

# A Year of Women

## Lost in history: Women in business

### Fact #10

Eliza Jones was a prominent dairywoman from Brockville, Ontario. She was the author of a best-selling book Dairying for Profit: Or the Poor Man's Cow dedicated "To the farmer's wives of America and to my sisters in toil." Eliza's herd of purebred Jersey cows won international fame with the herd's butter selling for record prices in New York. Her agriculture production success stemmed from her three business principles - quality, cleanliness and bookkeeping.

### Teaching Points

1. Businesswomen during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
2. Eliza Jones was a prominent dairywoman and writer for other farmer's wives.
3. Women were and still remain instrumental in agricultural production.

### NY Learning Standard(s)

ELA 1; SS 1; SS 2; MST 2

### Discussion Questions

- 1a. Can you name any women in agricultural business during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century? Do you think there may have been career barriers for agricultural businesswomen during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century? Do the same barriers exist today?
- 1b. What can you infer about women in agricultural business in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
- 2a. What was Eliza Jones' role with business in an agricultural society?
- 2b. How did Eliza Jones receive international success?
- 3a. Why do you think Eliza Jones wrote books for farmer's wives? Do you think many other agricultural businesswomen ever received the recognition they deserved from involvement they had with society?
- 3b. How can one find out more about women in agricultural business?

### Activity Extensions

1. **Research.** Do you think women in business agriculture exist more today than yesterday? What does research tell us? Explain your answers.
2. **Visit.** Attend the **New York State Fair**, [http://www.nysfair.org/state\\_fair/2005/](http://www.nysfair.org/state_fair/2005/) for a variety of information pertaining to agriculture in New York State or its surrounding areas. Provide an essay about agriculture in New York State, how things have changed or remained the same.
3. **Speech.** Visit <http://www.ancw.org/Content/> to find out more about American National Cattlewoman or <http://www.cowgirl.net/education.asp>, the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Prepare a speech about one of these womens' contribution to society in general.
4. **Interview.** Locate a member of a local FFA (Future Farmers of America) and conduct an interview with them. Ask this person about the originations of the FFA and how it has evolved to its current status and mission.