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#### 2005 Michigan Dairy Grazing Farm Business Analysis Summary

Eric Wittenberg And Christopher Wolf

Staff Paper 2006-28

November, 2006







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Staff Paper No. 2006-28, November 2006

#### By

#### Eric Wittenberg and Christopher Wolf<sup>1</sup>

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#### **Executive Summary**

This report summarizes the financial and production records of 11 dairy grazing farms from across Michigan. These 11 farms indicated that they grazed dairy cows at least three months of the year and that grazing provided more than 30 percent of the forage consumed during the year. To be included, the farms must have produced at least 50 percent of gross cash farm income from milk and dairy animal sales. The records came from Michigan State University's TelFarm project and the Farm Credit Service system in Michigan. The values were pooled into averages for reporting purposes. Farm records were checked for accuracy. While considerable variation in the data exists, average values are reported in the summary tables and discussion that follows.

In 2005, the average size dairy farm in the business analysis had 115 cows producing an average of 15,869 pounds of milk per cow (Table 1). Milk price, based on gross income, averaged \$15.87/cwt. The average cropped acres per cow for the 11 dairy grazing farms was 3.5.

Table 1. Average Michigan Dairy Grazing Farm Characteristics, 2001-2005

Tuble 1. Tiverage whenigan ban y Grazing Larin Characteristics, 2001 2005					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Average number of cows	99	111	114	115	115
Milk sold per cow (pounds)	15,250	15,758	16,392	16,030	15,869
Average price of milk sold (\$/cwt)	\$15.38	\$12.87	\$12.81	16.75	\$15.87
Total acres owned	231	400	417	342	364
Total crop acres	293	464	479	424	401
Cropped acres per Cow	3	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.5
Number of farms	14	9	9	10	11

Net farm income is the return to operator unpaid management, labor and capital invested. Net farm income in 2005 averaged \$41,106 (Table 2). The median was \$51,185 and the standard deviation was \$64,261. Gross cash farm income averaged \$340,678 in 2005. The largest component of these revenues was milk sales, which averaged \$292,325. Average total cash expenses were \$271,132 and average net cash farm income was \$69,545. Inventory value declined by \$10,651. Depreciation and capital adjustments averaged a negative \$17,788.

Table 2. Average Michigan Dairy Grazing Farm Income Statement, 2001-2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
			(\$)		
Gross cash farm income	277,512	277,302	297,148	357,317	340,678
- Total cash expense	209,019	237,264	262,301	296,245	271,132
= Net cash farm income	68,493	40,038	34,847	61,072	69,545
+ Inventory change*	-2,389	-1,766	-3,637	36,288	-10,651
+ Depreciation + capital adjustments*	<u>-21,234</u>	<u>-21,326</u>	<u>-14,060</u>	<u>-19,486</u>	<u>-17,788</u>
= Net farm income	44,871	16,945	17,150	77,873	41,106

<sup>\*</sup>Changes calculated as ending value minus beginning value.

To put the profit values in perspective, we calculate profitability ratios. Rate of return on assets (ROA) is the farm operating profit (equal to net farm income plus interest expense less value of operator labor and management) divided by average total farm asset value (valued at current market value). Rate of return on assets is a measure of how much profit the farm business assets generated. The average 2005 dairy farm ROA (Market) was 3.2 percent, below 2004 value of 5.2 percent (Table 3). Return on equity tells a similar story. Operating profit margin is the operating profit (as defined in ROA above) divided by gross revenues. Operating profit margin measures the dollars of profit generated per dollar of revenue. In 2005, Michigan dairy grazing farms generated 15.4 cents of profit per dollar of revenue. Asset turnover is the gross farm revenues divided by average asset value. Asset turnover measures the efficiency with which farm assets generate revenue. This value declined slightly in 2005 to an average of 21.1 percent.

Table 3. Average Michigan Dairy Grazing Farm Profitability Indicators, 2001-2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
			(percent)		
Rate of return on assets*	2.4	-2.8	0.1	5.2	3.2
Rate of return on equity	-0.5	-9.3	-1.4	5.7	2.8
Operating profit margin	5.1	-7.3	0.6	20.9	15.4
Asset turnover rate*	47.1	38.8	25.7	24.8	21.1

<sup>\*</sup> Assets valued at market value

#### Per Unit Income and Expenses

Table 4 displays average income and expenses items per hundredweight (cwt.) of milk and per cow across 11 dairy grazing farms. Both income and expenses were adjusted to an accrual basis where detailed financial information was provided. Average, accrual adjusted income and expenses per cropped acre are also included.

