

A Cow's Tale - Chapter 11

Summer on Cowsville Dairy Farm

It's almost summer and *Please* will soon be one year old. She's still a young heifer and her main job is to hang out with the other heifers in the barn or out in the fields, eat lots of feed and forage, and keep growing till she's ready to have her own calf.

Summertime is extra busy for a dairy farmer. The fields are ready for planting corn and the spring grass is tall enough to be cut and made into round silage bales. They still have to keep up with the feeding, milking and cleaning up after their cows. It's hot outside, but large fans, roll up sides and water misters keep the cows cool and comfortable in the dairy barn.

Family Farming...

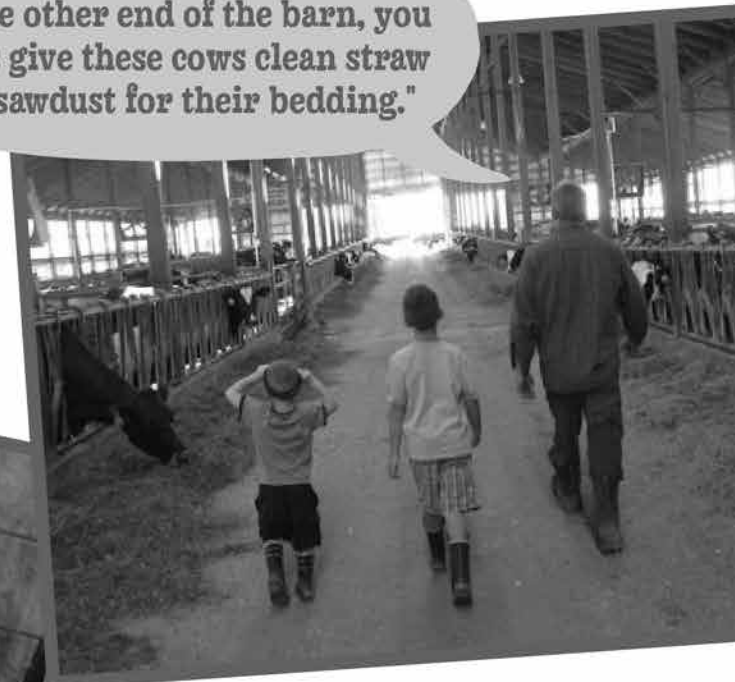
Almost all of the dairy farms in BC are owned by families. There are plenty of things to do on a dairy farm and everyone pitches in to help take care of the dairy cows.

Children have special jobs to do and are a great help on a dairy farm. Bottle feeding and teaching calves to drink from a milk bucket are part of their daily chores. Spending time with the calves helps them to grow up to be quiet, friendly cows.

New calves are born year-round on a dairy farm, so there's always hungry mouths to feed. A friendly pat helps the milk go down.



"While I check the water troughs at the other end of the barn, you boys give these cows clean straw and sawdust for their bedding."



Children learn about dairy farming by working alongside their parents and helping take care of the cows.



What Makes a Dairy Cow?

Please has taught us a lot about dairy cows. We've learned that the milk we drink comes from dairy cows and, like all mammals, they produce milk for their babies. Since a mother cow produces more milk than her calf needs, there's extra for the dairy farmer. We've also learned that not all cows look the same and that there are different breeds of dairy cows.



Let's take Please's Dairy Fun Facts Quiz to see how much we've learned about these MOO-velous milking machines!

True or False?

1. A dairy cow makes enough milk every day to fill just 1 glass
2. A dairy cow makes and stores milk in her udder
3. A dairy cow drinks a swimming pool full of water every day
4. It takes about 1 hour to milk a dairy cow
5. Holsteins are a breed of cattle with purple spots
6. Dairy cows have long tongues
7. Dairy cows have one stomach with four digestive parts
8. Dairy cows only eat popcorn
9. Dairy cows like to be alone
10. Dairy cows don't have tails



Remember, next time you take a drink of milk don't forget to say "Thank you, Please!"

 DID YOUR CLASS HAVE THE CORRECT ANSWERS TO ALL OF THE QUESTIONS?

YOU'RE OFFICIAL DAIRY COW EXPERTS!

ANSWERS

1. **FALSE:** She could fill over 100 glasses of milk.
2. **TRUE:** It's her milk factory!
3. **FALSE:** She drinks about a bathtub full of water every day – that's still a lot of water!
4. **FALSE:** With modern milking machines it only takes about 5 minutes to milk a cow.
5. **FALSE:** Each Holstein has her own one-of-a-kind pattern of black and white spots.
6. **TRUE:** They use their tongue to curl around long grass to pull it into their mouths.
7. **TRUE:** Each chamber does a special job to digest food.
8. **FALSE:** Cows eat lots of different feeds and forage and convert them into nutritious milk.
9. **FALSE:** Dairy cows are very social animals and like to be together in herds.
10. **FALSE:** Dairy cows have long tails that are handy fly swatters.

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