

## Jersey, Mixed, Other Breeds

The cost comparison for Jersey, mixed breed, and other colored breeds allows dairy producers to compare their herds to similar types of dairy cattle. The Jersey cost comparison is a valuable tool for producers to make sound decisions based on similar types of herds. The Jersey cow popularity in the last decade has grown considerably, due to its production of high protein casein, that increases cheese yield.

Jersey producers or producers switching to milking Jersey cows, claim many advantages such as: calving ease, reproductive superiority, early age at first calving, ease of handling in facilities, and less waste matter to dispose of. One advantage to milking Jersey cows emphasized by the USDA is the productive life advantage. The Jersey breed leads all other breeds with 150-day greater productive life than the Holstein breed. The 2005 cost of production for Jersey and other colored breeds, shows that the cull rate runs lower than the Holstein breed, which was calculated at 29 and 35 percent respectively.

The cost to produce milk from Jersey cows increased by 5.9 percent, on a hundredweight of milk basis. This increase is partially due to the fact that milk production per cow was down. One



reason for the decrease in production per cow was higher milk prices. This encouraged producers to milk cows longer that otherwise may have been culled for beef. In addition, replacement heifer prices remained high averaging \$1,700 to \$2,000 for those producers purchasing heifers. The short supply of high quality alfalfa milk cow hay may have also contributed to the lower milk production per cow.

In California, annual total cheese production has grown by 24 percent since 2002. This growth in the cheese industry will keep up demand for milk containing high protein components that are beneficial in making cheese, which are a result of milk produced from these breeds.



# Jersey, Mixed, Other Breed Cost Comparison

Production Cost Comparison 2005 <sup>1/</sup>	2004 Average	Under 500	501 - 1000	1000 Plus	2005 Average	Percent Change
<b>Number of Herds</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>1. Total Feed Costs</b>	\$98.86	\$101.14	\$93.00	\$103.89	\$102.27	3.4%
Total Feed Costs (% of total Cost)	49.3%	51.6%	48.1%	48.8%	49.0%	
<b>2. Total Labor</b>	\$26.45	\$23.39	\$26.34	\$27.01	\$26.53	0.3%
Total Labor Costs (%of total cost)	13.2%	11.9%	13.6%	12.7%	12.7%	
<b>3. Herd Replacement</b>	\$25.52	\$21.79	\$30.79	\$27.46	\$27.25	6.8%
Total Replacement Costs (%of total cost)	12.7%	11.1%	15.9%	12.9%	13.1%	
<b>4. Total Operating Costs</b>	\$43.56	\$41.64	\$37.54	\$48.17	\$46.17	6.0%
Total Operating Costs (%of total costs)	21.7%	21.2%	19.4%	22.6%	22.1%	
<b>5. Total Milk Marketing Costs</b>	\$6.27	\$8.13	\$5.79	\$6.24	\$6.39	2.0%
Total Milk Marketing Costs (% of total costs)	3.1%	4.1%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%	
<b>6. Total Milk Marketing Costs (\$/cwt.)</b>	\$0.46	\$0.66	\$0.51	\$0.45	\$0.47	3.9%
<b>7. Total Cost (\$/Cow/Month)</b>	\$200.66	\$196.08	\$193.46	\$212.77	\$208.61	4.0%
<b>8. Total Cost (\$/cwt)</b>	<b>\$14.59</b>	<b>\$15.82</b>	<b>\$17.14</b>	<b>\$15.19</b>	<b>\$15.45</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
<b>9. Milk Production Data</b>						
a. Adjusted Gross (\$/cwt.)	\$16.45	\$15.89	\$15.91	\$15.73	\$15.76	-4.2%
b. Milk Sold/Cow/Month (cwt.)	13.75	12.39	11.29	14.00	13.50	-1.9%
c. Gallons sold/Milk Cow/Day	6.21	5.53	4.94	6.34	6.07	-2.2%
d. Fat Test %	4.48%	4.62%	4.58%	4.57%	4.58%	
e. SNF Test %	9.15%	9.26%	9.21%	9.22%	9.22%	
f. Fat Sold/Milk Cow/Month (lb.)	72.71	66.77	59.16	75.84	72.76	0.1%
g. SNF Sold/Milk Cow/Month (lb.)	148.68	133.84	119.05	152.92	146.60	-1.4%
<b>10. Related Data</b>						
a. Percent Dry Cows	15%	14%	13%	16%	15%	
b. Yearly Cull Rate	31%	26%	30%	30%	29%	
c. Avg. Value (\$/Drop Bull Calf)	\$17.84	\$14.70	\$1.21	\$16.54	\$14.31	-19.8%
d. Milk Cow Alfalfa Hay Price (\$/ton)	\$152.51	\$168.37	\$162.57	\$180.24	\$176.65	15.8%
e. Grain, Mnris & Splmnts (\$/ton)	\$172.89	\$178.83	\$177.45	\$170.54	\$172.15	-0.4%
f. Grain, Mnris. & Splmnts. (lbs/mc/day)	24.09	23.26	21.93	24.92	24.36	1.1%
g. Milkers (\$/hr with benefits & taxes)	\$14.69	\$14.07	\$13.16	\$15.24	\$14.80	0.7%
h. Total Feed Costs (\$/Milk Cow/Day)	\$3.52	\$3.62	\$3.30	\$3.68	\$3.63	2.9%
i. Milk Cow Feed Cost (\$/cwt.)	\$6.60	\$7.67	\$7.82	\$6.73	\$6.94	5.2%
j. Milk Cows (average herd size)	772	225	540	1,691	828	7.3%
k. Total Cows (average herd size)	912	262	618	2,002	975	7.0%

1/ All costs: per cow per month, unless noted