Income items related to the dairy herd are included in the first section. Government payments include all farm government payments—not just those related to the dairy herd. It was not possible to separate crop payments from dairy payments. *This table should not be interpreted as an estimate of the true cost of producing milk*. All farm sales are not included in the income items—only those that are related to the milking herd. Also, unpaid factors, including labor, management and capital, are not accounted for in the expense items. In addition, the allocation of resources amongst farm enterprises is not accurately reflected leaving the milking herd as the residual claimant on all expenses (especially labor costs).

The largest expense was purchased feed at \$4.73/cwt, machinery depreciation averaged \$1.44/cwt for second, and hired labor was the third largest at \$1.32/cwt. Repairs, interest, and milk marketing and trucking combined were also significant expenses in 2005

The bottom of Tables 4 presents crop related expenses divided by the total cropped acres. To accurately calculate a crop cost of production requires labor and management (among other) expenses that were not separated out in the financial records.

Income Items:	Per cwt.	Per Cow
Milk	\$15.87	\$2,486.44
Cull Cows and Calves	\$1.06	\$168.49
Dairy Steers	\$0.20	\$27.36
Dairy Heifers	\$0.41	\$51.36
Government Payments	\$0.49	\$77.62
Patronage Dividends, cash	\$0.06	\$10.61
Crop Sales	\$0.29	\$54.79
Other Cash Income	\$0.29	\$41.90
Expense Items:	Per cwt.	Per Cow
Purchased Feeds	\$4.73	\$731.23
Breeding Fees	\$ 0.10	\$16.84
Veterinary	\$0.30	\$47.99
BST	N/A	N/A
Livestock Supplies	\$0.68	\$111.84
DHIA	\$0.01	\$1.24
Milk & Livestock Mkt. & Trucking	\$0.81	\$128.70
Interest	\$0.86	\$127.77
Fuel and Oil	\$0.60	\$97.69
Repairs	\$1.26	\$203.13
Custom Hire	\$0.39	\$68.92
Hired Labor	\$1.32	\$214.49
Leases	\$0.06	\$8.35
Real Estate Taxes	\$0.33	\$50.82
Farm Insurance	\$0.32	\$49.17
Utilities	\$0.48	\$74.33
Dues, Professional Fees	\$0.11	\$17.75
Miscellaneous	\$0.35	\$60.25
Machinery Depreciation	\$1.44	\$237.86
Building Depreciation	\$0.61	\$86.38
Expense Items per Cropped Acre:	Per Acre	
Seed	\$12.70	
Fertilizer	\$33.66	
Crop Chemicals	\$8.74	
Crop Insurance	\$0.04	
Crop Miscellaneous	\$9.83	
Land Rent	\$16.65	

<sup>\*</sup> All income and expense items averaged across all 11 farms whether or not they had that income or expense item. Other cash income includes custom work, insurance claims, and miscellaneous income.

## Table 5 Crop Production and Marketing Summary 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

Dairy	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Average number of Cows	115
Milk production per Cow, lbs.,	15,869
Average milk price per cwt.,	\$15.87
in acting the many	7-200
Acreage Summary	0.54
Total acres owned	364
Total crop acres	401
Crop acres owned	255
Crop agree cash rented	146
Crop acres share rented Total pasture acres	- 36
Total pasture acres	30
Average Price Received (Cash Sales On	
Corn per bushel	1.93
Soybeans per bushel	5.27 3.07
Wheat, Winter per bushel Hay, Alfalfa per ton	85.32
Straw per ton	19.26
Hay, Mixed per ton	62.03
Oats per bushel	1.61
Corn Silage per ton	22.16
	:_0

## Table 6 Farm Income Statement 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Cash Farm Income Corn Hay, Alfalfa Hay, Mixed Rye Silage Wheat, Winter Dairy, Milk Dairy, Dairy Calves Dairy Heifers (for sale) Dairy Steers Hogs, Farrow-Fin, Raised Hogs Hogs, Feeder Pigs, Feeder Pigs Cull breeding livestock Direct & CC govt payments Other government payments Custom work income Patronage dividends, cash	1,532 832 3,498 145 296 292,325 6,219 2,023 3,497 84 175 18,619 5,030 4,389 216 1,277
Insurance income Other farm income Gross Cash Farm Income	34 486 340,678

