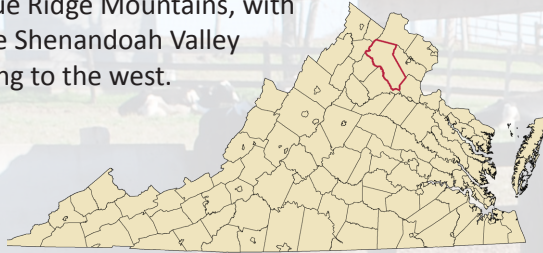


FAUQUIER COUNTY'S DAIRY FARMS

INTRODUCTION

Fauquier County is located in the Upper Piedmont cultural region of Northern Virginia at the transition between the Piedmont region and the Blue Ridge Mountains, with the Shenandoah Valley lying to the west.



The current physical characteristics of the county range from open pasture fields with rolling hills to open valleys and woodlands. Much of the county's rural land is well watered by deep springs and creeks. Small unincorporated villages and crossroads settlements are located at the intersection of secondary roadways or near other transportation routes.



Fauquier County remains a predominantly rural area that is distinguished by large and small

complexes of agricultural buildings, including hay barns, dairy barns, stables, corncribs, silos, meat houses, smokehouses, livestock shelters, and other ancillary farm buildings. The contiguous nature of these farms and the network of historical roadways contribute to the area's visual cohesion and highly intact, picturesque landscape.



DAIRY INDUSTRY IN FAUQUIER

The dairying industry in Fauquier County has largely followed the pattern of the industry in the rest of Virginia. Beginning as part of every subsistence farm, dairying expanded during the nineteenth century and reached its commercial zenith in the twentieth century. Although home dairies operated in Virginia throughout the colonial period, it was not until the last half of the nineteenth century that commercial dairy production became successful on a regional level.

After the Civil War, the dairy industry became more important to the local Fauquier economy



as nearby urban populations grew. By the end of the nineteenth century, with the general movement of population from the farms to the cities, it became necessary to mass produce and improve the quality of milk, and the industrial vision of perfected dairying involved large dairies with high-producing cows. Improved transportation routes and increased modes of transportation assisted in marketing farm surpluses to urban areas.



In Fauquier County dairies were located along the many major roadways that historically had linked the county to larger cities to the east and the Shenandoah Valley to the west. Fauquier County dairy farms were well positioned to respond to the population increase occurring in the Washington, D.C. area.

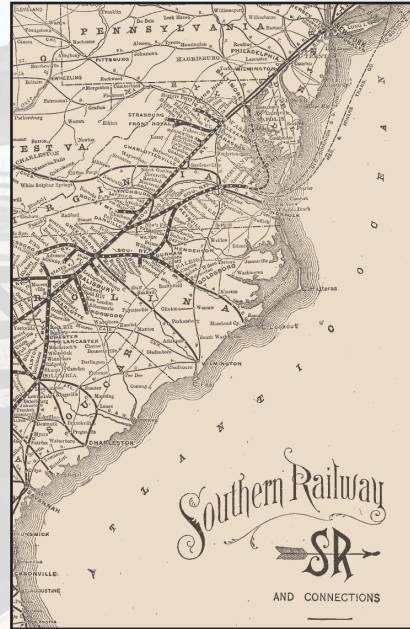


FAUQUIER COUNTY'S DAIRY FARMS

The railroad was a major contributor to the growth of Fauquier County's dairy farms. The route of the former Southern Railway, which incorporated several pre-Civil War lines into one, traverses the county west to east and a preponderance of the county's dairy farms are located within two to three miles of railroad depots such as Remington, Midland, and Catlett.

The rail line also closely parallels the path of Route 28, which later became important as a vehicular route to markets. Milk cans of 5 to 10 gallons each were loaded onto wagons and carried to the train depot, where they were loaded into rail cars and taken to market. Some farms that abutted the train route developed private wooden platforms for loading their milk onto the cars.

At the end of the nineteenth century, consumers, farmers, and government agencies became more aware of the need for regulation and sanitation in the production and distribution of food products, including milk and milk products.



In September 1907, farmers and others interested in the creation of a sound dairy industry in Virginia established the Virginia State Dairy-men's Association (VSDA), Virginia's first dairy organization. The organization addressed topics concerning milk distribution and livestock issues and was instrumental in urging the establishment of a state regulatory agency.

In 1908, the Dairy and Food Division of the Virginia Department of Agriculture was established with the legal authority to supervise the merchandising of stock feeds, as well as the purity of dairy products and the sanitary conditions under which they were manufactured or produced.

As the train had replaced the wagon in the late nineteenth century, the truck replaced the train in the early twentieth century as the

preferred mode of efficiently transporting milk. Some farms converted to use of trucks in the 1930s, and all county farms had switched by 1950. The switch to refrigerated tank trucks also resulted in farmers abandoning the use of five- and 10-gallon metal milk cans in favor of storing their milk in larger bulk refrigerated tanks on the farm. The quality of milk shipments was greatly improved since the tanks provided prompter cooling of the milk at the farm and maintained low temperatures until the milk reached the plant.



The 1980s were a particularly difficult time for dairy farmers in Fauquier and in Virginia in general. For dairy farmers, a surplus in supply reduced the price of milk, and production costs increased at the same time. There has been a resurgence of dairying in the county during the first part of the twenty-first century, however, and in 2011 Fauquier's dairy industry ranked fifth in the state. At present, Fauquier's milking herds tend to be around 95 head; although herd size has decreased over the past 50 years, milk production per cow has increased because of improvements in breeding and diet maintenance.

