

## GLENN'S **UDDERINGS**

By Glenn A. Shirk

Lancaster Extension Dairy Agent

## **Farming Requires Self-Analysis**

Glenn A. Shirk Lancaster Co. Extension Agent

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) - The end of one year and the beginning of a new year is a good time to look back to see what you have accomplished, and to look ahead to determine where you want to be next year and 10 years from now.

It is a good time to ask why are you farming? What are your family's goals? Is the farm working for you and helping you to accomplish your goals, or are you a slave to the farm? As a farm manager, you should be concerned about these important questions that affect the life of you and your family.

The worksheet on the other side can help you calculate your costs, your profits, and your family living needs per cwt. of milk shipped. You get paid a certain amount per cwt. of milk shipped, but do you know how much it costs you to produce that milk, and the margins of profit needed to support your family? As a business manager, you should know these figures.

If your profit margins on line 29 are too small to meet your family living needs on line 31 plus all of your mortgage payments, including the portion on line 30 that is related to land - -

a. How much do you need to cut production costs on line 28 or on lines 34 thru 38 to get the margin of profit you need, and can these cuts be made without hurting your business in the long run?

b. How many cwts. of milk must you ship, at your present margin of profit per cwt. of milk, to meet your family's needs (column 2, line 31 divided by line

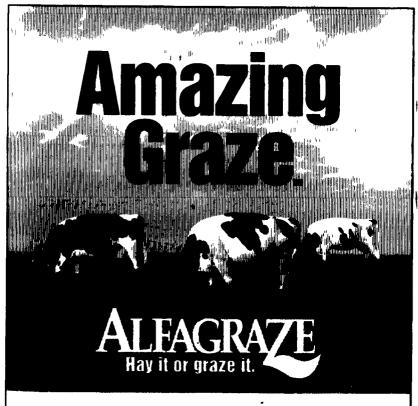
c. How many cwt's of milk must you ship per cow to meet your family's needs (the answer in b, above divided by the average number of cows milked per year)?

d. What changes can you make to improve farm profits? Estimate the impact these changes will have on farm income and expenses.

(Turn to Page D4)

#### Income and Costs per Cwt. of Milk

		As Currently Operated		Future Situation:		
			<b>.</b>	ruture Situ		
		Totals or Yrto-Date	Amount per Cwt.	Change	Totals or Yrto-Date	Amount per Cwt.
	. Cwt. of Milk Shipped	11340	xxxx			<b>x x x x</b>
3 4 5 6	. Cattle, calf sales . Dividend, premium, refund	146505 17556	12.92 1.55			
7		164061	14.47			
8 9 10 11	Labor Feed	the year):	1.05 3.59			
12	Breeding, testing, registrat.	3299				
13. 14.		3260	28		<del></del>	
15.	Marketing, advertising	9133	.81			
16. 17.		<u>1305</u> 444				
18.	Crop supplies, fert, chem	13053	1.15			
19. 20.		<u>4772</u> 4812				
21.	Repairs	10638	94	4		
22.	Rent, leases	6375	56			
23. 24.	Taxes Insurance	<u>2674</u> 3452	.30		<del></del>	
25.	Interest	11441	1.01			<del></del>
26.	Depreciation	16544	1.46			
27. 28.	Other Total Costs	<u>3088</u> 143853	27			<del></del>
20.	Total Costs	143033	12.68		<del></del>	
29. 30. 31.	Profit - Land mortgage payments - Family needs	20208 5000 31063	1.78 			
32.	Surplus or deficit	- 15855	- 1.40			
	Categories of Costs:					
34.	* Feed-related	99745	8.80			
	(add lines 10 + 11 + 17 + 18 machinery share of costs on	+ 19 + field sh lines 21 + 22 +	are of costs 24 + 25 + 2	on lines 9 + 2 6.)	22 + 23 + 24 + 25	+
35.	* Herd replacements (total replacements added x	30000 the estimated c	2.65 ash and non-	cash costs pe	r replacement)	
36.		42920	3.78			
37.	* Real estate costs (land & building share of cost		2.16 + 22 + 23 + 2	24 + 25 + 26	+ line 30)	<del></del>
32	_		3.57		50)	
50.	(lines 25 + 30 + all principal		<u> </u>			



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