



MILK FROM COW TO CONTAINER STORY

Make a copy of "Milk from Cow to Container" for each student. You may want to read the descriptions that follow to help explain each picture. Create a word wall or review a recent dairy experience with your class to help your students understand what is happening in each picture. Students can create their own books (write, color, sequence). Upper grade students may want to paste the picture on a paper with more writing space. Students can share their dairy stories with family, friends or other students.

- Dairy cows in California are generally three breeds (pictured on poster front): the black and white Holstein, the brown Jersey and the red and white Aryshire. Cows are ruminant animals. They have four stomach compartments and efficiently digest many different foods: hay, silage (fermented corn, wheat or hay including the stalk and leaves) and grain (corn, oats and barley). Cows also eat many different agriculture by-products including cottonseed, almond hulls, beet pulp and blemished vegetables. Each cow drinks about 35 gallons of water each day. A cow must have a calf before she produces milk. Dairy farmers employ veterinarians, dairy nutritionists and other professionals to provide the best care possible.
- Milking a cow by machine takes five to seven minutes and is comfortable for the cow. Cows are moved into a milking parlor and milked two or three times every day of the year. A cow produces milk in her udder. Milk is released through the udder's four teats. The cow's udder and teats are cleaned before the milking machine is attached. The milk is piped immediately to a refrigerated storage tank on the dairy and kept at 40°F then loaded each day onto a refrigerated milk truck.
- Milk truck drivers test the milk before loading it at the dairy. The testing ensures safe and high quality products. Samples are collected and tested again at the processing plant before unloading. The United States dairy industry is one of the most highly regulated food industries in the world. The United States Department of Agriculture requires strict safety regulations and milk handling procedures. Milk is transported to a processing plant where it is prepared into many different products.
- **Processing plants** pasteurize and homogenize the milk. **Pasteurization** heats the milk to 162°F for 16 seconds and destroys harmful bacteria, germs and yeast. The milk is cooled immediately to 39°F. **Homogenizing** is mixing and blending the cream in the milk. There are several varieties of milk commonly available whole milk, low fat, reduced fat, non fat (skim) and chocolate. All milks contain the same amount of the bone building mineral, calcium. The main difference is the fat content. Some milk is further processed for cheese, yogurt, ice cream, butter and hundreds of different dairy products.
- People can choose from a wide variety of dairy products to meet their taste and nutritional needs.
 Milk and milk products provide the highest percentage of calcium in our diets. Calcium is critical for the development of strong bones and teeth and especially important for growing children. Have students draw their family or friends around the table.