

Dairying's Past

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screw-on tin lid and some more unique types have wooden hand-built lids. These too come in various sizes, ranging from one quart to two gallons in capacity.

All sizes and types of milk containers and equipment are sought by collectors.

The painting and decorating of milk cans has opened an entirely new field of American art. Hand painted milk can can be found anywhere from the base of a rural mail box to the umbrella stand in the foyer of a metropolitan apartment.

Smaller milk cans, such as those made of tin or agate, cream separators and even small containers that held cream for dinner table use are choice items of dairy antiques.

Dairying's discards of the past now relished by collectors are not limited to those associated just with milk, either.

Since butter was among the earlier dairy products to be marketed, this opens a whole new area of collecting.

Collectibles can range from the small dove-tailed molds used to form the blocks of butter to the hand-carved prints used to decorate the blocks. These can vary from the popular sheaf of wheat to the more decorative Pennsylvania Dutch designs.

Even more primitive in the field of butter antiques is the small round tub hand-carved and built right on the farm. Among the more unusual are those containing designs carved into the handles of the tub.

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Gallon milk pails were a popular size for keeping milk cool first in the spring house and later in the ice box. Pail at left is made of agate while that at right is tin.



Dove-tailed wooden butter mold was hand-crafted right on the farm where it was used. Dough box represents kitchen item in which many dairy products were used to mix and prepare delicious food items.

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