

THE PRODUCTION COST OF COWS MILK

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Why such an estimation?

- ❑ Propaganda that cow's urine is more valuable or income generating
- ❑ Understanding that purchase of milk at lower cost is a sin as it leads to two major sins
 - Depriving the calf its growth food
 - Neglect of the cow that is not yielding milk

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Parameters

- ❑ Total Yield of the cow is her body weight X 7
- ❑ Total yield /300 gives the average yield
- ❑ The cows are maintained on fodder alone and hence 3% of body weight is taken as dry matter requirement
- ❑ In an ideal system of rearing(No culling) only 25-30% of the herd shall be milking
- ❑ So the feeding cost in a herd shall be 3-4 times the cost for one cow
- ❑ Cost of grass only is accounted

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Actual costing of milk without culling of cows and calves

Sl no	Wt in Kg	Estimated yield	Saleable qty	Fodder req	Cost /kg of grass	Feeding expense	Total feeding cost	Cost /l
1	400	9.3	4.7	60	0	0	0	0
2	400	9.3	4.7	60	1	60	180	38.57
3	400	9.3	4.7	60	2	120	360	77.14
4	400	9.3	4.7	60	3	180	540	115.71
5	400	9.3	4.7	60	4	240	720	154.29
6	400	9.3	4.7	60	5	300	900	192.86
7	400	9.3	4.7	60	5.5	330	990	212.14

With culling of unproductive cows but new born is fed

Sl no	Wt in Kg	Estimated yield	Saleable qty	Fodder req	Cost /kg of grass	Feeding expense	Cost/litre
1.0	400.0	9.3	4.7	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.0	400.0	9.3	4.7	60.0	1.0	60.0	12.9
3.0	400.0	9.3	4.7	60.0	2.0	120.0	25.7
4.0	400.0	9.3	4.7	60.0	3.0	180.0	38.6
5.0	400.0	9.3	4.7	60.0	4.0	240.0	51.4
6.0	400.0	9.3	4.7	60.0	5.0	300.0	64.3
7.0	400.0	9.3	4.7	60.0	5.5	330.0	70.7

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With culling of unproductive cow and new born calf

Sl no	Wt in Kg	Estimated yield	Saleable quantity	Fodder req	Cost /kg of grass	Feeding expense	Cost/litre
1	400	9.3	9.3	60	0	0	0.0
2	400	9.3	9.3	60	1	60	6.4
3	400	9.3	9.3	60	2	120	12.9
4	400	9.3	9.3	60	3	180	19.3
5	400	9.3	9.3	60	4	240	25.7
6	400	9.3	9.3	60	5	300	32.1
7	400	9.3	9.3	60	5.5	330	35.4

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Different stages in the life of cow in conventional farming

- Growth of a calf to a mother -Minimum 2 yrs
- Lactation period-minimum 10 months
- Dry period -minimum 2 months

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In Conventional dairy

- Intercalving period is 12 months -A calf every year. Milking mothers will have to be impregnated
- Culling of unproductive cows
- Sale of calves/ calves not fed their share of milk

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The Purchase of milk and Culling of cows

- By purchasing milk at Rs 40/litre we are supporting exploitation of cows by
 - Depriving the calves their share of growth food
 - Prompting to dispose the unproductive cow
 - Underestimating the milk over urine

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Holistic dairy

- Milking cows shall not be impregnated-Inter-calving period more than 24 months
- Calves fed their share of milk -One time milking
- No culling of unproductive cows or calves
- Weaning of calf based on health of the cow
- Breeding of cows only after the cow has regained health after a growing season of grass
- Milk production shall be based on the health of the cow, the soil conditions and the quality of grass and grazing practices

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Cost of milk a prompter to culling

The production cost of milk in no culling dairy is 6 times more than conventional dairying
 Milk buyers should become essential partners in restoring intentions in dairying
 Milk buyers drive the decisions farmers make about what practices to be put in place

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Dairying is profitable only if

- The milk is sold at a rate above the actual production cost
- If the cows are maintained by grazing
- Integrate cows with farming or agriculture

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Down to earth, vol 9, no 2, June 15, 2000

- "Pure milch breeds would have been a waste in a society where beef was not consumed."
- Undervaluation of cost of milk is understood to be one main precursor for the slaughter of cows
- Dairy and slaughter are complimentary

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Summary

- Milk production is not the utility of the mother cow.
- Milk production is a function of the mother cow

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Manusmriti: The Laws of Manu Chapter 4-237

- On all sides of a village a space, one hundred dhanus (600 ft) or three samyathrows (in breadth), shall be reserved (for pasture), and thrice (that space) round a town.

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Thank you



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