

A Cow's Tale - Chapter 8

Spots Are Tops

Dairy cows come in lots of different sizes and colours. Some are black and white, some are brown and white, and some are all brown. Dairy cows might look different from one another, but they all give milk. Some breeds give more milk than others, and some breeds give milk that is richer and creamier.



Hey, check out our spots!
We are Canada's #1 dairy breed.

All of the dairy cow breeds in Canada came from other parts of the world. When early farmers settled here they brought their cows with them. The Holstein breed originally came from the Netherlands.

Why is the Holstein the most popular dairy breed in Canada? Their black spots make it easier for dairy farmers to find them in a snowstorm. No, that's not the real reason. Although dairy farmers can tell their Holsteins apart by their one-of-a-kind pattern of spots, Holsteins are tops because they give the most milk.



Jerseys are light brown cows with long eye lashes. Jerseys come from a small island in the English Channel. Jerseys are the small cows that produce a lot of rich, creamy milk for their size.



Brown Swiss cows come from Switzerland. Guess what colour they are? Brown Swiss cows are gentle, friendly cows with big ears.



Guernseys come from a small island between England and France. The Guernsey is a small reddish brown-coloured cow that makes milk that has a nice golden, buttery colour.



Ayrshires come from Scotland and have a glossy red and white coat. Ayrshires are hardy cows that don't mind cold weather and are good for farms with lots of rocky ground.

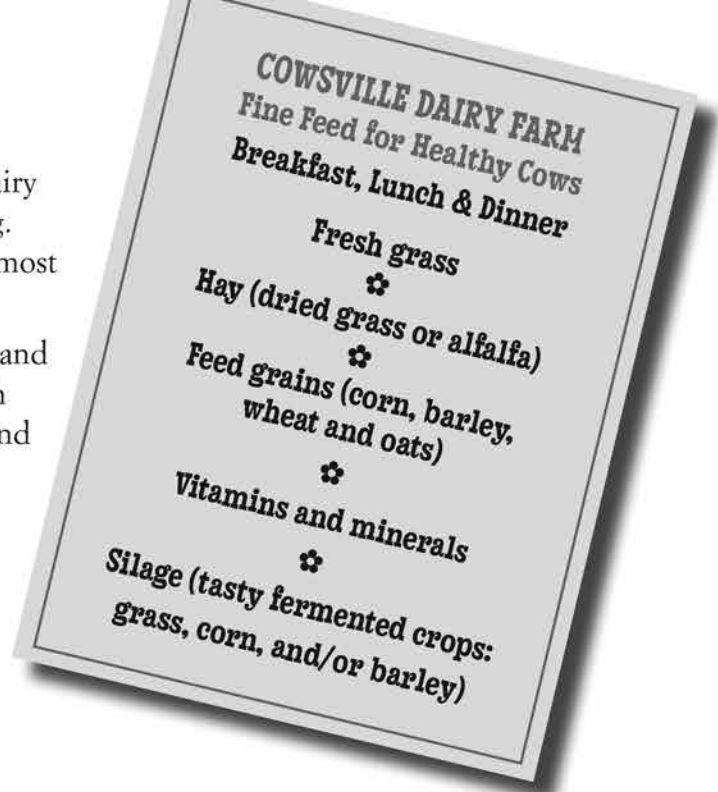
Some of the other
main dairy breeds
you'll find in Canada.



What's for Lunch?

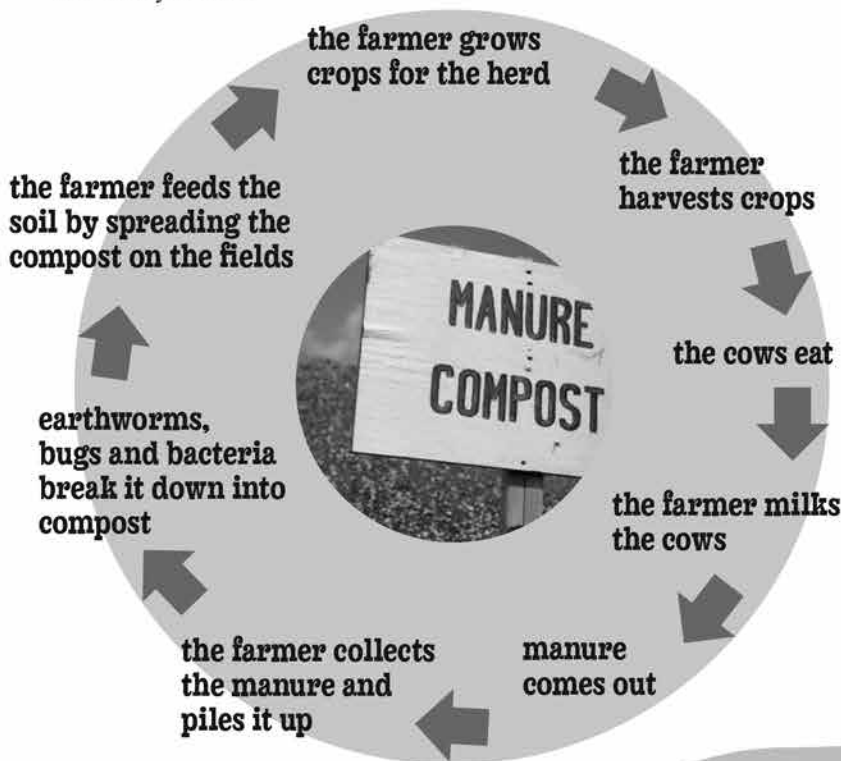
Holsteins are big cows that produce a lot of milk. Like us, dairy cows need a balanced diet in order to stay healthy and strong. Healthy cows are happy cows, and happy cows produce the most milk, especially happy Holsteins.

A cow's unique digestive system means she can digest plants and other foods that humans and other animals with one stomach compartment cannot. Dairy cows eat lots of different feeds and forages and convert them into nutritious milk.



Cows Eat A Lot...

so they produce a lot of cow dung or cow pies – other names for cow manure. During the winter months it can really pile up in the barn. What does the farmer do with it all? Recycles it!



The Purple Cow

- by Gelett Burgess

I never saw a purple cow,
I never hope to see one,
But I can tell you, anyhow,
I'd rather see than be one!

Let's make up our own rhyming poems with words that rhyme with 'cow'. Here are a few to help you out... bow, chow, vow, wow, pow, brow, how, now, sow, allow, bowwow, plough, meow, somehow, snowplow, eyebrow

Manure - animal waste put on land to improve soil quality and to make crops grow better

Breed - a particular type of animal

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