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10-1922

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## Recommended Citation

McCullough, H., "Home Supplies Furnished by the Farm" (1922). *Extension Circulars*. Paper 68.  
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HOME SUPPLIES FURNISHED BY THE FARM

by

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture  
and Home Economics, South Dakota State  
College and United States Department of  
Agriculture cooperating.

Distributed in furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and  
June 30, 1914.

## HOME SUPPLIES FURNISHED BY THE FARM

One hundred fifty years ago a farm family raised practically all of its food and made most of its clothing as well as the simple tools that were used in farm work. Then came the opening up of the West, the building of railroads and the invention and general use of modern farm machinery. Grain, livestock and livestock products were now raised in large quantities and sold. Part of the money from these sales was used to buy the clothing, household equipment and food which had previously been made or raised on the farm. No one today would care to go back to homespun clothes and wooden plowshares, but many people do feel that we have gone too far in the other direction and that the farm should be made to contribute a larger share of the family living than it now does.

Home supplies furnished by the farm constitute a really important part of the farmer's income. A study of 950 families in 14 states shows that the annual value of food, fuel, and use of house at that time (1914) was \$642, of which sum, \$424 or 66 per cent was furnished by the farm. This is really a form of income even tho it does not appear in dollars and cents. It saves the necessity of spending that much of the cash income for food, fuel and rent.

This study shows that the average cost of the food consumed per person was \$89.23. Of this food 63 per cent was furnished by the farm. Three-fourths of the food consumed belonged to the general class of farm-furnished products, altho only 63 per cent of the food used was actually taken directly from the farm. This

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NOTE - Two good bulletins on this subject are: Farmers' Bulletin No. 1082, "Home Supplies Furnished by the Farm," and Farmers' Bulletin No. 635, "What the Farm Contributes Directly to the Farmer's Living." Write to the State College for these bulletins.

indicates that there is room for further increasing the family income by making a greater use of food products which the farm may be made to provide.

The greater the use made of farm-furnished products on the table, the better the family lives. It was shown in the study of 950 farms quoted above that the quantity of fruit and vegetables used was in direct proportion to the quantity raised on the farm. In other words, if fruits and vegetables are to be eaten fresh during the summer and generous supplies canned and stored for winter use, they must be raised on the farm. The figures show that only limited amounts of such foods are actually purchased.

A study of 61 farms in Jones County in 1921 by the State Department of Agriculture shows the average amount and value of farm products used in the house.

Item	Amount	Value
Butter, pounds.....	184	\$ 63.00
Cream, pints.....	368	66.00
Milk, gallons.....	185	66.00
Eggs, dozen.....	166	42.00
Beef, pounds.....	450	18.00
Pork, pounds.....	605	36.00
Poultry, pounds.....	174	24.00
Miscellaneous.....		<u>31.00</u>
<u>Total food.....</u>		<u>\$ 346.00</u>

To the above list let us add potatoes, other garden vegetables, fruit, fuel and house rent. Then let us make another table on the following page estimating the amount and value of each of these items that contributed to our family living last year and see how it compares with these figures from Jones County.

Estimated Value of Home Supplies Furnished by the Farm.

Item	Amount	Value
Butter, pounds.....		
Cream, pints.....		
Milk, gallons.....		
Eggs, dozen.....		
Beef, pounds.....		
Pork, pounds.....		
Poultry, pounds.....		
Potatoes, bushels.....		
Other garden vegetables.....		
Fruits.....		
Other food products.....		
Total food.....		
Fuel, tons or cords.....		
House rent.....		
Miscellaneous.....		
Total value.....		

Did you consider this amount (total value above) when figuring the profit and loss on your farming operations last year? How could this amount be increased next year?

Additional topics for discussion at club meetings:

1. How to can meat successfully.
2. Canning vegetables for winter use.
3. Drying vegetables.
4. Smoking and curing meat.