Costs per Pound of Butterfat

The net cost of producing a pound of butterfat, after deducting credits for manure and appreciation, was 52.4 cents. The net receipts were 63.4 cents, of which 59 cents were from the sale of butterfat. These farmers made, on an average, 10 cents profit on each pound of butterfat produced.

The variation in the costs of producing a pound of butterfat was from 54.3 cents on Farm 11 to 73.4 cents on Farm 4. The low cost on Farm 11 was due to more than average credits for appreciation and manure. The high cost on Farm 4 was due to a low production per cow, and higher than average costs for man labor, depreciation, taxes, and insurance.

Low costs of production per pound of fat are usually the result of high production per cow. For instance, those farmers with a production per cow greater than average, had costs averaging 49.6 cents per pound of fat, while those farms with a production per cow less than average, had costs averaging 55 cents per pound of fat.

High production, however, if obtained at too great a cost per cow, will result in high costs per pound of butterfat. Good examples of this are found on farms 1 and 9. Good productions of butterfat per cow were obtained on both of these farms, but very high costs per cow made the costs per pound of butterfat higher than average.

Food and Labor per Pound of Butterfat

The following amounts of food and labor were required to produce a pound of butterfat (Table 16).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentrates, lbs.</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Roughage, (Hay), lbs.</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Succulent Roughage, (Silage), lbs.</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture Days</td>
<td>.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor, minutes</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The cows on farms 1, 7, and 20 (Table 16), received very heavy concentrate rations. They also produced large amounts of milk and butterfat. A larger profit probably would have been made had these cows received somewhat less grain.