



*"Makin' Cows Smile"*  
Key Vocabulary

**Dairy Farmer** — A person whose job is to take care of dairy cows and to provide milk for us to drink and to make into dairy products.

**Herdsperson** — Farm employees who have specialized training in cow health care.

**Nutritionist** — Someone who has specialized training in preparing special mixes of feed — called rations -- that are balanced to meet an animal's specific dietary needs.

**Ration** — The special mix of feed that a cow eats to meet her specific dietary needs.

**Veterinarian** — An animal doctor responsible for giving the animals regular medical care.

**Dairy Cow** — A farm animal who is a female and who produces milk for us to drink.

**Calf** — A baby cow.

**Heifer** — A female calf or teen-aged cow.

**Udder** — The body part on the cow where she produces and stores milk.

**Milker** — The unit that gently removes the milk from the cow's udder.

**Stall** — Separate beds where individual cows sleep.

**Barn** — The place where cows and other animals live.

**Cud** — What is produced after the cow eats her food, swallows it and regurgitates it to chew again.

**Vaccination** — A medicine given to cows or other animals to prevent them from getting sick.



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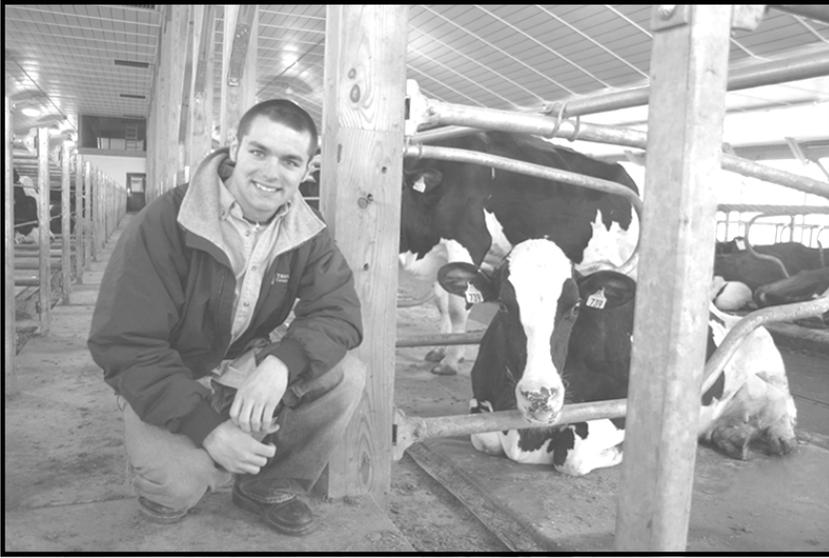
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Guided Reading Pamphlet

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## Dairy farmers care for their animals:



Dairy farmers have a very important job. They must take good care of their animals. These animals include the dairy cows, heifers and calves that live on their farm. We depend on dairy cows to give us milk to help us stay healthy.

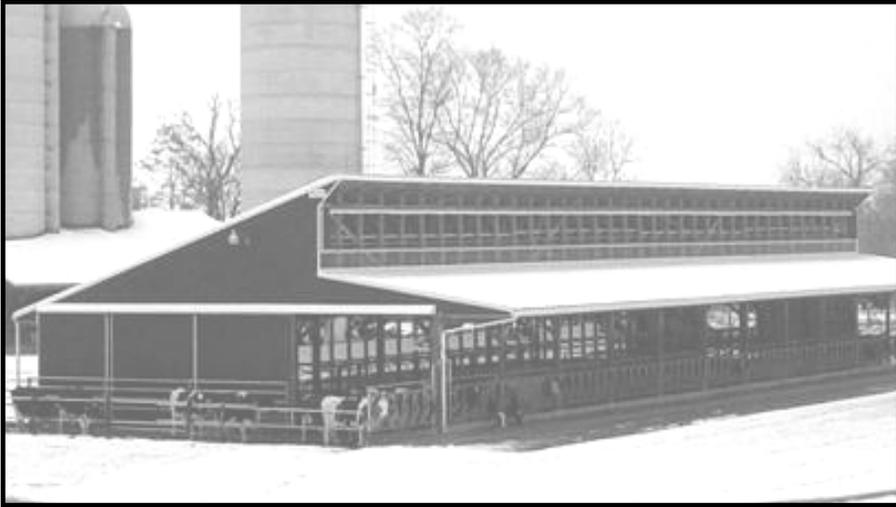
Dairy farmers do many things to care for those animals. They feed them a nutritious diet, make sure they are healthy and provide them with a place to live.



