

Price of Buying Organic Animals vs. Transitioning 12 month Heifers at Dairy

Real world example between 2014 - 2015

In order to replenish my herd after buying out partner in 2014, all animals purchased in 2014-2015 were Last 3rd Organic Animals

Quantity	Cattle Type	Price each delivered to my dairy	Average 2 months of feed @ my dairy @ \$3/day	Total Cost per head	\$\$ Amount	Date of purchase
100	Pregnant Heifers/Springers	\$ 2,050	\$ 180	\$ 2,230	\$ 223,000	February of 2014
40	Pregnant Heifers/Springers	\$ 2,460	\$ 180	\$ 2,640	\$ 105,600	April of 2014
41	Pregnant Heifers/Springers	\$ 2,450	\$ 180	\$ 2,630	\$ 107,830	April of 2014
100	Pregnant Heifers/Springers	\$ 2,650	\$ 180	\$ 2,830	\$ 283,000	July of 2014
45	Heifers and mlk cows	\$ 2,750	\$ 180	\$ 2,930	\$ 131,850	July of 2014
40	Pregnant Heifers/Springers	\$ 2,850	\$ 180	\$ 3,030	\$ 121,200	July of 2014
44	Pregnant Heifers/Springers	\$ 2,850	\$ 180	\$ 3,030	\$ 133,320	July of 2014
98	Pregnant Heifers/Springers	\$ 3,050	\$ 180	\$ 3,230	\$ 316,540	June of 2015
508	Orgnaic Heifers		Avg. Price/head	\$ 2,800	\$ 1,422,340	
508	Transition Heifers		Avg. Price/head	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,066,800	
			Difference per head	\$ 700		

If I would've transitioned heifers instead of buying organic animals - Savings would have been \$ 355,600

If I TRANSITIONED animals from 12 months of age, for 12 months organic feed

Head	600 lb animal per pound	Animal Cost	Organic Feed 12 mos @ \$3/day	Milking In Barn through Transition	Transition Animal Cost
508	\$1.70	\$ 1,020	\$ 1,095	\$ 2,115.0	\$2,100

ORGANIC TRANSITION Difference/head

\$ 2,800	\$ 2,100	\$ 700
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EXTRA TO RAISE ORGANIC HEIFER TO MILKING VS. TRANSITIONING CONVENTIONAL HEIFERS

DAIRY Paid for Organic Animals/Organic Integrity 2014-2015 \$ 355,600