred acres of irrigated pasture. In addition, the acreage should include one hundred acres of land producing hay each year for winter food.

It would require from 15 to 20 acres of average range land to carry one animal unit for a period of eight to nine months. Some winter range in the lower foothills is desirable.

The following table summarizes the minimum investment necessary:

100 cows @ \$80 per head	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
2,000 to 3,000 acres of range @ \$6 to \$10 per acre	\$ 12,000 to	\$ 30,000
Equipment, including horses, car, truck, etc., and 4 bulls at \$175	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
	TOTAL	\$ 25,000 to \$ 43,000

Minimum investment per cow = \$ 250

If no buildings are on the land, add \$ 2,000 more for barns, shed, and corrals. The living quarters for the owner is not a part of the livestock investment, and would be considered extra.

Starting with breeding cows only, it would require one year before any income was obtained, and this would be from calves only. If young stock were purchased with the cows, the investment would be higher.

Enterprise Efficiency Studies carried on by the Agricultural Extension Service in several counties of the State, shows an average cost of raising beef at 6.2 ¢ per pound. There is no reason to believe that it can be produced any cheaper in El Dorado County. Those records also show that the average cost of a beef calf at the time of birth is \$20.