

# **The Milk Maid's Checklist**

## **Milking Time Tools**

### **for cleaning your cow**

- stiff bristled brush
- wash cloth
- wash bucket ( with warm water)
- mild detergent or udder wash
- drying cloths or paper towel
- udder balm (for after milking)

### **for milking your cow**

- milking stool
- milking can or bucket with lid
- milking bucket
- kick bar (if needed)
- barn cats to share (essential but optional)

### **for processing milk**

- funnel
- cheesecloth or muslin or paper filter for straining
- clean glass jars (2 litre or gallon) & lids
- plastic wrap (for under lids to lower bacteria count)
- marker for dating jars
- cold fridge for chilling milk
- hot soapy water
- occasional bleach or vinegar rinse

### **for cheesemaking**

- Thermo & Mesophilic culture
- Rennet
- sea salt
- thermometer
- cheese cloth
- large stock pot
- large metal or wood spoon
- long handled knife
- strainer or colander
- large whisk
- cheese mold (can be as simple as a yogurt or honey container with holes.)
- weight for pressing cheese
- cheese making book or workshop
- bleach or vinegar rinse
- bucket for brining cheese
- drying rack (sushi roller)
- jars for storing brine and whey
- vacuum sealer and plastic for storage
- cheesemaking notebook (optional but handy)

Life gets busy on a farm and sometimes it feels like every minute counts. After quite a few years of being the family milkmaid, I've gotten my systems fairly streamlined but there's nothing so inconvenient as already being out to the barn and realizing that you've forgotten something. Or starting cheesemaking to realize you've run out of culture. A checklist is an at a glance tool to help stay organized and prepared in a simple fashion.

You may find that there are other things that you'd like to add to the list but these are the things that I've learned that I need over the years.

Bio:

Marissa grew up on a small ranch in the backwoods of BC where her mom always kept one or more dairy cows. She, her husband Dan, and their three daughters now have a small farm in Nova Scotia with their own queen of the barn, a purebred Guernsey, Mabel.v