

Economics of Automatic Calf Feeding Systems

Budget Worksheet

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Name: _____
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ISU
 EXTENSION
 DAIRY TEAM

Brand of Feeder: _____
 Annual Value to Quality of Life = _____
 Annual Value of Software = _____

Variables	Units	Instructions or Reference Values
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Calf Inventory and Financial Information

Heifers, Yearly Total	_____ no. heifers	Typically 45 to 48 percent of cow herd
Bulls, Yearly Total	_____ no. bulls	Typically 45 to 48 percent of cow herd
Veal, Yearly Total	_____ no. veal calves	Feeding station can feed 15-20 veal calves
Number of Feeders Needed	_____ no. feeders	Feeder can feed 50 to 60 calves
Estimated Cost of Automatic Calf Feeding Housing	_____ total \$	Include value for remodel or new building
Estimated Cost per Automatic Calf Feeding Feeder	_____ \$ per feeder	Range of \$2 to 28,000 per station, used \$5500
Estimated Cost of Optional Computer and Program	_____ \$ per system	Range of \$0 to \$5000
Years of Useful Life	_____ years	Typical range of 7 to 15 years
Value of Feeder after Useful Life	_____ \$ per feeder	Typical range of 10% to 20% purchase price
Interest Rate of Money	_____ %	Value of owned or borrowed money
Insurance Rate per \$1,000 Value	_____ %	Typical rate is 0.5% per 1,000 investment
Increased Insurance Value of Feeder System	_____ \$ per farm	Value of facility over current system

Feed Intake Changes

Milk Replacer Cost per Pound of DM	_____ \$ per pound	Typical range of \$1.20 to \$2.10 per pound
Pasturized or Whole Milk Cost per cwt.	_____ \$ per cwt.	Typical range of \$13.00 to \$23.00 per cwt
Current Milk Replacer Intake	_____ pounds per day	Typical range of 1 to 3 pounds per day
Anticipated Milk Replacer Intake	_____ pounds per day	Typical range of 1.05 to 3.3 pounds
Current Pasturized/Whole Milk Intake	_____ quarts per day	Typical range of 4 to 6 quarts
Anticipated Pasturized/Whole Milk Intake	_____ quarts per day	Typical range of 4 to 13 quarts per day
Current Days on Milk	_____ no. days	Typical range of 6 to 8 weeks
Current Number of Days in Weaning Stage	_____ no. days	Typical range of 7 to 14 days
Anticipated Days on Milk	_____ no. days	Typical range of 6 to 8 weeks
Anticipated Days in Individual Starter Pen Stage	_____ no. days	Typical range of 1 to 14 days
Anticipated Number of Days in Weaning Stage	_____ no. days	Typical range of 7 to 14 days
Anticipated Dump Milk per Day	_____ quarts per day	Typical range of 0 to 2 quarts per day
Calf Starter Cost per Pound of DM	_____ \$ per pound	Typical range of 0.18 to 0.34 per pound
Current Total Calf Starter Intake, Pounds of DM	_____ pounds per calf	Average total feed intake of 90 pounds
Anticipated Total Calf Starter Intake, Pounds of DM	_____ pounds per calf	Anticipated increase of 10 to 20 percent

Labor Changes

Current Feeding Labor Time Per Day	_____ minutes per calf	Typical range of 5 to 10 minutes per day
Anticipated Feeding Labor Time Per Day	_____ minutes per calf	Typical range around 1 minute per day
Anticipated Calf Labor Management Per Day	_____ minutes per calf	Typical range 4-9 minutes
Labor Rate for Feeding Calves	_____ \$ per hour	Typical range from \$8 to \$15 per hour
Increased Hours for Record Management	_____ hours per day	Include feeder report analysis
Reduced Hours for Labor Management	_____ hours per day	Include hiring, training, overseeing, ect.
Labor Rate for Records and Labor Management	_____ \$ per hour	Typical range from \$12 to \$25 per hour

Calf Health Changes

Current Calf Treatment Rate	_____ % calves	Typical range of 10 to 20 percent
Anticipated Calf Treatment Rate	_____ % calves	Anticipated change of -5 to 5 percent
Cost of Treatments per Calf including labor	_____ \$ per calf	Typical range of \$2 to \$12 per calf

Utility and Supply Changes

Anticipated Change in Electricity and Maintenance	_____ \$ per year	Anticipated increase of electricity use
Anticipated Change in Supplies and Repairs	_____ \$ per year	Include cleaning and feeding supplies

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