

All Things Dairy Learning Glossary

Some Dairy Cattle Breeds



Ayrshire



Brown Swiss



Holstein-Friesian



Jersey

The Dairy Cow's Diet

Cattle Cake This is given lots of different names depending on where in Scotland you are! Cake is a dried food for cows made by mixing lots of different ingredients together and forming it into pellets to feed them.

"Chew the cud" When cows bring up (regurgitate) the grass they have eaten to rechew it again and break it into smaller pieces to help with digestion.

Cow licks/Himalayan salt Sometimes given to cows to supplement their diet.

Feed Wagon A piece of machinery pulled by a tractor that weighs, mixes, and distributes feed for livestock.

Grass A crop that farmers grow to feed livestock. Sheep, cows and goats might eat the grass directly through grazing outside or the grass may be preserved by drying or pickling and feed inside in the winter months. Grass only grows in the warmer months and is dormant over the winter.

Hay Grass that has been dried in the sun and is fed to farm animals over the winter.

Molasses The sweet byproduct of sugar production that can be fed to the cows mixed up with other ingredients.

Rumen The largest of four stomachs found in ruminant animals like cows and sheep.

Silage Grass that is cut and stored in a clamp or wrapped in plastic to keep the air out so that the grass is pickled. Silage is fed to farm animals over the winter.



Cattle cake



Grass hay bale



Dairy cows eating silage

Dairy Cows and Calves



Dairy calves in straw



Dairy cow with collar

AI Stands for artificial insemination, which is when the farmer doesn't have a bull and uses semen in straws to get the cows in calf.

Bulls Male cattle.

Calf A baby cow or bull.

Cows Mature female cattle that have had a calf and produce milk.

Dry cows Dairy cows that are not producing milk.

Ear tags All cattle must have official ear tags. Tagging an animal is very similar to a human getting their ears' pierced. Ear tags help with traceability and electronic ear tags carry additional data about the cow.

Fitbits, pedometers and collars Used to help monitor the cows health, see how active they are and alert the farmer if she becomes ill.

Heifer A young cow that has not had a calf.

Hutch A special house designed for calves where they live when they are growing up.

Igloo A special house that a group of older calves share.

Milking the Dairy Cows



A cluster



Dairy parlour



Dairy cow udder

Apron

A special apron is worn by the people milking the cows to help keep them clean.

Cluster

Dairy cows are milked using a cluster which is attached to the four teats on their udder and uses gentle suction to milk the cow.

Lactation cycle

A cow must give birth to a calf to produce milk and the lactation cycle is the period between one calving and the next.

Milking parlour

An indoor area where cows come to be milked.

Milking robot

A robot that feeds the dairy cow, cleans the udder and uses lasers to attach the cluster for milking.

Udder

A milk producing organ that hangs down between the cows back legs. The udder has 4 teats which release the milk.

Teat

A projection from the udder that releases the milk. Each cow udder has 4 teats.

The Milk

Pasteurising

A process that involves heating the milk up to 72 degrees and cooling it down quickly to kill harmful bacteria and extend its shelf life

Homo-genisation

A process used to mix and disperse milk fat globules in order to prevent milk from separating into milk and cream.

Semi-skimmed milk

Milk that has had some of the cream has been removed from the whole milk so the fat content sits at around 1.8%



Skimmed milk

Milk that has most of the fat removed so has a watery rather than a creamy taste.

Standardised milk

Milk that has been adjusted to contain a specific amount of fat that can be used to

Whole milk

Full of a wide variety of nutrients and has a low fat level of around 3.7%