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homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, February 17, 1942

SUBJECT: "Dairy Products in 1942" Information from officials of the Triple A, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Today, here is information from the United States Department of Agriculture on the outlook for dairy products for 1942.

The 1942 goals for food production plan for 125 billion pounds of milk. Of course, that's milk as the cow gives it. You buy it as fresh, canned and dried milkcream, butter, cheese and so on....

This 125 billion pounds of milk must cover all dairy products used. And it'll be more milk than the nation's cows gave last year. In fact, it'll be 7 percent more....Which means for every 14 quarts of milk produced last year, there'll be 15 quarts produced this year.

Well....that's the probable supply. This information from the Department of Agriculture explains the need for more dairy products....as well as problems confronting farmers in increasing milk production.

I want to give you an idea of how big a job it is to increase milk production, and then I'll have a lot to say about the need for dairy products this year....and just how the world situation will effect the milk supply on your family table.

Maybe you've wondered why the increase in milk production this year won't be as great as the increase of some of the other commodities....say, for example, eggs. Here's the reason. It's no small job to raise a dairy cow. It usually takes at least two years before a cow is old enough for milking....It's kind of like building a battleship. It takes time to do it. The increase in milk production this year must therefore, come from the cows we already have.

Which means those cows will have to be given better feed and care. The revised goals for production do take that into consideration. They provide for increasing the supply of feed. So the prospects are farmers will be able to meet this goal. And that'll mean a lot of milk. 1941 was a record milk production year. This year'll be much better.

And that's good....because we'll need it. People here in the United States, will probably eat more dairy foods this year than last. As more people get jobs... and wages rise, they'll buy more food....and some of it will be dairy products.

Then too....many normal civilian commodities are becoming hard to get....such as automobiles, refrigerators, washing machines and so on. With more money to spend, and fewer things to buy, many people will buy more food this year than they have in the past. Dairy products will be in for their share of the increase.

That's on the home front. But our war front is much larger. It includes the home fronts of the other 25 United Nations. The peoples of all those nations will have to be strong to win this war. Yes....the people at home as well as the men in the armed forces.

Dairy products will play an important part in making them strong. Many of the dairy products produced in this country will be used for that purpose. A considerable portion of that 125 billion pounds of milk to be produced this year will be processed into concentrated dairy products....Processed into cheese, evaporated, and dry skim milk....Processed into forms that can be shipped conveniently over thousands of miles of water....and still be used to strengthen our allies.

I'm sure you appreciate the value of cheese, as one of the most valuable foods. But did you know that dried milk offers one excellent solution to a great war problem....that of transporting as much nutritious food as possible in the smallest possible package?

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One hundred pounds of skim milk weighs only 9 pounds when dried. And those 9 pounds have about the same amount of food value as they had before they were dried. Packed in a tightly sealed can, dried skim milk will keep about a year under good conditions.

In a single Atlantic crossing, one cargo ship can carry enough dry skim milk to provide every person in London with a quart of skim milk a day for two weeks.

Yes...you can be sure that large quantities of concentrated dairy products will go to our allies in 1942. A lot was sent to England in 1941....but the amount will be greater this year.

And even with these huge exports officials in the Department of Agriculture are confident there'll be plenty of dairy products for the American family table. Our reserves at the present time are much larger than normal....and our production capacity is much greater. In fact, this nation's nutrition experts are firmly convinced that the American people must have plenty of dairy products in order to be strong.

Remember....the strength of the nation depends upon the health of the nation....and dairy products are among the most health-giving foods.

Yes, the Department of Agriculture says the situation for 1942 looks favorable for more dairy products.

Next week information about the supply of meat products.
