

About the Farm

What Does it Cost to Raise a Dairy Cow?

In cheese-factory districts many dairymen have made a practice, in the past, of selling all their calves when a few days old, and have depended on buying mature cows to keep the herd to the required number. Men who disposed of whole milk at a good price considered it was more expensive to raise a calf than to purchase a mature animal, but, to-day the problem of buying suitable cows at an ordinary figure is becoming acute. The high price obtained for dairy products during the past few years has influenced many farmers in retaining all promising heifers and cows in their own herds. Dairymen are realizing that if the size of the herd is to be maintained and the productive capacity increased, the most satisfactory solution is to rear all strong, heifer calves from high-producing cows in their herds.

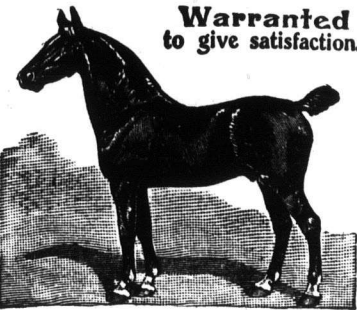
It was only a few years ago that good two-year old heifers could be purchased for \$30 or \$40, and mature cows around \$55 or \$60. The cost of raising cows has an important bearing on the economy of milk production. The question arises: what does it cost to raise a heifer to the productive stage? It is believed that it costs more to raise the average cow than is ever returned in profits. It is essential therefore, that well-bred, strong, healthy calves that will make good use of the feed consumed, be raised. The amount and kind of feed and care received are important factors in the cost of raising the heifers. It is possible to raise them quite cheaply by skipping the amount of milk used, and in feeding ordinary roughage and concentrates which are handy, rather than studying the particular requirements necessary to grow strong, thrifty calves. The actual cost of raising calves will depend very much on the amount of whole milk and skim-milk used, and the amount of high-priced concentrates which are fed. Rough estimates are frequently made regarding the cost of raising calves, but few farmers are so situated as to be able to keep an accurate account of all feeds consumed by the young animals. Besides the feed, there are other expenses which must also be considered. Several years ago records were kept of a number of calves being raised at Macdonald College, Quebec, and during the first six months the average amount of feed consumed was 228 lbs. of whole milk; 2,699 lbs. of skim-milk; 91 lbs. of linseed meal; 92 lbs. of oats; 188 lbs. of hay; 204 lbs. of roots and silage. At the end of this period the average weight of a calf was 372 lbs. At the present market price, these feeds would cost about \$13. During the second six months \$18 would be a fair estimate of the cost of feeding a calf, or a total of \$31 for the year, and to this would have to be added value of the calf at birth, cost of labor, bedding, housing interest and taxes, which would amount to possibly \$13 or \$14. Crediting the calf with \$3 as value of manure the net cost of a yearling would be about \$42.

At several Experimental Stations in the United States, extensive work has been carried on in an endeavor to arrive at a fair average cost of raising heifer calves on feed grown on the average farm and figured at market prices. At the Wisconsin Station records were kept of all expenses incurred in the rearing of heifers to two years of age, and the net cost was \$16.41, 12.5 per cent of this was for labor, 22 per cent for other costs, and 65.5 per cent for feed. At the Connecticut Station the average net cost of rearing a heifer to two years of age was \$66. At the Ohio Agricultural Station C. C. Hayden, M. S., Chief of the Dairy Staff, has completed extensive investigation work along this line and his deductions are to the effect that Holstein Friesian heifers cost \$82.54 to raise them to two years of age, and other breeds were about the same. As heifers do not usually freshen until they are 30 to 32 months of age, the cost of raising them to the productive stage is materially increased above the figures given. The figures for the three stations vary considerably due, largely, to the value placed on calves at birth, the kind of feed fed, and the ruling market price. The factors considered by Prof. Hayden on arriving

