

Dairying's Past

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And cheese is yet another product with its own set of antiques.

Highly prized are both the round cheese boxes and the tin molds once utilized in the packaging and making of cheese.

In the case of the boxes, a nest of matched varying sizes is the goal of many collectors.

Of course, there are many other items from dairying's past that can be collected. These can range from the variety of dippers used to take a satisfying drink of milk from the container kept in the spring house to the flat lades for skimming off the cream.

The advent of the ice cream industry added yet another phase. Tin is a popular collector's field for ice cream artifacts, ranging from early cone scoops to the all-tin home freezers that had to be dried on top of the wood range.

But among the more unusual collectibles is the early barn stall signs, usually hand-punched in tin.

In those earlier days before AI and primary concern with pedigrees and production records, a stall sign above a prize dairy cow read much more simply than today.

It usually read something like:

"Betty — a gentle Jersey."—DA



One of the most primitive of dairying antiques is small round butter tub. The heart, a popular decoration particularly among Pennsylvania Dutch, is hand-carved into tub handles. Heart motif is continued in pillows and bench.



Cream separator was used in many dairy farm kitchens. Many larger versions were also made.



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