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# The Hertfordshire Agricultrual Situation

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## Appendix : Harpenden Dairies Limited : an Instance of Successful Co-operative Action Among Farmers for Retail Milk-selling

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Rothamsted Research (1930) *Appendix : Harpenden Dairies Limited : an Instance of Successful Co-operative Action Among Farmers for Retail Milk-selling* ; The Hertfordshire Agricultrual Situation, pp 46 - 47 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23637/ERADOC-1-202>

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### APPENDIX TO CONFERENCE REPORT

#### HARPENDEN DAIRIES LIMITED: AN INSTANCE OF SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATIVE ACTION AMONG FARMERS FOR RETAIL MILK-SELLING

A GROUP of farmers round Harpenden have for some years combined to form a co-operative society, the Harpenden Dairies Limited, for selling their milk retail in the village. The capital of the society is £2345, being subscribed by the farmers themselves, in the first instance on the basis of three £1 shares for every gallon of milk per day which they contract to supply. This rule is now not enforced, as no more capital is required. The shares are all held by members. The milk handled amounts to 400 to 600 gallons daily, and there are eleven farmers in the scheme. The basis of payment is the National Farmers' Union contract rate, with the following modifications:

(1) The society supplies the churns and incidental appliances, straining-cloths, etc.

(2) There is no railway freight and none of the deductions of the National Farmers' Union contracts.

(3) The society collects milk from the farmers at a specially cheap rate—*i.e.* 2½d. per mile and ¼d. per gallon—any profits on the transport account being returned in the form of bonuses.

(4) It gives the following bonuses:

(a) Where there is one Jersey or Guernsey in five cows of the dairy herd, and provided the milk contains an average 4 per cent. of butter fat	1d. per gallon
One Jersey or Guernsey in eight	½d. "
(b) For County Grade A Licence	1½d. "
(c) For Ministry of Health Licence	3d. "
(d) For farmers steaming dairy utensils twice daily	£18 per annum
(e) On milk from tuberculin-tested herds	1d. per gallon

Occasional special bonuses per gallon, which are of the nature of interim dividends. Total payment of bonuses amounts to about 10 per cent. of total payment for milk. Counting everything, the advantage comes to about 2d. or 3d. per gallon in cash—*i.e.* farmers receive in January 1s. 8d. instead of 1s. 5d., in addition to the savings above specified.

(5) A farmer contracts to deliver a certain quantity, and may vary his contract to the extent of 25 per cent.—*i.e.* if he contracts for 40 gallons

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per day he may go to 50 gallons. Milk supplied in excess of this is paid for at the manufacturers' price of the National Farmers' Union. For a deficiency he is fined 3d. per gallon.

(6) The society also collects all eggs, pays for them at wholesale price, and returns the surplus profits by way of bonuses.