at these figures, were the value of calf at birth, feed, labor, housing, interest, insurance, taxes, and service fee. It was rather difficult to put an average value on labor in looking after calves, as the cost varies with the number cared for, local labor conditions and class of labor employed. The item of taxes and insurance varies with the tax rate and value of heifers, which depends on the breeding and demand. The investigation work reported in bulletin 49 of the U. S. Plant Industry, shows that the labor requirement for heifers one year of age is 7.13 minutes per day, and for heifers one to two years of age, four minutes per day. A laborer's time is figured at 15 cents per hour, which makes the cost of labor the first year \$6.50, and \$3.65 for the second year. Prof. Hayden, in his work, valued the calf at \$5.00 at birth, and used \$6.50 as the labor cost for the first year, but valued the time at \$5.00 for the second year, as he was of the opinion that one cent per day was not sufficient. A charge of \$2.00 for the first year and \$2.50 for the second was made for bedding; for utensils, tools, and veterinary fees, a charge of \$1.00 per head was made. Housing was charged at \$2.00 per head per year; interest and taxes were charged at the rate of five per cent and one per cent respectively on the value of the calf at birth, plus the cost of tools, plus one-half the cost of feed, labor and bedding, less the value of the manure. The service fee was \$1.50. A credit for manure of \$3.00 the first year and \$6.00 the second year was given. The pasture was charged at the rate of 30 cents per month the first year, and 90 cents for the second. This may be considered low for some sections. Feed was charged at the following prices: whole milk, \$1.50 per hundred; skim-milk at 20 cents per hundredweight; clover hay, \$12.00 per ton; corn silage and stover, at \$4.00 per ton; wheat-bran, at \$24.00, and linseed meal at \$33.00 per ton. All feeds were weighed, and any feed refused was weighed again and deducted from the amount fed. Naturally, the heifers receiving the largest amount of milk, and smallest amount of pasture were the most expensive to raise, which emphasizes the fact that heifers born in the fall and normally fed, cost less to one year of age, than those born in the spring, even though a normal amount of milk is fed to each. The calf born in the fall consumes its milk during the grain feeding season, thus reducing the amount of grain required, and when spring comes, it is old enough to make the maximum use of pasture during the full pasture season. The spring-born calf consumes its milk during the cheap pasture season, and must be fed on grain and roughage at a time when it eats the most.

The heifers, used in estimating the cost of feeding, made a daily gain of about 1.3 lbs. the first year, and one pound the second year. They were fed a considerable quantity of whole milk and skim-milk, which possibly increased the cost somewhat. However, if any dairyman purposes raising a thrifty calf, that will have sufficient size when mature, it is poor economy to skip the amount of milk fed. Of course, good, thrifty calves have been raised on a small amount of milk in combination with sweet, clover hay, oat chop, cornmeal, and a little linseed meal. The following figures give the average amount of feed consumed with thirty heifers in the test: At the end of the first year the weight was 564 lbs., and in that time 499 lbs. of whole milk, 2,786 lbs. of skim-milk; 656 lbs. of grain; 586 lbs. of silage; 768 lbs. of hay; and 9 lbs. of stover was consumed, besides 128 days on pasture. The total cost of the feed was \$29.31. Valuing other costs, as previously mentioned, at \$14.79, the total net cost was \$44.10, for a calf at one year of age. From one to two years of age the feed consumed was: 174 lbs. of skim-milk; 870 lbs. of grain; 2,247 lbs. of silage; 1,419 lbs. of hay; 232 lbs. of stover, and 151 days on pasture. The total feed cost was \$29.55, and other costs \$8.89, making the net cost of \$38.44 for rearing the heifer from one to two years. These figures may seem rather high, but, on the feed given, the calves just made ordinary gains, and would not average over 1,000 lbs. apiece at the end

Warranted to give satisfaction.



GOMBAULT'S CAUSTIC BALSAM

A safe, speedy and positive cure for

Curb, Splint, Sweeney, Capped Hock, Strained Tendons, Founder, Wind Puffs, and all lameness from Spavin, Ringbone and other bony tumors. Cures all skin diseases of Parasites, Thrush, Diphtheria. Removes all Bunches from Horses or Cattle.

As a HUMAN REMEDY for Rheumatism, Sprains, Sore Throat, etc., it is invaluable. Every bottle of Caustic Balsam sold is warranted to give satisfaction. Price \$1.50 per bottle. Sold by druggists, or sent by express, charges paid, with full directions for its use. Send for descriptive circulars, testimonials, etc. Address

The Lawrence-Williams Co., Toronto, Ont.

1695 ON TRIAL

Upward American

FULLY GUARANTEED CREAM SEPARATOR

ASOLD PROPOSITION to send new, well made, easy running, perfect skimming separator for only \$16.95. Closely skims warm or cold milk. Makes heavy or light cream. Bowl a sanitary marvel, easily cleaned. Different from picture, which illustrates larger capacity machines. See our easy

Monthly Payment Plan

Shipments made promptly from Winnipeg, Man., Toronto, Ont., and St. John, N. B. Whether dairy is large or small, write for handsome free catalog and easy payment plan.

