

DAIRY FARMING INFORMATION SHEET

Herd Size- The college have 160 dairy with approximately 130 being milked at anyone time. The remaining 30 are awaiting the birth of their calve.

Breed- Holstein. This breed are good for milk production.



Breeding- A cows pregnancy lasts nine months with calves being born in two groups from September to December and March- June. Sparsholt does not keep a bull on the farm permanently. Most pregnancies are by Artificial Insemination.

Housing- During winter cows are housed in open barns with straw bedding or mattresses. No extra heating is required. The cows are provided with water and feed troughs. In summer the fields around the dairy are used for grazing.



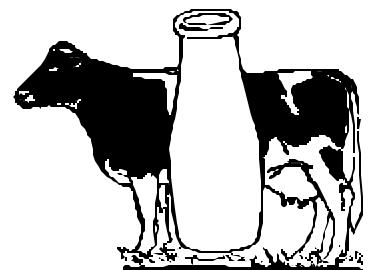
Feeding- Grass is the main food in the summer. In winter the cows receive silage (pickled grass and maize) with added dried foods (rape meal, soya, wheat, cow cake and vitamins). A cow will eat approx. 3 tonnes of silage per year. Milking cows are fed additional cow cake in the milking parlour according to the amount of milk they are producing.

Health- All cows are tested for tuberculosis, blood tests are take and the vet visits twice a week during the breeding season.

Milking- Milking takes place at Garstons dairy. The triangular shaped milking parlour holds 15 cows at a time. It takes approx. 10 mins to milk every 5 cows. The system is computerised and milk yeilds from each cow are recorded. The aim is for each cow to produce 8000 litres of milk per year. Milk is produced for ten months after the birth of a calf. This is sold to United Dairies for 18p a litre and is collected by tanker every other day. Milk prices vary according to the amount of protein and butter fat in the milk and market prices. In between collection the milk is stored in a refrigerated tank which can hold 7200 litres.

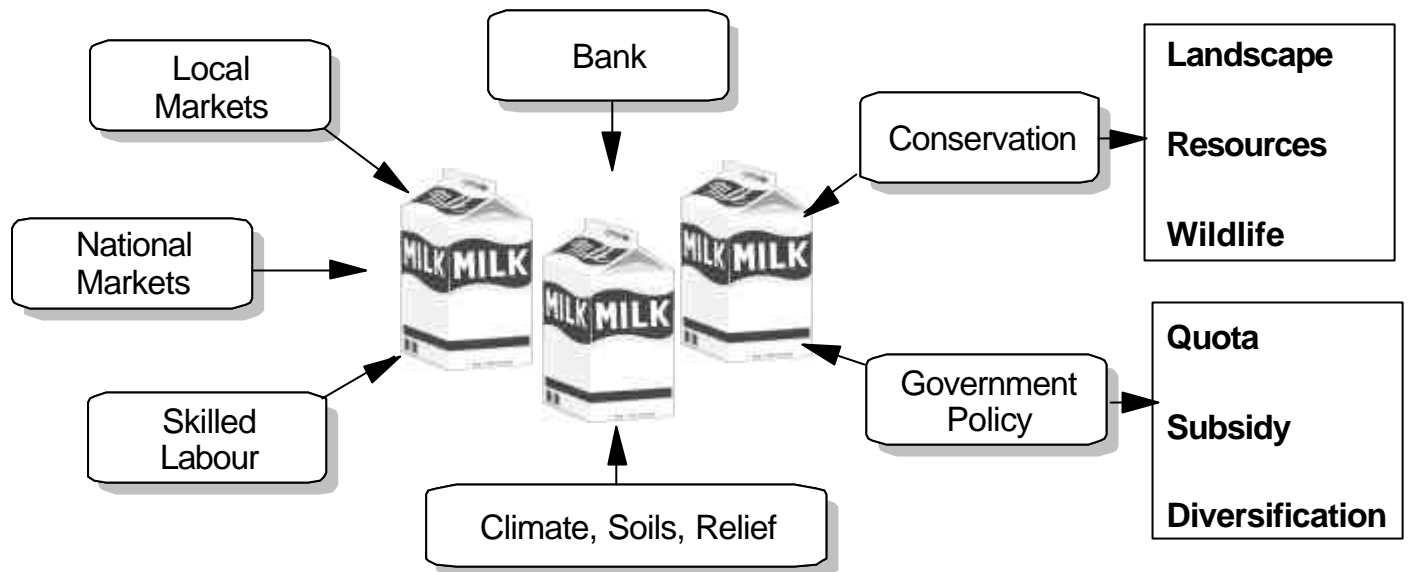
Other output- Some calves are raised for beef and sold at Frome market when they are 18 months old, weighing 400 kg. Prices at auction vary between 300-400 per animal.

Waste- Manure is collected from from bars regularly and allowed to begin rotting down on manure heaps before being added to the fields to help crops grow.



Dairy Farming Information

Influences on Garstons Dairy Farm.



Milk is valued according to its **CONTENT** and **CLEANLINESS**.

Milk is tested regularly. The results are used to calculate its value using the Milk Equation.

Payment per litre	=	% Butterfat content	+	% Protein content	-	Hygiene Grade *	-	Cell Count*	+ /-	Seasonality payment
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* The Value of milk is Milk is valued on its hygiene. Two scales of payment operate.

- Scale 1. Cell Count (for Mastitis, a common infection of the udder)
- Category 1. - Less than 400,000 cells - no deduction
 - Category 2. - 400,001 to 500,000 cells - a deduction of 0.5p a litre
 - Category 3. - 500,001 to 1,000,000 cells - a deduction of 1p a litre
 - Category 4. - Over 1,000,00 cells - a deduction of 2p a litre

- Scale 2. Hygiene Grade (bacterial count, known as "Bactoscan")
- Grade A - 0 to 60,000 - an addition of 0.8 pence per litre
 - Grade B - 61,000 to 100,000 - a deduction of 0.2p a litre
 - Grade C - 101,000 to 250,000 - a deduction of 0.5p a litre
 - Grade D - 251,000 to 400,000 - a deduction of 2.0p a litre

Milk is '*manufactured*' by the cow and leaves the farm by a milk tanker. Between the cow and the tanker a strict hygiene routine is followed to ensure the milk is Category 1, Grade A.

MILK YIELD

A cow produces milk over a 305 day period known as the lactation cycle. The National performance figures for Holstein - Friesian are:

Low 5000 Litres	Average 5500 Litres	High 6000 Litres	Very High 6500 Litres
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What is the expected yield from Garston's herd? _____