

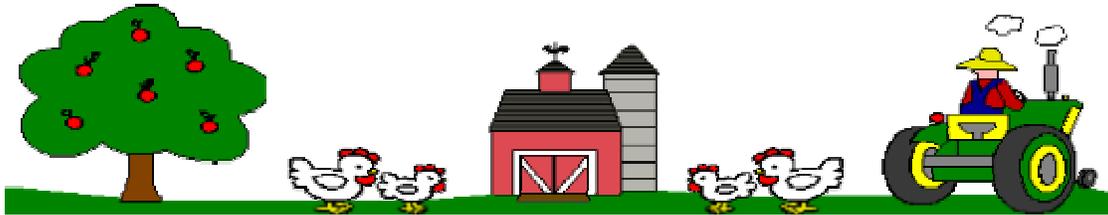
Where Does Milk Come From?

Note: Material in this file taken from:

<http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/newsforkids/raisedinwash/dairy1.html>

<http://www.manteno5.org/mcordes/dairycow.htm>

Do you know where milk *really* comes from? Is it in a carton or does it come from a cow? Where did Old MacDonald get his milk?



When you visit the dairy farm, here are some questions to ask the farmer.

This is the udder.



Does a cow need to be a mother to produce milk?

How much milk does a cow produce in one day?

What part of the cow's body is the milk stored in?

The Milking Parlor



Where are cows milked?

How are cows milked?

What does the farmer do with the milk after he milks the cows?

What is raw milk?



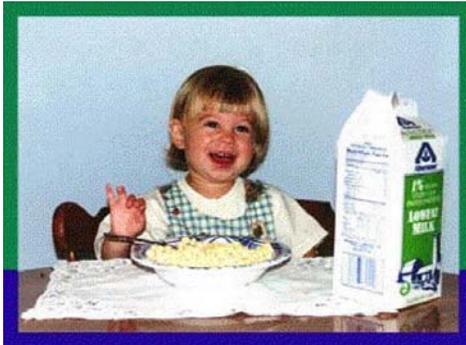
What is raw milk?

Where does the raw milk go?

A Milk Truck



What is pasteurization?



What other foods are made from milk?

The Amazing Cow

There are several breeds of dairy cows.

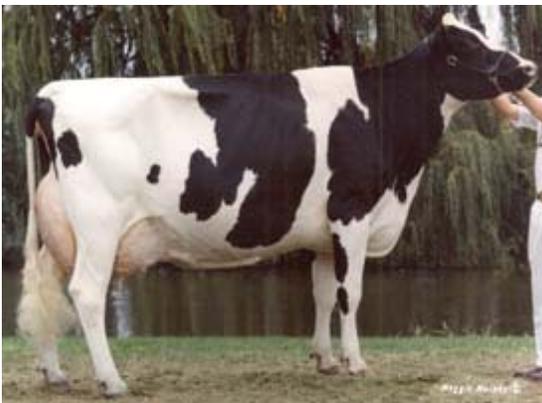


Jersey

Jerseys came to the United States from the Isle of Jersey, another of the islands in the English Channel. They are fawn in color and may have white markings. They weigh 900 pounds when mature. They are the smallest of the dairy breeds but produce milk with the highest protein and fat content.

Ayrshire

Ayrshires came to the United States from the County of Ayr in Scotland in 1822. Their color varies from light to deep cherry red, mahogany, brown, or a combination of these colors with white. Some are all white. They weigh 1,200 pounds when mature.



Holstein

Holsteins came to the United States from Holland in 1621. They are black and white. They weigh 1,500 pounds when mature. They produce the most milk on average.



Guernsey

Guernseys came to the United States from the Isle of Guernsey, an island in the English Channel off the coast of France in 1831. Their color is a shade of fawn with white markings. They weigh 1,150 pounds when mature. Their milk is a distinctive golden color.

Brown Swiss

Brown Swiss came to the United States from Switzerland in 1869. They are solid brown varying from very light to dark. They weigh 1,500 pounds when mature.

