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# Early dairy maids 1867-1900 in Finland and the butter

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## Whole milk

(Before 1870) you milked a cow and let the milk stay in a container so, that the cream would gather on top. Then you skimmed the milk.

You take the cream to make butter, but also the remaining skimmed milk is good for humans and animals.



## Turning cream to butter

The upper layer of milk, cream, is collected maybe for some days in order to get enough of it.

**Churning.** The collected cream is poured to a churn. The churning time depends on temperature and a type of milk. The butter created is stored in a bowl. To fill up the bowl, may have churn many times, maybe weeks.

Butter from a simple churn was not Premium type, but good for home consumption.



Ice lifting from a lake.  
Job for young men. Ice was stored  
in peat or saw-dust. It could stay  
until the following year.

Ice was needed to chill the milk  
from the cow.

Finna: tuntematon, k. *isupptagning troligen från Kyrkträsket /  
jäännostoa todennäköisesti Kirkkojärvestä.*



## The dairy schools

A Senate decision to found two-year-training for **girls** was revolutionary. No other professionally oriented teaching was available for girls.

The experience of schools changed the discourse about agriculture and its significance.

Picture:  
How a dairy plant should be organised.



Churn with a crank.

Replacing the simple churn.

More even butter and not bad smelling.

Finna: *kirnu; kampikirnu.*



### **Export quality**

After 2000 girls had been trained to become "meijerska" before 1900. Tons of butter was exported from remote villages. Newly build railroad transported the butter to the town of Hanko, which became the port for the export of butter.

Finna: Grotenfelt, G. *talonpoikaisvoin kuljetusastioita.*

# Dairy schools on 19th century

- Agreement between manor house owners in 1867
- Result was better than nobody expected. The industry skyrocketed.
- How was the career of trained girls? They remained manual labour. As business increased, the responsibility was on male supervisors.
- Maybe the girls (now already passed away) could be found in old papers?

Thank you for the attention.