

A NOTE ON THE COST OF PRODUCTION OF MILK IN POONA *

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VERY few studies have been undertaken in India for estimating the cost of production of milk in the urban areas even though a significant proportion of the urban milk supply is drawn from the urban areas themselves. The few studies that have been undertaken so far have been mainly confined to the data available from the dairies managed by government or semi-government agencies. An attempt has, therefore, been made, in this note, to present the data obtained from a few private dairies in Poona city. The data was collected by the case study method, since adoption of any sampling procedure had to be ruled out in view of the fact that most of the dairymen in Poona did not maintain any records or accounts. The following is the result of a study of eight dairies whose cost structure for 1957 was investigated. The data in this regard was obtained from the accounts kept by these dairymen for their personal use and can, therefore, be regarded as reliable.

The unit of study is a city stable consisting of milch animals, their young stock and the herd bull. The young stock in the stable mainly consists of calves-at-heel because calves in the city stables do not usually survive their first year of age. Those calves which survive their first year of age are often given away free of charge when the mother-buffalo is sold out. The milch animals in these stables mostly consist of buffaloes, but a few cows are also maintained in the herd. As the number of cows maintained in the stable is insignificant no distinction has been made between a cow and a buffalo for the purposes of this study. Similarly, the expenditure on calves which mainly survive on the residue of feed left by the dairy herd has been ignored. The milk consumed by the young ones, which cannot be accounted for in the absence of the practice of weaning, has also been neglected for the calculation of milk yield. The cost of bull upkeep has not been calculated separately but has been charged to the production of milk as a component of various items of cost required for the maintenance of the whole herd.

All the eight dairies, considered in the present study, were typical urban dairies in the sense that all of them had depended for fodder and feed requirements, as well as for herd replacement, on purchases from outside. All the dairies had good-quality buffaloes of the North Indian breed. Four out of the eight dairies had a part of their stock purchased directly

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