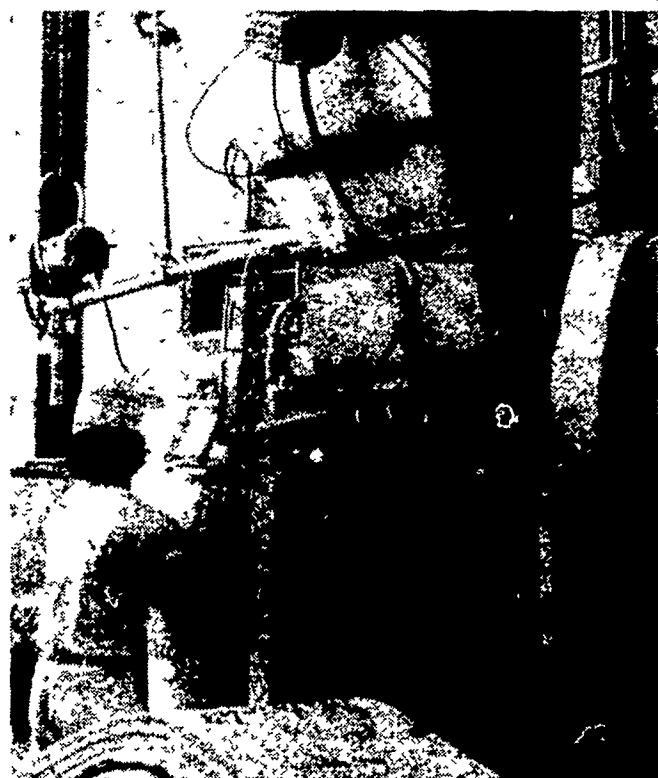




These cone-shaped devices turn milk into powder.



Powdered milk in bags, such as being filled here, allow a perishable product to be turned into one which can be stored for long periods of time.

Dietrich's

(Continued from Page 102)

ends and holidays the surpluses are high. For example, Dietrich said, "we usually don't milk on Thursdays or Fridays and sometimes on Monday mornings, but on Friday afternoons the flow is very heavy." That's why Dietrich has space for 2 million pounds of milk. It helps to the flow. This large space is only enough to last

two days, however, Tom added. "When surpluses are heavy we run the plant continuously, such as in the Spring months," the manager explained.

In continuing his explanation Dietrich stated that the end of May seems to be the peak of production. "During Summer months the heat and dry weather decreases our supply, he continued. "Last Summer we were only running the

powdering plant two or three days a week."

Holidays also increase surplus supplies. That's because people don't stay home and they tend to eat out more often, he added. "And no one orders milk with their hamburgers at McDonald's, the manager illustrated.

Most of the powdered whole milk is sold in a 100-mile radius. It is used mainly as an ingredient in the manufacture of milk chocolate and bakery items.

The Dietrich's also have a secondary operation. Besides the drying plant

which runs continuously during this time of year, there is also a small creamery which produces butter. This "small" butter operation produces in the neighborhood of four million pounds annually, Lancaster Farming was informed.

"We have always made butter," Dietrich added, but we have increased production with the demand for butter and the supply of available cream. The butter produced is not packaged by Dietrich's but is shipped to a packer and sold under a different name.

Cream used for churning comes from producers of skim and low fat content milk, which is also bought from the surplus market.

Condensed milk and buttermilk are also sold on a small scale. These products are sold directly to ice cream producers, as an ingredient for their product.

Dietrich's had well-publicized problems during the gas curtailment this past Winter. Presently they are still trying to resolve the matter with the Public Utility Commission. "We want to know where we

stand," explained Dietrich. "We thought we were classified as an essential food processor which are second in importance to residential users," he continued.

The PUC, however, does not have us classified as such, their argument is that our product is not a shelf item. Our stand is that we are serving a market," he added. "If we can't take the surplus milk it would have to be dumped. Two or three million pounds of milk just can't be dumped," he stated, "not environmentally or legally."

Dietrich's have filed papers asking for a change in status and are awaiting a decision. "If they won't classify us with food processors we will have to put in another energy system for drying the milk, said Tom. "This would be very costly and we don't want to do it if it is not necessary," he concluded.

MR. FARMER

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Although milk is processed it's not an engineered or fabricated food. It naturally has two major components: fat, including fat soluble vitamins, and solids-not-fat, which includes proteins, carbohydrate, water-soluble vitamins and minerals. These nutrients in milk make it a food not duplicated by modern science.

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Dairying in the U.S. is older than the nation itself. First dairy cows came to Jamestown in 1611, helping to end the terrifying starvation. As pioneers moved westward, nearly every covered wagon had its cow following alongside, the family's mobile "food factory."