#### Farm Income Statement (Continued)

#### 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis

(Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Cash Farm Expense	5 000
Seed	6,097
Fertilizer	11,143
Crop chemicals	3,265
Crop fuel & oil	643
Crop repairs	3,597
Crop custom hire	1,656
Crop hired labor	492 415
Crop marketing	
Crop miscellaneous	676
Feeder livestock purchase	138
Livestock packaging and supplies Purchased feed	221 85,571
Breeding fees	2,058
Veterinary	6,012
Supplies DHIA	12,258
Livestock custom hire	231 277
Livestock bired labor	1,599
Livestock utilities	611
Hauling and trucking	3,606
Livestock marketing	9,636
Livestock miscellaneous	950
Interest	15,855
Packaging and supplies	935
Fuel & oil	11,938
Repairs	22,131
Custom hire	7,990
Hired labor	26,799
Land rent	6,635
Machinery leases	1,004
Real estate taxes	5,832
Personal property taxes	28
Farm insurance	5,297
Utilities	7,537
Dues & professional fees	1,892
Miscellaneous	6,107
Total cash expense	271,132
Net cash farm income	69,545
Inventory Changes	
Inventory Changes Crops and feed	-9,546
Market livestock	-1,978
Accounts receivable	-1,978
Prepaid expenses and supplies	1,721
Accounts payable	-584
Total inventory change	-10,651
Net operating profit	58,894
Depreciation and Other Capital Adjust	ments
Breeding livestock	21,040
Machinery and equipment	-28,611
Buildings and improvements	-10,229
Other farm capital	13
Total depr. and other capital adj	-17,788
Net farm income	41,106

### Table 7 Inventory Changes 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Net cash farm income	69,545
Crops and Feed Ending inventory Beginning inventory Inventory change	54,323 63,869 -9,546
Market Livestock Ending inventory Beginning inventory Inventory change	2,839 4,817 -1,978
Accts Receivable & Other Current Asset Ending inventory Beginning inventory Inventory change	23,185 23,449 -264
Prepaid Expenses and Supplies Ending inventory Beginning inventory Inventory change	10,117 8,396 1,721
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses Beginning inventory Ending inventory Inventory change	12,077 12,661 -584
Total inventory change	-10,651
Net operating profit	58,894

### Table 8 Depreciation and Other Capital Adjustments 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Net operating profit	58,894
Breeding Livestock Ending inventory Capital sales Beginning inventory Capital purchases Depreciation, capital adjust.	238,966 24,208 241,011 1,124 21,040
Machinery and Equipment Ending inventory Capital sales Beginning inventory Capital purchases Depreciation, capital adjust.	71,724 8,469 79,524 29,279 -28,611
Buildings and Improvements Ending inventory Capital sales Beginning inventory Capital purchases Depreciation, capital adjust.	83,761 - 77,597 16,394 -10,229
Other Capital Assets Ending inventory Capital sales Beginning inventory Capital purchases Depreciation, capital adjust.	12,913 12,669 11,909 13,660
Total depreciation, capital adj.	-17,788
Net farm income	41,106

# Table 9 Profitability Measures 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Profitability (assets valued at cost) Net farm income Labor and management earnings Rate of return on assets Rate of return on equity Operating profit margin Asset turnover rate	41,106 13,703 2.1 % 0.4 % 6.6 % 32.2 %
Interest on farm net worth Farm interest expense Value of operator lbr and mgmt. Return on farm assets Average farm assets Return on farm equity Average farm equity Value of farm production	27,404 15,770 39,308 17,568 819,500 1,799 453,795 264,220
	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Profitability (assets valued at marke Net farm income Labor and management earnings Rate of return on assets Rate of return on equity Operating profit margin Asset turnover rate	64,111 10,846 3.2 % 2.8 % 15.4 % 21.1 %
Interest on farm net worth Farm interest expense Value of operator lbr and mgmt. Return on farm assets Average farm assets Return on farm equity Average farm equity Value of farm production	53,266 15,770 39,308 40,573 1,251,339 24,803 885,633 264,220

## Table 10 Liquidity Measures 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Liquidity (cash) Net cash farm income Net nonfarm income Family living and taxes Principal due on long term debt Cash available for interm. debt Average intermediate debt	69,545 4,064 38,071 8,273 27,266 78,793
Years to turnover interm. debt Expense as a % of income Interest as a % of income Working capital to gross income	2.9 80 % 5 % 14 %
Liquidity (accrual)  Total accrual farm income  Total accrual operating expense Net accrual operating income Net nonfarm income Family living and taxes Principal due on long term debt Available for intermediate debt Average intermediate debt	328,889 269,995 58,894 4,064 38,071 8,273 16,615 78,793
Years to turnover interm. debt Expense as a % of income Interest as a % of income Working capital to gross income	4.7 82 % 5 % 15 %

