

## BRIGHTON AREA FARMERS: FROM BEEF TO DAIRY c. 1900 (CONT.)

SIXTY AND MORE YEARS AGO FARMS HAD LESS ACREAGE AND A MORE DIVERSIFIED PRODUCT: GRAINS, HAY, LIVESTOCK, BEANS, POTATOES, WOOL, APPLES AND MILK PROVIDED THE INCOME. THE ECONOMY OF THE AREA WAS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE 'OUTSIDE MONEY' FARMERS EARNED. IT USED TO BE SAID "IF YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE, FARM." HOWEVER FARMS ARE NOW SEVERAL HUNDRED ACRES IN SIZE. MOST ARE SPECIALIZED AND THE EQUIPMENT USED MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED AND EXPENSIVE. WHATEVER HIS SPECIALTY THE FARMER NOW MUST HAVE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF CHEMISTRY, ANIMAL GENETICS, ANIMAL AND PLANT DISEASE, AND BE AN AMATEUR METEOROLOGIST. THE WISDOM REQUIRED BY THE FINANCIER, AGRONOMIST AND MECHANIC IS NO STRANGER TO A SUCCESSFUL FARMER. THE CONSIDERATION OF DIVERSIFICATION INTO OTHER PROFIT MAKING VENTURE, TO CREATE ADDITIONAL INCOME, AND SOIL CONSERVATION ARE ALSO CONTEMPLATED BY TODAY'S FARMER.

FOR A DAIRY FARMER BULK MILK TANKS BECAME THE WAY TO GO DURING THE 1950s. DISCARDING THE MILK CANS, WHICH HAD BEEN IN USE FOR OVER 50 YEARS, LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARMERS WERE INSTALLING HUGE STAINLESS STEEL CONTAINERS. THE MILK NOW FLOWS DIRECTLY FROM THE MILKING MACHINE ON THE COW INTO THE TANKS WHERE IT IS QUICKLY COOLED. THE CLEANLINESS OF THE PRODUCT IS INCREASED SINCE THERE IS NO EXPOSURE TO THE AIR.

THE SPREAD OF UNDULANT FEVER (*a long-persisting bacterial disease characterized by an undulating, or remittant, fever, profuse perspiration, pain and swelling in the joints and an enlarged spleen; transmitted especially through milk...Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, fifth edition.*) HAS BEEN REDUCED TO AN ALMOST NON EXISTENT LEVEL BECAUSE OF PASTEURIZATION AND AN IMPROVED CRITERION OF CLEANLINESS IN THE DAIRY PROCESS. C. 1940 THIS DISEASE WAS WIPED OUT OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY WHEN THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AFTER PERSISTENT LOBBYING BY FRED CATRELL, PASSED AN ORDNANCE WHICH REQUIRED THE PASTEURIZATION OF ALL MILK SOLD IN HOWELL. (EVERYONE SELLING MILK SOLD IT IN HOWELL.) PRESENTLY ALL MILK PRODUCTS, SOLD COMMERCIALY, CAN BE CONSUMED WITHOUT RISK TO ONE'S HEALTH FROM UNDULANT FEVER, RHEUMATIC FEVER, T.B. ETC., BECAUSE OF THE STRICT REGULATIONS WHICH MUST NOW BE OBSERVED.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION, PRACTICED BY MOST DAIRY FARMERS IN THE COUNTY, ALSO REDUCES SPREAD OF DISEASE WHICH MIGHT BE PRESENT IN A BARN YARD SINCE COWS AND BULLS ARE NOT MOVED FROM ONE FARM TO ANOTHER FOR BREEDING. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH.)

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