

THE DAIRY OUTLOOK

By R. N. DAVIS, Assistant Dairy Husbandman

The Trend Today—Cow Population Yesterday and Today—Amounts of Butter and Cheese in Storage—Outlook

THE low price of some farm products, especially cotton and alfalfa hay, has brought about renewed interest in dairying in the state. A number of dairymen have increased their herds while numerous farmers engaged in other lines of agriculture are seriously considering the purchase of dairy cows.

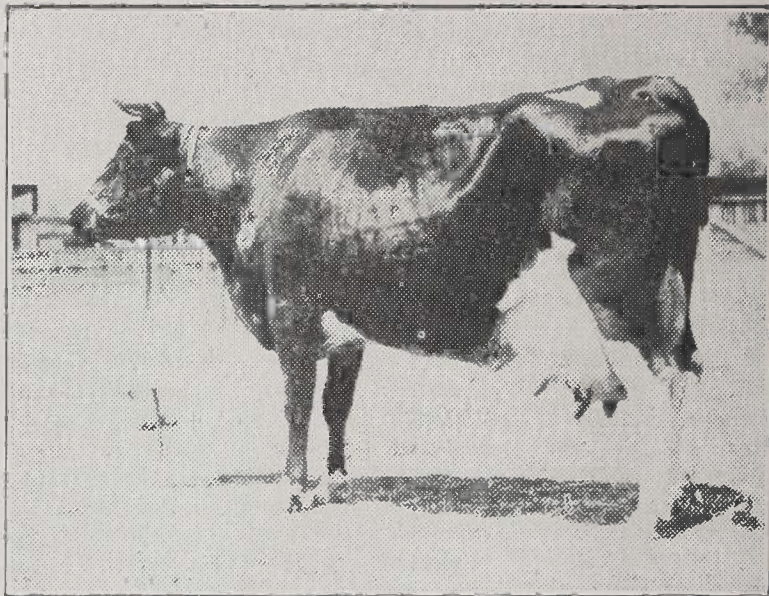
Since it requires a considerable investment, and dairying is a long time proposition if one is to realize on one's investment in establishing a dairy herd, a short discussion of the apparent outlook for dairying in the state is both timely and valuable.

Good dairymen, good cows, an abundance of good feed, and a satisfactory market are essentials for profitable dairying. This discussion will be confined to the last named essential.

The dairy market is rightly considered as a world market. However, since the American consumption generally exceeds the home production and the American dairymen are protected with a substantial tariff it may be considered as a national market.

The dairy cow population in the United States has not kept pace with the human population. On January 1, 1920, there were 4.93 persons per dairy cow in this country while on January 1, 1926, there were 5.22 persons per cow. According to the latest estimates, there are fewer dairy cows in the United States today than there was a year ago. This decrease can be attributed in part at least to the animals slaughtered as a result of T. B. testing. It may be that the high prices of wheat and cotton have affected the cow population in certain sections.

There was an increase of 18 per cent in milk production in the United States from 1921 to 1925 while the consumption of milk increased 32 per cent from 1917 to 1925. The 1925 consumption was over 5 per cent more than that of the previous year. The total per capita consumption of all dairy products for 1925 in terms of fluid milk was 115.5 gallons, divided as follows: Milk 54.7 gallons, butter 17 pounds, cheese 3.8 pounds, condensed milk 14.8 pounds, and ice cream 2.8 gallons. The total per cap-



Indications are that good dairy cows will be a profitable enterprise for some time.

ita consumption in 1917 was 87.8 gallons of milk.

We stated above that instead of the normal increase in the cow population during the last year, there had been a small decrease. It was also stated that this decrease was caused by cows reacting to the T. B. test and possibly by the high prices of certain other farm products. The price of wheat is still fairly good, but the price of cotton and some other farm commodities are anything but encouraging. Therefore, we may expect some shift in the direction of dairying in certain sections as a result of unsatisfactory prices for other farm commodities. However, the T. B. testing will continue and the shipping of cows from one section to another will not increase the total cows in the country. The cow population cannot be changed over night. It takes at least two years to produce a first-class heifer after the calf is dropped. Cheap feed, however, is favorable to better feeding and this may result in increased production in some sections of the country.

