

Dairying Sure Cash-Paying Crop Business

Butter is a Condensed Commodity Which Brings the Highest Pound Price of Any Farm Product

NEBRASKA is favored by nature for the economic production of stock and dairy products. The plains for centuries past have furnished a splendid pasture and home for countless numbers of buffaloes. They have found a favorable environment through the nutritious grass and well watered range. From the buffalo period down to the present time rapid changes have taken place. The plains have been divided into farms and cattle have taken the place of wild animals. We now have a country especially noted for the great crops of corn and alfalfa, which furnish not only the best, but also a balanced ration for all kinds of live stock. Good water and abundant stock food are everywhere available, and the development of the stock industry now only requires the thoughtful and persistent work of man.

Cost of Production

The secret of successful competition lies largely in reducing the cost of production. The cost of producing an article is the first cost, and with the dairyman it is the principal one. The expense of feeding a cow for one year varies from \$34 to \$45, depending upon the cost of forage and grain, while the cost of caring for a cow one year varies from \$20 to \$30, depending how well she is cared for and the number of animals in the herd. It will, therefore, be seen that the greatest expense connected with the dairy industry as far as the producer is concerned is the cost of feed. This being the principal item of expense, it is of first importance to consider when engaging in the business.

Nebraska being an interior state, practically in the center of the United States, far from any seaboard market, it is fitting we engage in an industry which will turn out a condensed commodity. Butter is such, as it commands the highest price per pound of any farm product. In other words, we cannot market our cornstalks, alfalfa hay, buffalo grass and straw in New York or London, but we can market butter, and, in fact, we do.

The adoption of the silo will not only lower the cost of butter production from 8 to 10 cents per pound, but will also increase the volume, and this with a crop which is now



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largely wasted. By the proper use of corn, all saved and preserved by the silo, and alfalfa hay, which should be grown on every farm, we can feed our animals well at the lowest possible cost.

The cost of butter production is also influenced by the kind of cow and the care accorded her. There is much opportunity for improvement along this line in all parts of the country and an effort put forth in the way of improvement in this direction is well repaid. There is a splendid opportunity for Nebraska dairymen to make this the foremost dairy state of the union.

Dairying has grown rapidly in Ne-

braska during the last few years. Fifteen years ago there were nearly as many cows in the state as there are at present, but market conditions did not warrant the milking of the cows throughout the year. Most of the animals were allowed to run on the range and raise calves for feeding purposes. The natural conditions of the industry favored hand separator dairying and the centralized system of creameries, at least in most localities. The hand separator system grew rapidly in Nebraska and, in fact, this state was one of the first to take up and put in force this method of dairying. In the last twelve years Nebraska has

purchased at least 40,000 hand separators and there are at the present time some 45,000 separators on the farms that are producing cream for market.

The production of butter-fat through the sale of cream has increased from about \$5,000,000 ten years ago to at least \$15,000,000 at the present date, and the price of butter-fat has also increased, prices ranging high in all sections of the state. This money comes to the farmer from two to four times per month and serves a most important place in providing the running expenses for the farm and household. Splendid calves can be grown on hand separator skim milk, and the dairy industry in no way has diminished or interfered with the meat-producing cattle. The history of this dairy growth in the state bears evidence of the natural advantages of the state to this department of farming.

The Benefits of Dairying

Dairying is an industry which should be fostered and encouraged, as it is a benefit to all the people of a country. Dairying furnishes steady employment throughout the year and is work which can be done by both young and old. It is a cash paying, sure crop business and uses for its raw material farm roughage which is difficult to market save by the cow. It builds up and increases the fertility of soil; it fixes a permanency of agriculture, requires good farm buildings and creates a demand for manufactured articles; it requires a clean, wholesome condition of living and insists upon sanitary surroundings; it furnishes freight to the railroads and tends to build up and improve the highways; it is in keeping with intensive farming and is at home on the open prairie or a small tract of irrigated land; its product—butter—is a finished article that is required by the civilized world, and that can be marketed in all countries of the world. Those who engage in dairying and conduct it in a wise manner are sure of a good reward. The richest sections of the state are generally found to be those carrying on the most dairying. With this in mind, it is fitting that we as a people devote much of our attention along this line, and to those who wish to engage in the business Nebraska offers a splendid field.

A. L. HAECKER.



Foster the Cow and Business Flourishes, the Fertility of the Soil is Conserved, and, with the Aid of the Silo, the Hand Separator and the Cream Can, She Becomes the Custodian of the National Prosperity