

A Cow's Tale - Chapter 5

Udderly Amazing

We know that a cow has four special parts to her stomach for digesting food, but that's just the beginning of the story of 'Moo to Milk'. A cow makes and stores milk in her udder – it's her milk factory. *Please* is a calf so she doesn't have an udder yet, but her mother does. *Please's* mother developed her udder just before she gave birth to *Please*. The udder is like a large sack that hangs between her back legs. Her udder has four parts and each part has a teat– that's why a cow has four teats.

The milk comes squirting out through tiny tubes in the cow's teats when she's milked or when she feeds her baby. When it's milking time, all four teats need to be milked. When a cow knows it's time to be milked she uses special muscles to help squeeze the milk out. Her udder is like a sponge full of water – the sponge has to be squeezed.

mother cow

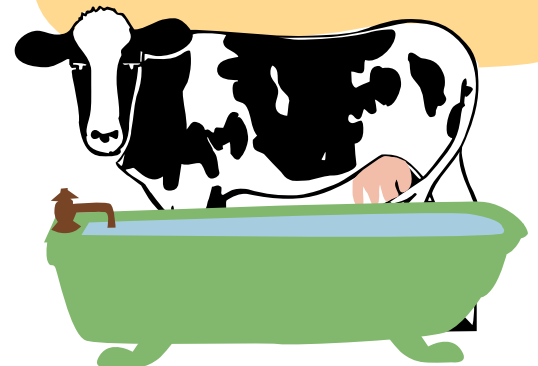
What goes "oom, oom"?
(A cow walking backwards).

Making milk is thirsty work.
A cow drinks about a bathtub-
full of water each day!

udder

tail (fly swatter)

teats




















Udders full of milk are uncomfortable. That's why dairy farmers need to milk their cows at least two times a day, every day.
















Would you like a job taking care of calves?

Most of the farmers working on dairy farms were born there. Almost all of the dairy farms in BC are family owned. It's still a business though and everyone in the family has a job to do. Imagine growing up on Cowsville Dairy Farm. Let's read a story about how you might spend your day...

It's a cold and dark December morning. I hide under my covers to dream of . But farm work doesn't stop in the winter, even when there's  on the ground. We've got hungry calves to feed and   calling out to be milked. After a quick breakfast I bundle up in my  and  and head out to the  for morning chores. While Mom and Dad milk the  , my sister and I help out with the .

It's cold inside the  and we scrape ice off the cow's  trough. We fill the nipple  with warm milk, and use a  to hand feed the new babies. We give the older calves a  of  and make sure the calves have clean, dry sawdust for bedding to help them stay warm. Time to run to catch the ! While we're at school Mom and Dad still have lots of work to do.

Dad spends the rest of the morning fixing the . Winter is the time to make sure all of the farm equipment is ready for spring planting. Inside the  Mom  and scrapes the floor to clean up any manure. On really cold days like today she turns on a heater so that the floor won't freeze. She doesn't want the cows to slip and fall. It takes longer to do the work in the cold, and today the cows need extra  +  to keep warm.

In the afternoon, Mom helps the veterinarian give the cows their . Dad works on the  paying bills and planning for next season. When the  drops us off we head straight to the  to feed and check on the . Mom and Dad are already taking care of the afternoon milking. By , with no field work to do, everyone's done for the day and after dinner we read  and watch TV before we go to .

teat - a cow's milk flows from each of the four teats on her udder

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