So much for production—what about consumption? Consumption is largely controlled by price and prosperity of the country. Therefore, no one can make any predictions as to consumption. Unemployment has a

direct effect on the consumption of dairy products and there is a limit to what people will pay for these commodities. At present, the future demand looks favorable. Although the price of butter has been good during the last several months the consumption has been better than it was a year ago. There were 17,967,000 pounds of creamery butter in storage February 1 against 39,381,000 pounds a year ago and 46,078,000 pounds of American cheese against 50,339,000 pounds a year ago. The indications are that storage butter will be very low at the beginning of the storage season, May 1.

We have discussed the dairy outlook from the national view point. What of Arizona?

We noted above that there were 5.22 persons per dairy cow in the United States, January 1, 1926. The United States as a whole made an estimated increase in population of 10 per cent from 1920 to 1926. January 1, 1926, there were 13.62 persons per dairy cow in Arizona and Arizona made an estimated increase in population of 31 per cent from 1920 to 1926, from 334,000 to 436,000.

We noted that the average consumption of butter, cheese and condensed milk in the United States in 1925 was 17, 3.8 and 14.8 pounds respectively.

Arizona produced that year only enough butter, cheese and condensed milk to supply her citizens with 2.5, 1.3 and 8.3 pounds respectively.

The above data would indicate that it is not likely that Arizona will have sufficient dairy cows to supply home consumption for a long time. One has only to note the butter being sold in Arizona stores from other states to be convinced that Arizona is importing a large per cent of her butter. If dairymen in California, Colorado, Kansas, Texas and other states can produce butter for the Arizona market surely the farmers of Arizona can produce more milk with profit.

We must not overlook the fact that the dairy market in Arizona will be directly affected by the price of cream in the country as a whole. The dairy market is a national market at least and with unfavorable conditions abroad, it may become a world market.

The immediate future for dairying looks good for the United States as a whole and with continued prosperity it would seem that prices for dairy products will be good for some time. It would seem that farmers in Arizona with feed, and gifted along dairy lines could make some money with a small herd of good dairy cows.

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ALFALFA HAY AND MEAL FOR POULTRY

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one of the poultrymen had tried alfalfa meal and only one had tried the hay. They either thought that it would cost more or that the hay and meal were not a proper substitute for the succulent green-feed.

One bale of hay is sufficient for 1000 birds for one day. At 50 cents a bale, it would cost the poultryman approximately \$180.00 to feed 1000 birds for the year. One sack of alfalfa meal would be sufficient for five days for the 1000 birds. At \$2.50 a sack, it would cost the poultryman approximately \$180.00 for this source of green-feed for the year. In both of the above cases costs of labor in feeding and hauling the feed to the ranch must be taken into account.

In conclusion the figures show that the poultryman can raise his own green-feed at half the cost of that available on the market. The freshly cut succulent green-feed, especially alfalfa, has proven to be the best source of vitamins, and where it can be grown the whole year, the author recommends its use.

THE PECAN IN ARIZONA

(Continued from page 5)

the best methods to improve soil fertility. Some crops adapted to this use are Hubam clover, sour clover, cowpeas, and alfalfa.

It is sometimes necessary to shade trees during the first summer. Burlap supported on a frame or fan palm leaves are often used on the south, east, and west sides and over the top. If a cover crop is used this may not be necessary as the large leaf area transpires moisture in large quantities during the hot part of the summer. It is not necessary to prune or train the trees during the first season.

If the pecan trees make a good growth during the first two years they may bear a few nuts the third or fourth year, but commercial returns cannot be expected until the sixth to eighth year from planting. Allowing twelve trees to the acre the average yields are 100 pounds to the acre at six years of age, 500 pounds at ten years of age, and 1000 pounds at fifteen years of age.

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