

Skim Milk Valuable By-Product

SKIM MILK is an excellent food for all animals that will drink it. It is better for humans than usually estimated. There still lingers something of a stigma in the name, partly due to the ancient and dishonorable practice of adulteration, and also because of its wide use as a feed for stock.

Skim milk is distinctively a by-product on most farms, the central idea being to produce milk for its butter-fat. Large factories and packing-houses have shown the world that a by-product may be made more profitable than the original or main product.

At one time kerosene was the chief creation of oil refineries, gasoline being a cheap and little-used by-product. Today the situation is reversed, gasoline being the popular and high-priced output, while kerosene is a drug on the market. In an age of intense competition every scrap that was formerly wasted or unprofitable must be made to do its full duty as an income producer.

There are farms where even skim milk is made a more profitable source of income than butter. Thus in a hundred pounds of ordinary whole milk there are approximately four pounds of butter, four pounds of milk sugar and four pounds of casein. The butter has an average farm value of less than \$1.20 at current prices. The skim milk (including the buttermilk) will weigh about 96 pounds after the butter is removed. This is sometimes made into an excellent human food known as "yogurt" or "Bulgarian soured milk." It is the same chemically as buttermilk, both being fat-free milk, and both are soured and emulsified by churning to give it smoothness of texture.

Artificial Buttermilk.

This article brings from 5 to 40 cents a quart, depending upon the quality and market. The writer paid the latter price in Chicago for some bottled "Metchnikoff"—a superior article made by adding a pure culture to pasteurized milk—just to see what it is like. It is the height of elegance and flavor for those who enjoy buttermilk.

A fair article of this "artificial buttermilk" should bring at least 5 cents a quart at retail and 15 cents a gallon wholesale. Hotels, restaurants, drug stores, etc., are usually glad to get it regularly, but it must have quality. At 15 cents a gallon the 96 pounds would bring \$1.80 or 50 per cent more than the butter.

It is generally estimated that skim milk as animal feed is worth 1 to 2 cents a gallon compared with corn and other grains. It is not only relished by swine of all ages, calves, chickens and other poultry, but it has a decided value in furnishing needed

protein to make growth in young animals. If fed to livestock at all it is well to distribute the supply among all members of the barnyard fraternity as a kind of appetizer or medicinal tonic. This helps to take the curse from an exclusive corn or other fat-making ration.

Worth More Than Butter.

Land is steadily rising in value; cows are higher priced; feed is worth more than formerly, and all the expenses of conducting the cow department are heavier; but the butter quotations do not keep pace with them. Therefore it is more than probable that skim milk, sweet or soured, according to the "yogurt" formula, will increase as a human food. If such a product will bring but 5 cents a gallon at wholesale, it is still more profitable to dispose of it at that figure and buy cheaper feeds for livestock. In a hundred pounds of skim milk (12 gallons) there are only eight pounds of solids and 92 pounds of water. The eight pounds of solids would be cheaper in the form of ground grains, tankage or other condensed feeds. The 12 gallons should easily be worth 50 to 75 cents if properly cared for and introduced by advertising or personal solicitation to city and townspeople, who would welcome it at a fair price.

Thus what was once regarded as almost a waste product and at best thrown out lavishly to the pigs can be turned into an article of sale worth more than the butter from the same amount of milk. It offers an attractive field to the farmer or the farmer's wife who is willing to learn how to make the fancy brand of buttermilk that "makes you live to be a hundred," and who will develop a special trade for it.—H. A. Bereman in *Successful Farming*.

Short.

Roger W. Babson, a business statistician of Boston, said to a reporter: "This war is going to lower prices. Our market will be glutted with grain, shoes and so forth. Thus prices will come down. And they who now boast prices are as short on honesty as Stubbs was short on stature."

"Stubbs, a lawyer, was pleading in a strange court, and so short was he that when he began his opening speech the judge said to him: "Stand up, please, Mr. Stubbs." "I am standing up, Your Honor." "Then stand on a chair." "Your Honor, I am standing on a chair."—New York Tribune.

It is reported that there is a big market in Hawaii for box shooks for packing canned pineapple and pineapple juice.



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