



Past Your Use-by Date?

Milk and products made from milk are highly perishable (this means they "go off" easily). Dairy products are highly perishable because they are rich in protein and vitamins and minerals and contain water. The protein and water provide food and moisture for the bacteria to grow. Warmth and time would allow the bacteria to multiply, and so manufacturers use different processes to make milk last longer.

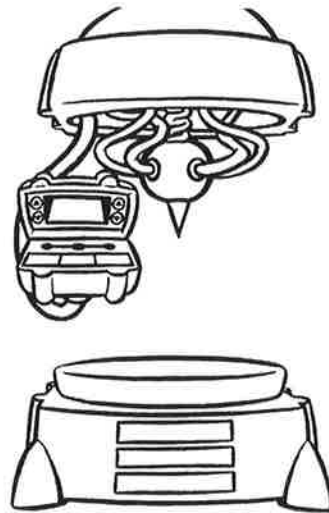
Making food safe for humankind ...

Your task is to make up a promotional poster or pamphlet to explain to other members of your class about a preserving process used in processing milk or a dairy product. The poster or pamphlet should outline the process and how it prolongs the life of milk or the dairy product. Some examples are dehydration, evaporation, pasteurisation, UHT, or condensing. Your poster's or pamphlet's design and information should persuade and convince your classmates to use this product.

To help you gather the information for your poster or pamphlet, carry out the following investigations:

- What makes milk perishable?
- What processes are used to make milk last longer? (Use Resource Sheet 5 in the Production Zone to help you.)

You might like to record your findings in a chart like the one shown below.



Process	What it does to the milk	How it stops the milk from perishing	Uses of the resulting product
Dehydration	Removes the moisture	Bacteria cannot multiply without water	Is light to carry (e.g., for tramping). Don't need a fridge to store it
Évaporation			
Condensing			

Name:

Room Number:



Other investigations that would be helpful for your pamphlet or poster are the labels used on foods to help the consumer know whether the food is OK to use. You might like to find, in magazines, pictures of foods that use the following labels:

- use-by date
- best before
- packed on.

(Do you remember to look at these stamps when you buy food?)

Try to include the answers to these questions in your pamphlet or poster:

- What do the use-by date, best-before date, and packed-on date tell the consumer?
- Should you throw away the product as soon as the date has expired?
- How do you identify when milk has gone off?

