

INTRODUCTION

This thesis was designed to answer a few questions posed by the pressure on land at the University Field Station. There has recently been considerable demand for more land to be made available for research, by the various departments in the Faculty of Agriculture. The dairy herd, as an extensive user of land for non-research purposes, is the enterprise which could yield most land for research. It is, however, the most profitable enterprise at the University Field Station, and as such makes a considerable contribution to the running expenses of the farm.

As a background to the economic study of the dairy enterprise, the origin and development of the dairy herd, from the time of its establishment in 1948, to the present time, has been included. The herd at present comprises some eighty cows and followers.

The milk production costs for the period 1958 to 1967 have been reproduced or prepared from various sources and records. The data for 1966/67 has been analysed in greater detail than the previous years.

A comparison of the costs of production with a number of other dairy units in Trinidad and the Caribbean area has been carried out. As a result of this comparison, and the comparison of costs between years, a number of recommendations on policy and management of the dairy enterprise, at the University Field Station, are made.