

APPENDIX

APPLICATION OF DATA TO CURRENT PRICES

One of the criticisms of economic surveys is that the data obtained covering a given period of time pertain only to that period and may have little bearing upon the situation at any other time. There is background for this criticism insofar as the data are expressed in monetary figures only. However, quantitative data, such as acres of land, numbers of animals, hours of labor and pounds of feed, change much less rapidly than dollar figures. For example, it takes practically the same quantities of feed and labor to produce a given quantity of milk, regardless of the unit cost of the feed and labor and the price at which the milk will sell. The above statement holds unless there has been a radical change in the quality of feed, labor, cows used, or in the methods of managing the dairy. Such changes are very gradual compared with the constantly changing price of most commodities.

The pounds of the different classes of feed and the hours of labor necessary to produce 100 pounds of milk in the different areas in 1927, are shown in Table I. Applying to these quantities

TABLE I.—QUANTITIES OF FEED (OTHER THAN PASTURE) AND HUMAN LABOR NECESSARY TO PRODUCE 100 POUNDS OF MILK, 249 FLORIDA DAIRY FARMS, 1927.

Quantities	District					
	Jacksonville	Miami	Tampa	St. Petersburg	Orlando	Ocala
Pounds of grain.....	74.91	66.90	96.32	78.31	77.36	50.61
Pounds of beet pulp, apple pulp, Bulky Lass, and cottonseed hulls.....	29.89	27.64	22.61	27.69	15.33	5.25
Pounds of dry roughage.....	2.27	1.55	.65	5.73	8.07	13.69
Pounds of silage and other succulent feed.....	19.26	19.38	6.04	5.53	12.81	24.08
Hours of direct labor on cows.	3.39	2.79	3.39	3.17	3.25	3.89

the prices of feed and labor for 1927, the costs of these items per 100 pounds of milk are shown in Table II. It will be noted that these feed and labor costs represent from 59 percent to 68 percent of the total cost of producing milk in the different areas.

In order to illustrate the practical application of the quantitative data found in the dairy survey to current economic conditions, 38 dairy farmers in the Jacksonville district who were operating