Growth in Population and Number of Milk Cows in Virginia 1880-1950

Year	Population	Number of Milk Cows
1880	1,512,565	235,000
1890	1,655,980	258,000
1900	1,854,184	270,000
1910	2,061,612	340,000
1920	2,309,187	377,000
1930	2,421,851	375,000
1940	2,677,773	402,000
1950	3,270,322	465,000

Sources: Drinker 1937; Connelly, 1950

FAUQUIER COUNTY'S DAIRY FARMS



PLANNING AND LAYOUT OF DAIRY FARMS

A conveniently located and a well laid out dairy farm are important cost- and time-saving factors for the farmer. Easy access to transportation is crucial. Early dairy farms were ideally located adjacent to or near a railroad stop, enabling quick transport of milk into the Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia markets. When the trucking of milk began in the 1930s, easy access to milk houses from main roads was most desirable.

The arrangement of buildings, as well as the type of buildings, on Fauquier County dairy farms evolved over time with the development of new farming practices and new technologies; however, several factors in building arrangement on the dairy farms remained constant. Since a farmer would typically go back and forth two or more times a day between the farmhouse and farm buildings, dairy-related buildings were located close to the farmhouse. To reduce odors, however, it was ideal to have the barn and outbuildings situated downwind from the house—to the southeast, or west or southwest at a slighter great distance.

The ancillary buildings and structures also needed to be close enough to the dairy barn for efficient operation but far enough to reduce the risk of spreading fire. A barn aligned north-south to allow maximum light through the side

wall windows and on a well-drained.

DESIGNERS AND BUILDINGS

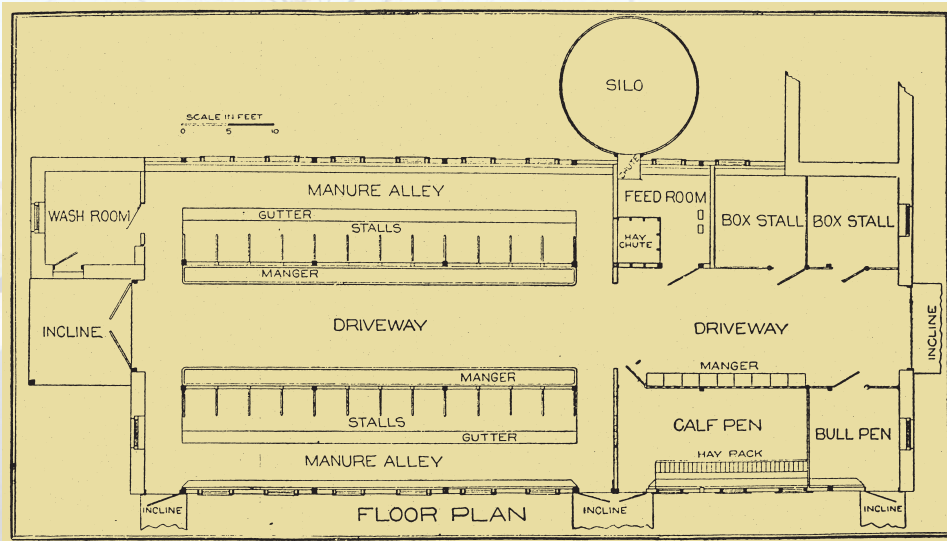
As the construction of farm buildings was a costly endeavor, farm building design was initially slow to progress and improve, with little experimentation in design and materials. Farmers would avoid a potentially costly risk by attempting a new design and continued to build structures with which they were familiar. Remodeling and enlarging existing farmhouses, barns, and other agricultural outbuildings was very common in Fauquier County, and the practice continues today.



The intentions of farm building design were not only to increase production by offering functional and efficient buildings but also to provide hygienic and disease-free spaces. Literature focusing on promoting hygienic farming practices increased at that time, with state and city agencies and private associations undertaking efforts to educate farmers.

By the turn of the twentieth century, agricultural literature at the national level promoted a standard dairy barn designed to replace the odorous, poorly ventilated, poorly lit, windowless barns of the nineteenth century. As early as 1905, the Dairy Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry (USDA) began investigating dairy barn construction and requested that those dairy men with “exemplary barns” contact them with specifications for materials and construction techniques. In its circular the USDA provided detailed plans for a modern dairy barn and other dairy buildings.

FAUQUIER COUNTY'S DAIRY FARMS



barns feature a main level with stables at grade with no manure basement below, greatly reducing odors and the spread of disease. Floors are poured concrete, and manure is collected in a gutter and removed by a trolley system. Stall barns usually had two rows of stanchions with cows either facing in or out. The space



above the stables served as a hayloft. Some farmers modified their older barns by converting manure basement levels into stables with concrete floors, while others lifted their barns onto new, taller first stories. Pen barns (also called loose housing and loaf-

a loafing or resting area but also had access to a feeding area, an exercise area, and a holding area where they waited to enter the milking barn. First introduced in the 1940s, pen barns are either built with concrete foundations and stud-framed walls or as pole barns with open sides. Pole barn construction was developed in the 1930s and grew in popularity following World War II.

DAIRY BARN

The most defining element on the dairy farm is the main dairy barn. Bank barns were sometimes used as dairy barns beginning in the 1870s and up to around the 1900s. Cow stables were located on the lower level and hay was stored above. Stall barns (also called ground-level stable barns) began to be constructed in the early twentieth century with the availability of mechanized power and concrete as well as the increased interest in sanitation brought about by the fears of spreading tuberculosis. The stall

ing barns) were initially less popular because they required a separate milking barn or milking parlor. Pen barns were built with either one or two stories. Cows spent most of the time in

ANCILLARY DAIRY BUILDINGS

In addition to dairy barns, the dairy farms need a number of buildings and structures to perform dairy operations. These included milk houses, milking barns, silos, manure pits, stockyards, bull barns, calf shelters, hay barns, and equipment sheds.



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