AMERICAN SEPARATOR CO.
Box 3136 Bainbridge, N. Y.

SHOEMAKER'S BOOK ON POULTRY

and Almanac for 1917 has many colored plates of fowls true to life. It tells all about chickens, their prices, their care, diseases and remedies. All about incubators, their prices and their operation. All about poultry houses and how to build them. It's an encyclopedia of chickendom. You need it. Only 15c.

C. C. SHOEMAKER, Box 908 Freeport, Ill.

THE C. P. R. GIVES YOU TWENTY YEARS TO PAY

An immense area of the most fertile land in Western Canada for sale at low prices and easy terms ranging from \$11 to \$30 for farm lands with ample rainfall—irrigated lands up to \$50. One-tenth down, balance if you wish within twenty years. In certain areas, land for sale without settlement conditions. In irrigation districts, loan for farm buildings, etc. up to \$2000, also repayable in twenty years—interest only 6 per cent. Here is your opportunity to increase your farm holdings by getting adjoining land, or to secure your friends as neighbors. For literature and particulars apply to Allan Cameron, Gen'l Supt. of Lands, Department of Natural Resources, C. P. R., 911 First Street East, Calgary, Alberta.

MARTIN & CO.

608 McIntyre Block WINNIPEG

MEMBERS WINNIPEG STOCK EXCHANGE

Stocks, Bonds and Investment Securities bought and sold on commission on all the principal exchanges. We will be glad to send our Monthly Review to anyone interested.

Application forms and information regarding DOMINION OF CANADA 5% DEBENTURE STOCK forwarded on request.

Cleanliness Enthroned



FORTUNATE is the woman whose kitchen continually reflects the cheeriness of Pedlar's "Perfect" Ceilings and Walls. Ease in housekeeping is added to pleasure. For besides lending an unusual beauty to your room, the occasional touch of a dampened cloth keeps it always clean as a china dish. Here indeed is the ideal kitchen.

PEDLAR'S PERFECT METAL CEILINGS AND WALLS

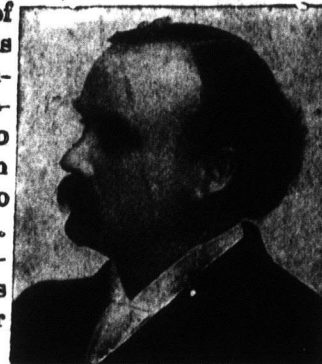
are moulded sharp and clear on steel dies, bringing out the design in clear detail. The machine cut beads on each panel make all joints fit tight and invisible. Being prime coated with special mellow-tone paint, that desirable soft finish is easily obtained. Can be placed right on plastered or wooden walls by one of the household or your tinmith. Over 2,000 styles and Period designs. Write for beautiful free Ceiling Catalogue W. E.

THE PEDLAR PEOPLE LIMITED
(Established 1861)

80 Lombard St. Winnipeg
Executive Offices & Factories: Oshawa
Pedlar Branches: Regina, Moose Jaw,
Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver

CANCER

R. D. EVANS, discoverer of the famous Evans' Cancer Cure, desires all who suffer with Cancer to write to him. The treatment cures external or internal Cancer.



R. D. EVANS Brandon Man.

Stop Using a Truss

FREE TRIAL OF PLAPAO

STUART'S PLAPAO-PADS are different from the truss, being medicine applicators made of softest rubber purposely to hold the parts securely in place. No straps or buckles attached—no obnoxious springs. Cannot slip, no earnest chafing, pressure against the bone. Thousands have successfully treated themselves at home without hindrance from work and reported most obstinate cases cured. Soft as velvet—easy to apply—non-painful. Awarded Gold Medal. Process of recovery is natural, so afterwards no further use for trusses. We prove it by sending you Trial of Plapao absolutely free. Write today, PLAPAO LABORATORIES, 5-4 118 St. Louis, Mo.

CURLY HAIR

"WAVCURL" Imparts Beautiful PERMANENT CURLS. One packet sufficient, however listless your hair. One testimonial says: "My hair soon became a mass of wavy curls." Result certain. Price 2s 9d. Special reduction for few weeks. Send 1s 6d only for large size 2s 9d packet.

The New Wavcurl Co., 67 Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, Holborn, London, W.C., England.