### Table 11 Balance Sheet at Cost Values 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

Avg. Of All Farms

Number	οf	farme	1.1	1
Number	C)T	Larms	I 1	L

Number of farms	11	
	Beginning	Ending
Assets		
Current Farm Assets		
Cash and checking balance	9,679	
Prepaid expenses & supplies	8,396	10,117
Growing crops	7,238	
Accounts receivable	15,035	15,710
Hedging accounts	445	852
Crops held for sale or feed	63,869	
Crops under government loan	0	0
Market livestock held for sale	4,817	
Other current assets	732	
Total current farm assets	110,211	111,367
Intermediate Farm Assets		
Breeding livestock	241,011	238,966
Machinery and equipment	77,615	,
Titled vehicles	1,909	1,545
Other intermediate assets	4,531	
Total intermediate farm assets	325,066	316,031
Long Term Farm Assets		
Farm land	299,648	300,371
Buildings and improvements	77,597	83,761
Other long-term assets	7,377	7,571
Total long-term farm assets	384,622	391,703
Total Farm Assets	819,899	819,101
Total Nonfarm Assets	65,388	78,299
Total Assets	885,287	897,401
Liabilities		
Current Farm Liabilities		
Accrued interest	2,839	2,753
Accounts payable	9,238	9,907
Current notes	14,670	34,703
Government crop loans	0	0
Principal due on term debt	20,593	16,108
Total current farm liabilities	47,339	63,471
Total intermediate farm liabs	68,391	66,465
Total long term farm liabilities	255,299	230,446
Total farm liabilities	371,029	360,382
Total nonfarm liabilities	871	141
Total liabilities	371,900	360,523
Net worth (farm and nonfarm)	513,388	536,878
Net worth change	,	23,490
Ratio Analysis		
Current farm liabilities / assets	43 %	
Curr. & interm farm liab. / assets	27 %	30 %
Long term farm liab. / assets	66 %	
Total debt to asset ratio	42 %	40 %

## Table 12 Balance Sheet at Market Values 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

Avo	J.	Of
All	Fε	rms

Number of farms	1	1
	Beginning	Ending
Assets	beginning	Enaing
Current Farm Assets		
Cash and checking balance	9,679	20,903
Prepaid expenses & supplies	8,396	10,117
Growing crops	7,238	5,795
Accounts receivable	15,035	
Hedging accounts	445	
Crops held for sale or feed	63,869	
Crops under government loan	0	
Market livestock held for sale	4,817	
Other current assets	732 110,211	
Total current farm assets	110,211	111,367
Intermediate Farm Assets		
Breeding livestock	240,671	238,978
Machinery and equipment	158,757	
Titled vehicles	3,233	2,928
Other intermediate assets	4,600	5,410
Total intermediate farm assets	407,260	405,233
Long Term Farm Assets	560 055	504 504
Farm land		584,504
Buildings and improvements	145,432	153,768
Other long-term assets Total long-term farm assets	7,377	7,571 745,843
Total Farm Assets	•	1,262,442
TOTAL FALM ASSECS	1,240,233	1,202,442
Total Nonfarm Assets	104,600	136,252
Total Assets	1,344,835	1,398,694
Liabilities		
Current Farm Liabilities		0 ==0
Accrued interest	2,839 9,238	
Accounts payable Current notes	14,670	
Government crop loans	14,070	
Principal due on term debt	20,593	
Total current farm liabilities	47,339	
	,	,
Total intermediate farm liabs	68,391	66,465
Total long term farm liabilities	255,299	230,446
Total farm liabilities	371,029	360,382
metal new from 14 abilities	071	1 41
Total nonfarm liabilities	871	
Total liabs excluding deferreds Total deferred liabilities	371,900	•
Total liabilities	271 000	360,523
TOTAL TRADITIONES	371,900	300,523
Retained earnings	513,388	536,878
Market valuation equity	459,548	501,293
Net worth (farm and nonfarm)		1,038,171
Net worth excluding deferreds	972,935	1,038,171
Net worth change		65,236
Ratio Analysis		
Current farm liabilities / assets	43 %	57 %
Curr. & interm farm liab. / assets	22 %	
Long term farm liab. / assets	35 %	
Total debt to asset ratio	28 %	
Debt to assets excl deferreds	28 %	

