

# Three calves for 1p

# Farmer in despair as price hits rockbottom

By ARUP BISWAS

**WHEN** Dean Sully sold three of his calves at auction in 1993, they earned him £684.

Seven years on, the struggling dairy farmer has just received 1p for three similar animals.

The calves, which would once have been sold to veal producers overseas, have been rendered effectively valueless by the ban on British beef exports.

'They were strong and well looked after,' Mr Sully, 37, said yesterday.

'It would have been cheaper for me to have them shot on the farm. But I couldn't bring myself to do that.'

Until last summer, the Government would have paid Mr Sully £52.19 for each calf. But then it abandoned the Calf Processing Aid Scheme, under which the subsidy was paid.

The father of one is one of many farmers across Britain who fear the withdrawal of aid and plummeting milk prices will force them out of business.

Mr Sully has scraped by since

1996 by running a bed and breakfast business on his farm at Thingley, Wiltshire. But he admits the money from that and his wife's work as a physiotherapist may not be enough to keep him afloat.

'I sold the three calves last Friday for £6 but after commission all I received was a cheque for 1p,' he said.

'I think the people who buy them take them to abattoirs for the skins and for dog food,' Mr Sully

blamed the supermarket giants for forcing down milk prices.

'I use to sell a litre for 25p but now I get just 16p,' he explained.

'In terms of efficiency my farm is among the top ten milk producers in Britain but I am in a situation where I may have to get out of farming all together. Even if I do, I don't know if I'll have enough to cover the borrowing on the farm.'

Tom Bewley, of the National Farmers Union, said Mr Sully's

**Penny dreadful: Dean Sully (left). In 1993, as the invoice above shows, the farmer got £654.31 for three calves. In 2000 (below), he was paid 1p**

ALL AT		VENDOR VAT REG NO		DATE (TAX POINT)	
Chippenhams Market				4 JUN 93	
QTY	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT	PRICE	GROSS VALUE	
375	CALF		232.000	232.00	
376	CALF		222.000	222.00	
377	CALF		230.000	230.00	
Tot Qty 3		Total Goods		684.00	
Commission -24.97%		Tolls *		Total Services * -25.27	
				VAT on Services -4.42	
		Net Value		654.31	

**Lloyds Bank Plc**

CHIPPENHAM BRANCH  
29 HIGH STREET CHIPPENHAM  
WILTSHIRE SN15 3RA

**ALDER KING**  
RURAL SURVEYORS

30-91-99

Date 7 JAN 00

8-2

Cheque No.	Pay
405357	D.G. SULLY ESQ.

£ \*\*\*\*\*.01

Hundreds of Thousands	Tens of Thousands	Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Units
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

Amount of pounds in words Pence as in figures

ACRYSE

Signature

Authorised Signatory

⑈405357⑈ 30⑈9199⑈ 0812549⑈