8 Amazing steps from cow to you

1. Dairy farmers use milking machines to milk their cows 2-3 times a day. It only takes about 3-7 minutes for a cow to be milked!

2. Milk is pumped through sanitized pipes and is rapidly cooled before it reaches the refrigerated bulk tank where it is stored at 45°F or less.

3. Milk is transported in an insulated tanker from the farm to a processing facility. From farm to fridge, milk is never touched by human hands.

4. After the milk is tested, milk goes through pasteurization, a three-step process: pasteurization, refrigeration, milk is never touched by human hands.

5. Milk travels from the farm to the processing facility in about 2-3 minutes for a cow to be milked!

6. Refrigerated trucks transport milk and dairy foods, you’re supporting hard-working dairy farm families, which helps create jobs and positively impact thousands of communities like yours. Dairy farms are the ultimate local businesses – most Americans live within 100 miles of a dairy farm.

7. Additional lab testing of finished product for freshness and consistency is done before leaving the processing facility to hit the grocery store.

8. Refrigerated trucks transport milk and dairy foods to schools, grocery stores, restaurants and farmers for you and your family to enjoy!

DAIRY IS LOCALLY DRIVEN

The U.S. is home to 9,800 dairy cows that live on about 2,000 farms and produce 25.7 million gallons of milk annually. When you buy dairy foods, you’re supporting hard-working dairy farm families, which helps create jobs and positively impact thousands of communities like yours. Dairy farms are the ultimate local businesses – most Americans live within 100 miles of a dairy farm.

West Virginia is home to 7,300 dairy cows that live on about 40 farms and produce 1.9 million gallons of milk annually.

Ohio is home to 25,000 dairy cows that live on about 2,800 farms and produce 12.9 million gallons of milk annually.

West Virginia

11th in total number of dairy companies
43rd in number of dairy cows
38th in number of dairy farms
1st in Swiss cheese production

Ohio

32nd in number of dairy cows
9th in total number of dairy companies
11th in milk production
38th in number of dairy farms
28th in Swiss cheese production

Milk From Farm to Fridge

you’re answering your questions!
IS DAIRY GOOD FOR OUR AIR, LAND & WATER?

Dairy farmers work to conserve resources such as water, land and energy. They also carefully manage waste. Today, farmers have tools to measure more water, carbon, water and energy use to make decisions that help their farms use these resources efficiently.

80% OF A COW’S DIET IS INHIBITORY TO HUMANS

The products from feed and their selection like citrus pulp & cottonseed are consumed with milk rather than used to build.

One pound of corn or 84 pounds of tomatoes is twice as much per person's renewable energy

The dairy community is working to reduce GHG EMISSIONS BY 25% BY 2020

4. WHAT DO DAIRY COWS EAT?

Dairy cows eat about 150 pounds of feed and drink 15-30 gallons of water each day while in milk. The feed is specially formulated by a dairy nutritionist and typically a combination of hay, corn silage (the entire corn stalk chopped) and proteins (such as soybean meal), plus vitamins and minerals.

5. ARE THERMORES ADDED TO MY MILK?

No. Animals are naturally present in many foods of plant and animal origin, including milk. Although it is uncommon, some farmers choose to supplement their cows with BT, an FDA-approved synthetic hormone, to help with milk production. Science shows that it is safe for cows and has no effect on humans or the hormone levels in the milk itself.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DAIRY COWS GET SICK?

Cows do occasionally get sick and sometimes require medicine—just like the people in your family. Large-animal veterinarians prescribe antibiotics only when needed. These cows are treated separately so that they can be monitored and treated to make sure they are not milked with the rest of the herd.

ARE THERE GMOs IN MY MILK?

Some cows eat feed containing genetically engineered corn and soybeans which may enter the same milk that they are not GMO plants. Genetically engineered DNA has never been detected in milk from non-GMO plants.

ARE THERE ANTIBIOTICS IN MILK?

Less than 0.02% of all milk tested tested for antibiotics. Cows sometimes get sick and require medicine, but their milk does not go into the milk supply. If milk tests positive for antibiotics, it is disposed of and never enters the food stream. By-products from food and fiber industries like citrus pulp & cottonseed are converted to milk proteins, plus vitamins and minerals. Dairy cows eat about 150 pounds of feed and drink 15-30 gallons of water each day while in milk. The feed is specially formulated by a dairy nutritionist and typically a combination of hay, corn silage (the entire corn stalk chopped) and proteins (such as soybean meal), plus vitamins and minerals. The dairy community is working to reduce GHG EMISSIONS BY 25% BY 2020.