

THE DAIRY COW AS A SOURCE OF WEALTH IN
A M E R I C A .

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In every state and territory of the Union, in every county, and, almost, at least, in every village and hamlet there are cows being kept for their milk-giving qualities. In villages and towns remote from cities where "the rich are poor and the poor live in abundance" the knowledge that a dairy cow is an economical investment is well known to all incumbent with the duties of domestic affairs; in homes where the standard of living is that of the average and typical American family, the cow is kept for its economy. The writer often suspected that many keeping dairy cows were not really reducing their household expenses; because of the way in which the cow was kept, the item of expenditure for the cow's keeping would run higher than the returns from the milk the cow gave, whether it was used in the home or sold to neighbors. This suspicion is well verified by the timely statistics of the dairy cow in the "Cow Census" which is being so accurately and thoroughly collected under the supervision of the Hoards Dairyman. However, this fact does not discredit the popular idea of the people that a cow can materially reduce the expense of the household; for it is a long and common experience of the people; moreover, it is borne out by intelligently conducted experiment, and, also, is verified in the "Cow Census".

It is this popular idea that has led to this attempt at studying to what extent does the dairy cow figure in producing the wealth of this country? How far does the cow figure in the satisfying the wants of the American homes, and how many happy families owe their prosperity to the cow? To what degree is the Nation's progress and prosperity resting upon this animal?

Of the American industries the cow appears as a factor in agriculture, manufacturing and commerce. In agriculture it is the source of that branch of farming known as dairying; in manufacturing the cow furnishes the raw material for numerous manufacturing establishments. The principal and important ones are the creamery, the cheese factory, and the condensary. The raw material from the cow is manufactured into nearly every form of goods which human uses; the extent, is of great importance, except in a few. The important consumable goods are butter, cheese, condensed milk, dried casein, and milk sugar; the hide of the cow is tanned to a considerable extent, and the hair is used in making brushes. In commerce the manufactured product of the cow is of considerable importance in our domestic, import and export trade.

The progress of the dairy industry in our country is of recent growth; the scrub cow and the idea that anything just so it looks like a cow will do for a dairy cow is being eliminated and is fastly disappearing. And instead of the scrubs there are pure bred cows of distinct milk-giving qualities; instead of the old erroneous idea there is a growing conviction that only a cow noted for its milk giving qualities - a dairy cow - should be kept for dairy purposes. Associations exist to promote the extension and growth both in quantity and quality of milk of these dairy cows. Instead of two or three cows at every other home or so, there are dairy farms with from fifty to a hundred cows. And instead of a poor quality of butter made at the homes there is the high quality made by trained men; and the dairy industry has been transferred from the farm to the factory, and is being placed upon a commercial basis.

It would appear that the industry was insignificant in the category of industries of America. We hear so much of the colossal industries - the standard oil trust, the beef trust etc., - involving many millions of capital, employing an army of men, and apparently so vitally effecting every American home until all else is immaterial to their welfare. But the true source of wealth in this country is husbandry, and the dairy industry is not of the least importance in the division of husbandry.

"Not only is dairying the leading animal industry of our country at this time, but so it must continue indefinitely, for the reason that the cow is a more economical producer of food for human beings than the ox or the pig", remarks W. A. Henry of the University of Wisconsin; and this observation is a conceded fact by all who are familiar with the animal industry of the country. But in these happy days of unparalleled prosperity and wealth, the significance of the cheap producer of food is too little realized. The importance of the dairy cow as a wealth producing factor can be best apprehended by reviewing a state in which the dairy cow diction is typical of the industry as it is in the dairy states.

In Iowa there are 2,231,853 inhabitants; of this number 1,659,467 live in country districts, i.e., in places less than 2500 inhabitants; this is 74.4 per cent of the state's inhabitants. Then about 70 per cent of the population of the state depend upon husbandry as a means of support, for not more than 5 per cent of the rural population follow other pursuits than farming of some kind.

TABLE I: Showing population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupation in Iowa:

Total pop-
ulation at
least 10
years of age.

POPULATION at LEAST 10 YEARS of AGE ENGAGED in

	All gain- ful occu- pations.	Agricult- ural pur- suits.	Profess- ional ser- vices.	Domestic and per- sonal services.	Trade and trans- port- ation.	Manufac- turies and mech- anical pursuits
1,711,789	789,404	371,604	46,814	117,177	129,006	124,803

TABLE II.- Showing per cent of distribution of population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupation by kind of occupation in Iowa:

Per cent of popu- lation at least 10 years of age engaged in gain- ful occupation.			:	Per cent of population engaged in gain- ful occupation engaged in				
total	Male	Female	:	Agricult- ural pur- suits.	Profess- ional service.	Domes- tic and person- al ser- vice.	Trade and Transport- ation.	Manufac- turing and Mechan- ical pursuits
46.1	76.1	13.1	:	47.1	5.9	14.9	16.3	15.8

There are 228,628 farms in the state; and of the manufact-
uring concerns there are 14,819. These farms furnish employment to
371,604 men and women of the 789,404 that are at least ten years of
age engaged in gainful occupation. The 14,819 manufacturing estab-
lishments furnish employment to 124,803 men and women of 789,404 that
are at least ten years of age engaged in gainful occupation. Of these
occupations furnishing employment for men and women of this state the

agricultural pursuits furnish employment for 46.7 per cent of all at least ten years of age engaged in gainful occupation; and has bearing on the welfare of 70 per cent of the entire population of the state.