## Table 13 Statement Of Cash Flows 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Beginning cash (farm & nonfarm)	9,679
Cash From Operating Activities Gross cash farm income Net nonfarm income Total cash farm expense Apparent family living expense Income and social security tax Cash from operations	340,678 4,064 -271,132 -35,455 -2,616 35,539
Cash From Investing Activities Sale of breeding livestock Sale of machinery & equipment Sale of titled vehicles Sale of farm land Sale of farm buildings Sale of other farm assets Sale of nonfarm assets Purchase of breeding livestock Purchase of machinery & equip. Purchase of titled vehicles Purchase of farm land Purchase of farm buildings Purchase of other farm assets Purchase of nonfarm assets Cash from investing activities	24,208 8,469 - - 12,669 228 -1,124 -29,279 - - -16,394 -13,660 -1,818 -16,701
Cash From Financing Activities Money borrowed Cash gifts and inheritances Principal payments Dividends paid Gifts given Cash from financing activities	52,934 7,310 -64,372 - -3,486 -7,614
Net change in cash balance	11,224
Ending cash (farm & nonfarm)	20,903

### Table 14 Financial Standards Measures 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Liquidity Current ratio Working capital	1.75 47,896
Solvency (market) Farm debt to asset ratio Farm equity to asset ratio Farm debt to equity ratio	29 % 71 % 40 %
Profitability (cost) Rate of return on farm assets Rate of return on farm equity Operating profit margin Net farm income	2.1 % 0.4 % 6.6 % 41,106
Repayment Capacity Term debt coverage ratio Capital replacement margin	109 % 2,863
Efficiency Asset turnover rate (cost) Operating expense ratio Depreciation expense ratio Interest expense ratio Net farm income ratio	32.2 % 77.3 % 5.4 % 4.8 % 12.5 %

### Table 15 Operator and Labor Information 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

	Avg. Of All Farms
Number of farms	11
Operator Information Average number of operators Average age of operators Average number of years farming	1.3 56.2 29.5
Results Per Operator Working capital Total assets (market) Total liabilities Net worth (market) Net worth excl deferred liabs	37,633 1,098,974 283,268 815,706 815,706
Gross farm income Total farm expense Net farm income	258,413 226,115 32,298
Net nonfarm income Family living & tax withdrawals	3,193 29,913
Total acres owned Total crop acres Crop acres owned Crop acres cash rented Crop acres share rented Total pasture acres	285.7 315.1 200.2 114.9 - 28.6
Labor Analysis Number of farms Total unpaid labor hours Total hired labor hours Total labor hours per farm Unpaid hours per operator Value of farm production / hour Net farm income / unpaid hour Average hourly hired labor wage	11 3,427 3,048 6,475 2,693 40.81 12.00 9.24

## Table 16 Financial Summary 2005 MI Grazing Dairy Business Summary Analysis (Farms Sorted By Rate of Return on Assets - Mkt)

(Farms	Sorted	By Rate	of	Return	on	Assets	_	Mkt)	 	
		Avg. Of								
		All Farms								
Number of farms		11								
Income Statement		11								
Gross cash farm income		340,678								
Total cash farm expense		271,132								
Net cash farm income		69,545								
Inventory change		-10,651								
Depreciation and capital	adjust	-17,788								
Net farm income		41,106								
Drofitobility (gost)										
Profitability (cost)  Labor and management earn	inas	13,703								
Rate of return on assets	11195	2.1 %								
Rate of return on equity		0.4 %								
Operating profit margin		6.6 %								
Asset turnover rate		32.2 %								
Profitability (market)										
Labor and management earn	ings	10,846								
Rate of return on assets		3.2 %								
Rate of return on equity Operating profit margin		2.8 % 15.4 %								
Asset turnover rate		21.1 %								
ribbee earnover race		21.1 0								
Liquidity										
Ending current ratio		1.75								
Ending working capital		47,896								
End working capital to gr	oss inc	14.1 %								
Term debt coverage ratio		109.0 %								
Expense as a percent of i Interest as a percent of		82.1 % 4.8 %								
interest as a percent or	TITCOME	4.0 %								
Solvency (cost)										
Number of farms		11								
Ending farm assets		819,101								
Ending farm liabilities		360,382								
Ending total assets		897,401								
Ending total liabilities		360,523								
Ending net worth		536,878								
Net worth change Ending farm debt to asset	ratio	23,490 44 %								
Beg total debt to asset r		42 %								
End total debt to asset r		40 %								
Solvency (market)										
Number of farms		11								
Ending farm assets		1,262,442								
Ending farm liabilities		360,382								
Ending total assets		1,398,694								
Ending total liabilities		360,523								
Ending net worth Net worth change		1,038,171 65,236								
Ending farm debt to asset	ratio	29 %								
Beg total debt to asset r		28 %								
End total debt to asset r		26 %								
Nonfarm Information										
Net nonfarm income		4,064								
Crop Acres										
Total acres owned		364								
Total crop acres		401								
Total crop acres owned		255								
Total crop acres cash ren	ted	146								
Total crop acres sha	are rent	ted		-						
-										