of 2,231 patrons who reported 16,759 cows. These creameries reported 33,644 pounds of milk received and 6,614,820 pounds of cream. Total butterfat received in milk and cream was reported at 1,714,317 pounds. These creameries reported the production of 2,087,163 pounds of butter. The average price patrons by pound of butterfat was 30.3 cents and patrons were paid $520,277. The number of creameries and milk processing plants operating in 1958 is 13, of which 12 received milk, cream or both from farmers and all of them did some processing.

The change from marketing cream and the use of the cream separator on the farm came quite rapidly at the advent of World War II when processed milk was required for the armed forces. To meet this demand for dried skim milk, a number of drying plants were erected to serve the Red River Valley. The one drying plant in Polk County was erected at Fosston in 1944 and put in operation in 1945. Mr. John Dysart, Director of Public Relations, Land-O-Lakes Creameries, Inc., gave me the following information regarding the Fosston plant: “It is a large centralized milk plant and has received milk from the cooperative creameries in that area since its erection. In addition to the skim milk which comes in direct, we haul much whole milk into Fosston where we have a contract with the Fosston creamery to churn for us, and the skim milk comes to the milk plant where it is manufactured into milk powder. Powder production has gone from 3,422,400 pounds in 1945 to 8,947,100 pounds in 1958. When the plant was first opened 400 to 600 pounds of powder per hour was a good rate of production. Now, through putting in more modern equipment, plants such as this are able to manufacture from 1600 to 2100 pounds of powder per hour. Over the years these milk plants have returned to the patrons considerable sums of money.”

Other apparent changes in the dairying picture during the past fifty years has been the great increase in production per cow, 24,650 cows in 1910 produced 8,039,937 gallons of milk while in 1950 25,000 cows produced 42,404,602 gallons of milk. Along with the increase in production of milk per cow have come modern sanitation methods for handling and cooling the milk on the farms and the modern stainless steel tanks and bulk pick up deliveries of milk to the processing plants. Through constant vigilence, tuberculosis and brucellosis have been eradicated from the dairy herds of the county. Improved cooling and refrigerated tank trucks eliminate the necessity of milk being consumed within a few miles of the point of origin. There is a noticeable shift of dairy cattle numbers from west to east Polk County. County Agricultural Agent, Mr. Harley Shurson, of East Polk County, in checking over dairy cattle statistics for the county, points out that in 1947 55 per cent of the dairy cattle were in east Polk and in 1957 the percentage had increased to 67 per cent.

Milk drinking habits of people are changing. Since World War II more people are drinking milk. The use of skim milk and skim milk powder has increased greatly in recent years.