The lid hazard, from the cream cans, brought about a law required cream can lids to be fastened to the cans by a bale link. Luckily or unfortunately, the too-ripe cream was shipped out of the county and the fresher and better quality cream went to the local cooperative creameries. The local cooperative creamery manager, acting independently for his patrons, soon found that the cooperative creameries were bidding against each other on the butter market. They, however, in the early twenties cooperated in a selling agency which later became the Land-O-Lakes Creameries, Inc., world's largest cooperative creamery organization.

To note the growth of the dairy development of Polk County, U.S. Census figures taken from random years, beginning with the year 1910 will give at least a progress report showing the trend in the dairying industry. The 1910 census reports show that Polk County had 24,650 dairy cows and heifers two years old or older. The reported milk production was 8,039,937 gallons. The disposition figures show that 338,420 gallons of milk and 127,235 gallons of cream were sold, 1,272,339 pounds of butter were made on the farms of which 665,911 pounds were sold. The 1920 figures show that record number of cows and heifers (43,397), a production of 8,288,733 gallons of milk, 527,247 gallons of which were sold; 1,307,326 pounds of butter fat, 877,030 pounds of butter made on the farms, 217,122 pounds of butter and 94,332 gallons of cream were sold. In 1934 there were 39,000 milk cows and heifers two years and over; 15,293,264 gallons of milk were produced and only 48,437 pounds of butter were produced on the farms — the rest of the dairy products went mainly in commercial channels. In 1945 there were 33,000 milk cows and heifers two years old and older with a milk production of 32,011,883 gallons and a production of 3,087,043 lbs. of butterfat. In 1950, 25,000 cows produced 42,404,602 gals. of milk and 1,847,561 lbs. of butterfat.

The sampling of figures of dairy production clarify the picture of the changes which have been taking place in dairy production and some of the changes in the processing of the dairy products within the county. The most noticeable change in dairying has been made in the churning of butter. Until cooperative marketing and cream grading laws were enacted, farmers wives found it profitable to churn their own butter. With the growth of the creameries, however, dairy (homechurned) butter which dominated the local markets in the early years, was replaced by creamery butter. Following the depression years in the late thirties the so-called dairy butter was seldom seen on the markets. Dairy farmers today generally prefer to sell their butter-fat and buy back creamery butter. There have been changes in the creameries and processing plants in the county during the past fifty years. Roy A. Bodin, Agricultural Statistician for the State-Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, St. Paul, Minnesota tells of the changes in a letter of January 29, 1960. He states in part: “These data were a part of the information supplied by local creameries. For 1913, the record shows 20 creameries in operation with a total