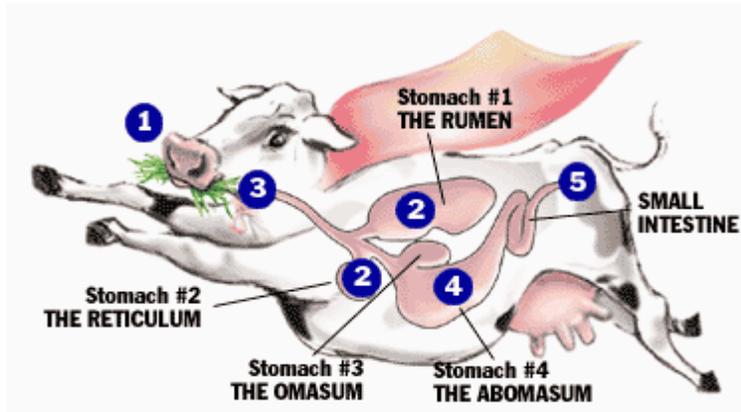


Milking Shorthorn

The Milking Shorthorn originated in Northeastern England and arrived in the United States in 1783. Milking Shorthorn cattle are red or white or any combination. A mature cow usually weighs about 1400 pounds



Four stomachs?!?



Cows have unique stomachs with four sections that let them eat things other animals can't digest. Since she has no upper teeth, a cow grazes by curling her tongue around the grass and pulling.

Just chew it!

1. The cow tears and chews the food briefly then swallows. She'll eat for more than six hours a day.
2. The food passes into stomach #1 to soften. When the food passes into stomach #2, it mixes and softens more into what is called **cud**.
3. When Ms. Cow feels full, she burps up a small amount of cud to chew it again. She'll chew her cud for eight hours each day.
4. When the cow swallows again, the cud passes into stomachs #3 and #4 where it is digested further and nutrients are absorbed.
5. Digested food passes through her intestines where more nutrients are absorbed. Waste materials exit the cow as **manure**.

Ah-chew!

A cow chews at a rate of 50 times per minute. In one day, she move her jaw more than 40,000 times!



A typical dairy cow:

- Weighs 1,400 pounds
(Her udder alone weighs 25 to 60 pounds)
- Drinks 35 gallons of water a day
- Eats 90 pounds of food each day
(You eat about four pounds)
- Stands up and lies down about 14 times a day
- Can detect smells up to six miles away
- Works 305 days a year

Makes 60 pounds -- or 7 gallons -- of milk a day

Getting it out

It takes 345 squirts (by hand) to fill a gallon pail of milk.

A milking machine can do the job in about five minutes.

Cows begin to produce milk when they have their first calf, usually at age 2. They are milked for 10 months after giving birth. Then they have another calf and the milking process starts over. Most cows are milked for about seven years.

Did you know



1. A cow must have a calf every year to continue producing milk.
2. Dairy cows eat 120 pounds of food each day.
3. Cows consume 40 gallons of water each day.
4. Cows have four stomachs.
5. Dairy farmers work from early in the morning until late at night.
6. Female calves are called heifer calves.
7. Cows average about 80 pounds of milk per day.
8. Most cows are milked twice a day at 12hour intervals.
9. Dairy farmers and their families must milk and feed their cows every day of the year.
10. The person who doctors a dairy herd is called a large animal veterinarian.
11. Animal nutritionist help the farmer put a recipe of cow food together that will be healthy for his herd.
12. New calves are fed their mother's milk for the first 4 feedings because it is high in antibodies.
13. The first two days after giving birth, the milk the dairy cow gives is called colostrums.
14. When a dairy cow gives birth, it is called freshening.
15. Two months before a cow gives birth she takes a rest from milking to grow her calf. At this time she is called a dry cow.
16. Dairy farmers must make hay during the summer when it is very hot so the hay will dry.
17. Cows eat corn silage, haylage, dry hay and grain.
18. All cows are born with horn nubs that the veterinarian removes when they are a few months old.
19. Male calves are called bull calves when they are born.
20. A comfortable cow who is very healthy gives milk than a cow who is not comfortable and has a physical stress.
21. Cows spend about 7 hours a day eating.
22. There are five breeds of dairy cows: Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey, Brown Swiss and Guernsey.
23. The room in the barn where the milk tank and milking equipment is stored is called the milkhouse.
24. Food for the cows, like corn silage and haylage are stored in a silo, a tall round structure.

