

PROFIT IN CATTLE

Cost of Growing Beef Cattle in Corn Belt States as Shown by Department of Agriculture

That cattle in most cases add to the farm income in the corn belt is indicated by the results of a recent investigation conducted by the department as part of a comprehensive study of the meat situation in which its specialists have been engaged for some time. The direct profit from the raising of calves in this section, the averages seem to establish, is usually small, but the investigators point out that there are other factors which make the practice more advantageous than would appear at first sight.

Among these advantages are the fact that live stock on the farm provide a home market and a means of utilization of farm roughage, some of which might be wasted if not fed, and the use of pastures which could not be employed profitably in any other way. Live stock also affords a ready home market for certain other crops, which at times would have to be hauled considerable distances to be sold. Finally, the presence of live stock on the farm gives productive employment throughout the year to labor which at certain seasons might otherwise be idle. Live stock also gives some interest on capital invested on equipment, which would produce nothing if not utilized at all seasons. The fertilizing value of manure also must be considered. When these factors are taken into consideration, even though there appears to be little or no profit as shown by cost figures, it is believed that in most instances the farm income is greater because of cattle having been kept on the farm. The keeping of live stock, therefore, is to be recommended on farms having large quantities of cheap roughage available or having land which can be best utilized as pasture.

the reader must bear in mind that there are wide divergences in cost in the several states. For this reason the report, after considering the general problem, deals in great detail with the range of costs in the several states and the averages for the several sections. The accompanying table gives the more important facts cited in the summary.

In discussing the different costs, the investigators point out that the difference between the net cost and the gross cost for the different groups is partly due to credit for manure and largely to credit for milk products from the cows that were milked. The high cost of maintenance of bulls where baby beef calves are produced is largely due to the fact that breeding bulls of high quality are necessary. The bull charge is determined largely by the number of calves produced per bull. While the cow charge for raising a calf was lowest in the dual-purpose group, the addition of the cost of feed and labor for the skim-milk calves makes the cost of the calf somewhat greater than in the double-nursing group. Winter feeding costs indicate that there is comparatively little difference in the cost of keeping calves in the five groups other than the baby beef after weaning time. The "credits" for baby-beef calves, amounting to \$7.53, include an allowance for manure and pork. Beef calves, though the most valuable as yearlings, cost so much more than the others that, according to averages, they were the least profitable. The cost of production exceeded inventory value by \$15. All calves, except those of the baby-beef group, were inventoried just before being turned on pasture at a time when the cost of the calf is greatest as compared with its value. It is believed that if the records had included data on the calves until the following November the difference between the cost and value would have been much less. The calves in the dual-purpose group, although the poorest in quality seem to rank second in point of pro-

Summary table showing for the six groups the various factors that make up the cost of producing a yearling

Item.	Beef	Baby beef	Dual purpose	Mixed	Partially milked	Double nursing
Number of farms	230	66	110	102	65	22
Average no. cows per farm	31.50	34.56	12.75	23.47	14.29	17.32
Cost maintaining breeding herd:						
Gross cost of maintaining cow	35.12	36.77	55.14	43.95	42.75	46.50
Credits other than calf	4.79	5.39	49.07	24.73	21.43	33.26
Net cost of maintaining cow	30.33	31.38	6.07	19.23	21.32	13.24
Net cost of maintaining bull	42.27	53.26	37.51	46.79	34.14	40.53
Calf crop:						
Percentage cows raising calves to weaning time	84.90	90.70	83.90	87.50	90.10	92.10
Number calves per bull	20.90	25.30	10.70	18.50	12.60	15.00
Cost of raising calf to weaning						
Cow charge	35.47	34.50	7.34	22.29	23.71	14.53
Bull charge	2.26	2.29	4.02	2.91	3.35	3.02
Feed	0.01	0.01	9.35	4.48	0.02	0.26
Labor	0.01	0.01	2.56	1.11	0.01	0.01
Total cost at weaning time	37.74	36.79	23.27	30.79	27.08	17.82
Cost of raising a yearling:						
Number of farms	190	67	99	96	57	22
Average no. calves per farm	24.43	30.20	10.57	18.46	11.16	14.23
Cost at weaning time	38.20	37.01	23.64	30.61	26.39	17.82
Winter-feed cost	12.32	35.02	9.93	12.01	12.21	10.24
Other charges	4.62	6.02	4.92	4.72	4.66	3.86
Gross cost	55.14	78.05	38.49	47.34	43.26	31.92
Credits	1.60	7.53	1.89	1.48	1.54	1.67
Net cost	53.54	70.52	36.60	45.86	41.72	30.25

The figures in black call attention to the fact that the baby-beef animal is carried somewhat beyond the yearling stage.

The figures of costs cited by the investigators are purely averages based on actual farms and herds investigated. The investigators obtained in 1914 and 1915, 596 records from farms in Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. These records dealt with 14,634 cows, 621 bulls, and 12,591 calves, produced from them, of which 2,023 were classed as baby beef.

These were arranged in six groups based on six distinct practices followed by the farmers of this region. These are:

BEEF.—Farms where all the cows are kept strictly for beef (except baby beef), in which there is no sale of milk and butter.

BABY BEEF.—Farms devoted to the production of high-grade calves fattened and sold at from 12 to 18 months of age.

DUAL PURPOSE.—Farms on which all the cows are milked and the calves weaned at birth and raised on skim milk.

MIXED.—Farms where the best cows are milked, their calves being weaned at birth, while calves from other cows run with their dams. This is a combination of beef and dual purpose.

PARTIALLY MILKED.—Farms on which calves are not weaned, but on which a part of the milk is drawn from the cow, the calf taking the remainder.

DOUBLE NURSING.—Farms where some of the cows are milked and their calves given to other cows.

Summary of Results
The following summaries are based on these six classifications, and are given as averages from the records of the farms and live stock actually reported. The conclusions are averages for the entire section studied, and

fit. The cost of production was lowest for calves in the double-nursing group, and as these animals are relatively of good quality they showed the greatest profit. Although they were but 22 farms in this group the results seem, to the investigators, significant.

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Engine Trouble

Engine trouble can be traced to one or more of the following reasons, according to the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the College of Agriculture.

Poor compression, caused by a leaky spark plug, leaky valve cap, leaky valve, leaks past the piston, tappet arms adjusted too closely, sticky valve stem, and broken valve spring or valve.

Poor ignition, caused by a broken spark plug, points on spark plug too close or too far apart, poor batteries,

poor insulation, poor contact points, and weak magnets on magneto.

Poor carburetion, caused by water in the gasoline, carburetor out of adjustment, leaky manifold, clogging of gasoline pipe, and carburetor too cold.

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In preparing a spring chicken for broiling, remove the backbone, neck, and keel bone. The backbone and neck may readily and easily be removed at one time. Hold the bird breast down, and with the use of a sharp knife, insert the same thru the

back and cut along each side of the vertebral column. Remove the neck in like manner and leave the viscera plainly exposed for immediate removal. The keel bone should be removed by first cutting around the outline of same from the inside. Then gradually scrape the flesh away leaving the skin underneath unbroken. The bird can then be laid perfectly flat for broiling, and when perfectly prepared there should be no incision to show.—College of Agriculture.

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