

**Agricultural Department**

Hints About Butter Making.

At this season of the year when so many butter makers fail to produce a fair sample of butter, it may not be out of place to offer a few hints on the subject. Many of the facts are taken from Johnson's Agricultural Chemistry and adapted to our country and our time. Some of the hints have been learned by observation while living in different parts of the country. The first of the most important things in the production of prime butter.

1. Health of the animal is one of the most important things in the production of prime butter. 2. The cow should be entirely free from disturbances. Anything which frets, distorts, or causes the animal uneasy, affects the quantity or changes the quality of the milk.

3. Kind of food affects the milk and the butter more than anything else. Rich luscious grasses and clover, the June grass or timothy, will furnish the elements of good milk and first-class butter.

4. Individual constitution of the cow is of great importance. Eating and properly digesting food are prime requisites. Hence a good cow must be a regular glutton, for you cannot expect milk and butter unless the animal eats enough and manufactures what is eaten into milk and cream. Small eating cows will as a rule, be scrupulous in the quantity or quality of the milk.

5. The quality of the milk varies according to the time it is taken from the udder. Milk which is first drawn is more watery and contains a poorer quality of cream than that drawn at the last. Most farmers know this fact and practice accordingly when saving strippings. But the vital point is lost sight of when the strippings and the cream from the poorer milk are thrown together to be churned. To make choice butter the last drawn milk should be kept separate from beginning to end. In some dairies three or four different grades of milk are kept. The best is first drawn, the second grade of butter. One additional step might be added, namely, to save the strippings from the very choice cows only, and either churn this milk, or save the cream from it and churn.

6. Another fact is found to obtain in regard to the time the cream is allowed to rise. The first cream always produces the finest flavored and highest colored butter. This fact is practically carried out in Europe, and butter of fine quality is the result. Why not apply American ingenuity to this important part of the rising of the superior cream first. In all probability the choice butter thus produced would sell for much more than it brings by the old method, thus leaving the second quality as a clear gain.

7. Length of time churning is an important part of dairying. Many views on this subject are held by different authorities. Some ask for an hour or an hour and a half for churning cream, and demand two hours where the milk is to be churned. In America, the country of speed and haste, ten, fifteen or twenty minutes are variously urged. Hot water is dashed into the unyielding cream when the time exceeds the number of minutes allowed. Pale butter results and a lack of uniformity in color and flavor which is far worse. Really, there is no definite time that can well be fixed, for everything about butter-making tends to vary the length of time required to churn. A good general rule would be to churn sufficiently slow in summer to prevent the butter's being soft and greasy, and in winter to churn quick enough to raise the temperature of the cream to the desired point at which butter most readily separates; or, in other words, the temperature of the cream during churning rises several degrees because of the friction of the dasher and the cream and the moment of the particles over each other; now fast churning raises the temperature more than slow, moderate churning, and in summer the latter course should be followed, while in the winter the former gives the best results.

8. Over-churning is often the cause of oily butter. Perhaps those who hope of a few added particles of butter from the milk. Why not strain the buttermilk, if that is the case, rather than break the grain of the whole churning, rendering it less valuable and unfit to eat.

9. Proper temperature before churning is a prime necessity. For cream 55°, and for whole milk churning 65°. If much warmer or colder there will be more or less disappointment about the time of the butter's coming and about the quantity and quality of the butter. How many there are who guess at this most vital point in dairying, because they think a thermometer so costly or so much nonsense of science.

10. It is not often that cleanliness, yet the fact is patent that the majority of butter makers are uncleanly. Comparative cleanliness fails to answer. Absolute and unimpaired cleanliness is demanded at all times in all respects. Even the cow-stable to the printing stamp or the packing tub. The milk, the cream, the dishes and the atmosphere about the milk must be pure. It is common to find neatness in some respects, but not common to find the opposite in others. How many stables, or yards are free from offensive odors arising from filth? Yet the milk often stands breathing these odors for half an hour or more. In the cellars where often we see the mouldy sills and sleepers overhead. No longer do we wonder that the butter which was ushered to life in such a place should give forth odors of its own after a few weeks' sojourn in summer weather. Which we see the heavy, soft clay jars which hold the milk, we are sure to say nay to the butter if more than nine days' old. But these are only a few of the hints that might be thrown out on this subject of cleanliness.

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