The progress of this state then is more dependent upon husbandry than any other form of industry; and whatever is the status of the inhabitants of Iowa, it is due to husbandry. Their progress in literature and art, their high standard of citizenship and intelligence, their culture and refinement is the result of husbandry and has been brought about from the agricultural development.

The dairy industry is the most important division of agriculture of the state. The dairy farms and the factories which use the raw product of the cow affords a highly remunerative investment of capital and labor to the citizens. A glance at the statistics of the principal kinds of farming carried on in the state will show what the dairy industry is to the state.

The hay and grain, the vegetables, the fruit, the live stock, and the dairy produce farms are the ones that furnish the principal source of income. The hay and grain farms make up 32 per cent of the farms of the state; the fruit farms .4 per cent; the vegetable farms .9 per cent; the live stock farms 62.8 per cent, most of these being dairy farms. The value of the grain farms to the state per annum are as follows: the wheat farms have a value of \$11,457,808; the corn farms have a value of \$97,292,707; the oats farms have a value of \$33,254,987; the barley farms have a value of \$5,342,363; the hay and forage have a value of \$30,042,246; and the value of the dairy farm per annum is \$28,333,620 not including milk fed to hogs and calves, consumed in the homes and bottled and sold at the bottling plant, as there are no statistics covering that part of the dairy products for Iowa. There was

paid out from the creameries to the patrons and dairy farmers \$9,884,543 for cream. From these facts it is evident that there is no branch of farming in the state of Iowa so paying, bringing so much profit and good times to the state as the dairy industry.

While dairy farming is practiced to an extent in every state of the Union, it has reached the growth of commercial importance only or principally in the New England States, the states bordering the Lakes, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Delaware, New Jersey and California.

The value of the dairy products in the United States is as follows: Butter, \$263,256,852; cheese, \$28,060,362; condensed milk, \$11,888,792; cream sold \$4,547,792; milk sold, \$217,512,586; milk fed to calves \$39,000,000; and the by products \$41,049,226. Total value of the dairy products for 1900 is \$605,315,354. When we compare the value of the dairy products with the value of some other of the staple agricultural products of the country, it will be seen there is only one that has a greater value. The farm value of potatoes, \$98,387,614; sweet potatoes, \$19,876,200; onions \$6,637,625; tobacco, \$56,993,003; wheat, \$369,945,320; oats \$217,098,584; corn, \$828,258,326. When it is remembered that the net value of the dairy products is considerable higher than in the agricultural products of America, it will be seen that this industry is one of the foremost agricultural pursuit in America.

Having seen the value of the dairy industry numerically let us consider it from another point of view. The dairy industry compared with the other agricultural pursuits is more remunerative, it affords a quicker return for the capital and labor invested and it

enables the farmer to preserve the fertility of his land more than any other of the pursuits.

The inconvenience, of suffering, and sacrifice met with in cattle raising, on the hay and grain farms and in other agricultural pursuits, on account of having to wait long months, and, in some cases, years before any returns can be had from his capital and labor put therein, are unknown in the dairy industry and to the dairy farmer. The dairy farmer gets a monthly return from the creameries or people whom he supplies with his products. The advantages of bargains are taken in by the dairy farmer, whereas the farmer whose money is tied up in cattle or in the hay fields for longer periods loses them. While there are no means of accurately determining the value to the farmers by getting quick returns from his money but that there is an advantage and a decided material one is evident to all who have ever visited and witnessed a district before the advent of a creamery and the transformation after the creamery had been in operation.

While the cow naturally produces material cheaper than the ox or pig or sheep, and cheaper than the field yields its harvest, yet there are other causes entering to render the dairy industry more profitable than any other branch of farming. The dairy farmer enjoys a steady market; this products is not made an object of speculation. What his product will bring can be reckoned with considerable accuracy, a year ahead, and investment made accordingly.

The utilization of the dairy herd as a means to keep up the fertility of the land is already of considerable importance; and as the land grows older and the fertility begins to become depleted, the dairy herd as a means of getting manure will be much valued. Moreover the dairy herd can be used to save the depletion of the land. The

importance of this is not and will not be felt until the farm is run down in fertility. One farmer in the East, to my knowledge finds it a paying investment to keep dairy herds for their manural value to the truck farm.

The factories are of considerable importance in their bearing on the people when compared even with other manufacturing establishments. In number they rank 14, out of the 55 manufacturing industries of America having a product the annual output of which is valued at, at least \$50,000,000; in capital 47; in wage earners employed, 46; in wages paid, 48; in net value of their product, 15; and in gross value of their product, they rank 25. These dairy industries pay for product \$109,000,000; and as the great per cent of expenditure for product at the cheese, butter and condensed milk factories goes to milk and cream, about this amount of money is paid to the farmers of the country.

The dairy farms, the cheese, butter, and condensed milk factories are all creatures of the dairy cow; it is to the old cow they owe their existence. The great importance these industries have upon the wealth of this nation, upon the million American homes, is to be credited to the dairy cow.