Egypt is nearly the center of the Middle East area and has a civilization going back 7000 years. The ancient Egyptians were interested in keeping cows for milk production and milk was used for processing. They were familiar with many of the methods and utensils used for processing of different foods. Many drawings illustrating milking of cows and processing of foods are shown on thealls of their old temples and ruins. The Egyptians museums exhibit many of the utensils, earthenware jars, wooden pots, animal pelts and many pieces of stone equipment possessed by the Ancient Egyptians. Some of these are still used in traditional primitive methods of food processing in Egypt. The popular fermented milk in Egypt is representative of those found in the Arabic countries and in many other countries in the Middle East.