

Tazewell County Industries as a Market for Farm Products

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Located in Tazewell County are a number of large industries which should offer a good market, either directly or indirectly, for farm products. The facts that Tazewell County is in the heart of the corn belt and is located near the Illinois River brought most of these industries to this locality. Several of these located in Pekin because of the almost unlimited supply of pure water which needs no chemical treatment before it can be used. Being located right on the Illinois River and having nine railroads, this town affords both cheap and rapid transportation of products.

A study was made to determine if these industries use local raw products to any great advantage to the Tazewell County farmers. A questionnaire was sent to all the larger industries to find the kind and total amount of farm products used in 1936 and the kind and amount used from Tazewell County and consumption of raw products per average working day. These questionnaires were given to the Corn Products Company, American Distilling Company, Fleischmann's Yeast of Standards Brands, Inc., Grain Elevators, Sommer Seed Company, poultry and egg markets, dairies, and bakeries. Other livestock product markets, such as packing plants in particular, do not operate in the county. However, Peoria, being only nine miles distant from Pekin, offers a very close market for livestock, including hogs, cattle and sheep. This is also true of the truck and small fruit industry, the products of which may be marketed at the large wholesale houses just across the Illinois River. In addition, Pekin open air markets and groceries offer a nearer market for truck crop and small fruit growers.

The farm products used by the companies receiving the questionnaire are yellow and white corn, cornmeal, wheat, oats, rye, soybeans, chickens, eggs, butter, barley, malt, lard, cane and beet molasses, clover seeds, milk and butter. Tables I, II, and III show the results.

Table I, showing the record for 1936 of the total kind and amount of products used by the companies, may be compared or contrasted with Table II, which shows the amounts and kinds of farm products used from Tazewell County.

Some of the largest users, as the Corn Products Company and Distilling Company, were unable to give the exact amounts purchased from this county. This is explained by the fact that corn is not purchased directly, but is obtained through the Peoria Board of Trade channels. However, investigation at the local elevators proves that most of the corn handled by them finds its way to the local industries as directed by the Peoria purchasing firms.

That Pekin is somewhat of a grain center is brought out by the fact that many nearby counties bring their corn here to market. In years when the corn crop is below average many bushels are purchased by out-of-state users. Some days find as many as six trucks from out-of-state waiting their turn to load.

TABLE I.—RECORD OF THE KIND AND AMOUNT OF FARM PRODUCTS USED IN 1936

Product	Products Co.	Standard Brands, Inc.	Dairies	Bakeries	American Distilling Company	Markets, Poultry and Eggs	Grain Elevators and Sommer Seed Co.	Total
Corn.....	10,123,073	227,323			2,500,000		1,625,809	14,479,000 bu.
Wheat.....		33,898		6,000			(3,000)	473,538 bu.
Oats.....							370,538	95,735 bu.
Rye.....							93,335	(2,000)
Soybeans.....							9,891	9,891 bu.
Poultry (lbs.).....						455,763	51,923	55,923 bu.
Eggs.....						15,461	(4,000)	457,013 lbs.
Barley (malt).....		539,260					(1,250)	15,497 cr.
Lard.....				12,600			36	540,260 bu.
Cane Molasses.....		29,992,800					1,000	12,600 lbs.
Clover seeds.....							216,000	29,992,800 lbs.
Milk.....			236,640				(10,000)	216,000 lbs.
Butter fat.....			10,000					236,640 lbs.
								10,000 lbs.

TABLE II.—RECORD OF THE KIND AND AMOUNT OF FARM PRODUCTS USED FROM TAZEWELL IN 1936

Product	Poultry and Eggs	Sommer Bros. Co.	Elevators	Dairies	Standard Brands	Total
Poultry.....	15,000	1,250				16,250 lbs.
Corn.....		3,000	699,243		227,323	1,029,566 bu.
Oats.....		2,000	53,735			55,735 bu.
Soybeans.....		4,000	31,923			35,923 bu.
Rye.....			5,891			5,891 bu.
Wheat.....			16,539		33,898	50,428 bu.
Butter.....						
Milk.....				236,640		236,640 lbs.
Butter fat.....				10,000		10,000 lbs.

TABLE III.—CONSUMPTION OF RAW PRODUCTS PER AVERAGE WORKING DAY (SOME INDUSTRIES DID NOT REPORT THEIR DAILY CONSUMPTION)

Product	Dairies	Bakeries	Corn Products	Standard Brands	Total
Milk.....	748	7			755 gal.
Eggs.....		10			10 doz.
Flour.....		1			1 bbl.
Barley malt.....				1,500	1,500 bu.
Corn.....		55	40,000	900	40,955 bu.
Wheat.....				135	135 bu.
Cane molasses.....				27,235	27,235 lbs.
Beet molasses.....				927,481	927,481 lbs.
Lard.....		40			40 lbs.

One industry alone, the Corn Products Company, uses on the average ten million bushels of corn a year, or approximately 40,000 bushels per average working day. This is more than twice the annual corn production of Tazewell County as shown in Crop Statistics Report published by the Illinois State Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture, which was 4,777,130 bushels for the average for the three years 1930-1932. Another large user is the American Distilling Company, using annually approximately 2,500,000. Along with Fleischmann's Yeast and other processors, these plants help to make Pekin one of the best corn markets in the world.

While the industries could only make an estimate in most cases of the products coming directly from Tazewell County, the findings of this study point to the following results:

1. That the consumption of corn alone is more than the county can supply in an average year.
2. That the three larger processors of corn buy indirectly from our producers.
3. Some direct buying is shown, however, as in the case of the dairies, seed and poultry and egg markets.
4. Raw materials being near-by, natural resources, good transportation facilities and location are the factors attracting industries to this county.
5. This combination of favorable factors makes for the increase in markets of dairy, bakery and other producers.