

A Cow's Tale - Chapter 13

Dairy Farmers Love Tractors



Dairy farmers use different machines for different jobs. They need machines for milking and caring for their dairy cows, and machines to store the milk and get it ready for delivery. They also use special equipment for cleaning the barns and milking parlour, and for planting and harvesting their crops.

It's fun to drive big farm machines. It's not as much fun when they break down though – farmers need to know how to fix machines.

Tractors work long days all year round – just like dairy farmers! Tractors come in different sizes and every dairy farm has at least two – one for the barn, and one for field work and everyday chores. By mounting different attachments to the front of their tractors, like a hay fork, or to the back, like a seeder or a manure spreader, farmers can use their tractors to do almost any job.

Any Time is Tractor Time!

Sometimes the attachments are bigger than the tractor. A farmer attaches a forage harvester to his wagon so he can drive alongside a row of corn to mow the corn, chop it up and blow it into a silage wagon. Back at the dairy he uses the front loader shovel on his tractor to push it all into a big pile.

Bring in feed

Plow snow

**Wrap and roll cut
hay into bales**

Lift heavy stuff

Collect sawdust for bedding

Plant corn

Mow rye grass

Give hayrides

**“Even the muddiest
fields are nothing
for these big tires!”**

**Spin and fling manure
across the fields to
fertilize the soil**

**“Every farmer
needs these –
for mucking out
the barn and
keeping their
feet dry”**

**Scrape manure from
the barn**

**Push grass into a
silage pile**



What Makes a Dairy Farmer?

Being a dairy farmer is a hard job. Most dairy farmers have about 120 milking cows to take care of – and on a dairy farm, the cows always come first! That's a lot of milking, feeding and cleaning. Dairy farmers also need to be able to fix machines, pay bills and manage their farm as a business. They also have to grow and harvest crops to feed their herd.

Many dairy farmers were born and raised on their farms. They take care of the land they live and work on so that they can pass it on to their own children.

A Dairy Farmer's Favourite Things...

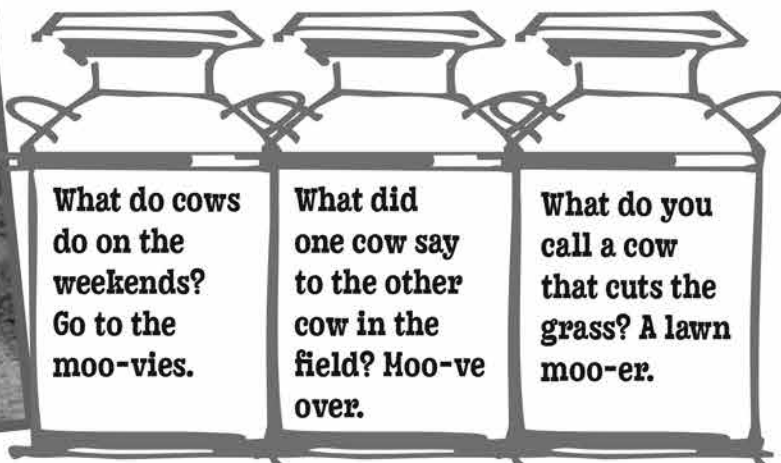
- Getting messy
- Working with animals
- Driving tractors
- Working with family
- Working outside
- Being your own boss
- Working hard
- Fixing things
- Waking up early
- Being busy
- Doing lots of different jobs every day
- Growing food



Dairy farmers care for their land, animals, families and community

Let's end with a few of Please's favourite jokes...

Do you like these things too? Yes! You would be an awesome dairy farmer!



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