Farmers use different types of material to bed the cows' stalls. Some stalls are bedded with straw. Others use sand or sawdust. Laying in the sand stalls feels like you are laying on the beach.

Other farmers bed their cows' stalls with old shredded newspaper or with dried shredded corn stalks from the field. Some stalls even have waterbeds in them. No matter what bedding is used, it is important that the cow stays clean and dry.

Dairy farmers provide a comfortable place for their cows to live.



Another important part of the dairy farmer's job is to provide the cows and calves with a clean, dry, comfortable place to live.

Cows sleep in stalls inside barns. There are many different styles of barns and stalls. But no matter what style the farmer uses for his cows, keeping them dry and comfortable is his top priority.



Dairy farmers work with many people who help take care of their animals. Some of the people who work with the dairy farmer are the nutritionist, herdsman and veterinarian.

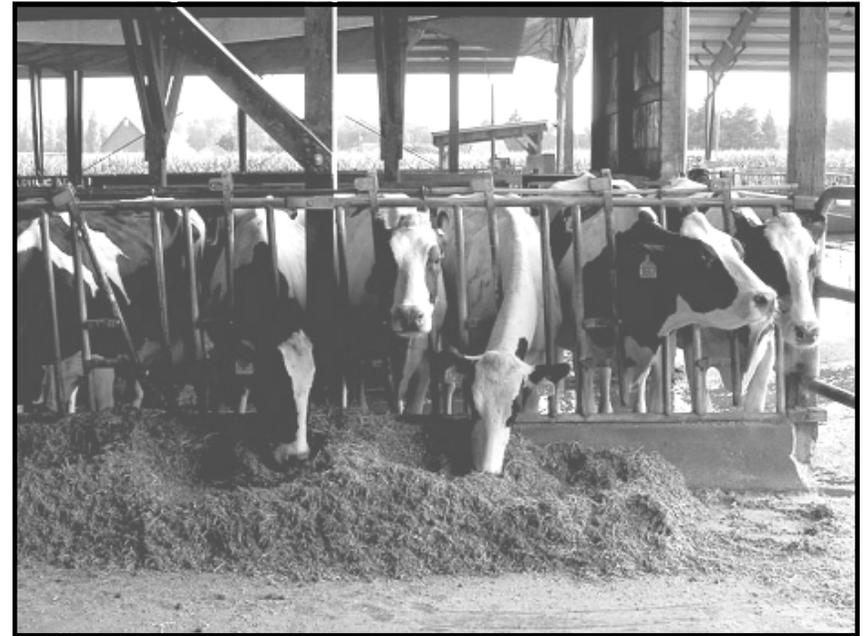
The animal doctor, or veterinarian, provides regular medical care to the cows and takes care of them when they are sick. The herdsman, a farm employee with specialized training in animal care, takes care of the cows on a daily basis.

Dairy farmers feed their cows a nutritious diet.



Cows eat plants, such as corn, wheat and grass or hay that the farmer grows. Those plants are also mixed with grain to make a special mix called a *ration*. The ration is customized to the age and activity of the cow.

Baby cows — called calves — drink milk formula that is similar to the formula that baby humans would drink. Older calves are fed grains such as corn and wheat.



As the calf grows into a cow, the ration changes. A dairy farmer works with a nutritionist to prepare a feed ration that has a formulated mix of nutrients and minerals to keep the cows healthy.

The nutritionist is someone who has specialized training in animal nutrition. They work closely with the farmer to make sure the cow is fed the proper nutrients for her stage of life.