Agricultural Economy Gives Abbeville
Monetary Harvest of $17 Millions Yearly

By Jim LaCaffinie
Advertiser Staff Reporter

ABBEVILLE — The economic pulse of Abbeville is timed to an agricultural economy which grossed $17,000,000 in farm incomes in Vermilion in 1955. Cotton Important enterprise which supplements rice production. Parish is primarily the cotton-grower. Lease breeding and national improvements. said most of the milk come from Jersey herds. Peak production was reached in 1955 when the creamery's capacity was 4,500 gallons of milk. The herd of Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein is the predominant breed in Abbeville. The creamery was founded in 1947 with 19 members. C. B. Caldwell, the president of the cooperative, spearheaded the movement.

Today, 85 dairymen are members from Vermilion, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Calcasieu parishes.

Distribution of milk from the creamery goes to 800 business units from Lake Charles down through the Evangelistic county to Morgan City in St. Mary parish. A staff of 65 employees work in Abbeville to prepare milk, chocolate milk, buttermilk, cottage cheese and coffee and whimpering cream.

The capacity of the creamery after a recent expansion program is 6,000 gallons daily. More than 24,000 cartons of milk are put out daily.

In terms of cash, the creamery is an annual business of one and a half million dollars. In its early days, it was about one half million dollars.

Dairymen of all sizes belong to the creamery. They are as large as 400 gallons daily to 10 gallons, the smallest dairy member. Creamery trucks pick up the raw milk daily from the dairy members.

William Brousard, general manager, said most of the milk comes from Jersey herds. Peak production was reached in 1955 when the creamery was in high gear.

Norfolk, VA 23518-2407