

Grades: primary

Daisy's Education Barns

Before your visit:

- *Read several books about cows and discuss the information with the students.
- *Introduce and define vocabulary: cow, cattle, bull, heifer, calf, bovine, mammal, fur, udder, cud, and herbivore
- *Explain that cows eat plant matter (grass, hay, etc.) that is difficult to digest. They regurgitate and re-chew their food or 'cud' for 6-8 hours a day. They chew their cud to make up for not chewing much while actually eating the grass. This breaks up the plant matter into smaller and smaller chunks.
- *Brainstorm facts about cows and make a circle map. (If the children do not state that a cow is a mammal, guide them to this fact and remind them of the characteristics of a mammal...fur, warm blooded, babies born alive, and feed babies milk)
- *Discuss the idea that milk is good for people, too. Brainstorm products we make with milk (cheese, cottage cheese, butter, yogurt, ice cream)
- *Transfer the information from the circle map to the tree map (Cows..can/have/are)
- *Watch an online video of a cow being milked. There are several available on u-tube.
- * Practice milking a cow. Fill a rubber glove with water and poke a small hole in the end of each finger. Suspend the glove from a frame (a chart stand will work). Have the children milk the "udder" into a bucket.
- *Place the following poem in a pocket chart. Read it many times so that the students can memorize it and act it out.

Five Cows

(tune: Five Green and Speckled Frogs)

Five cows all black and white
Chewed their cud from day to night.
So they could give milk so sweet and pure.
Squirt! Squirt!
One left the barn one day,
So she could find more hay.
Then there were four cows all black and white.
Moo! Moo!

During your visit:

*Look at the cows. How are they alike/different?

*Do you see the cows eating? What do they eat?

*Can you see the cow's teeth? Are they flat or pointed? Why?

*Watch a cow being milked. Do you think it would be hard work to take care of a dairy cow? Why or why not?

After your visit:

* Discuss the dairy cows that you saw at Fairview Farms. Add information to your circle map and tree map as needed.

*Use the thinking maps to write information about cows. (Assign the number of sentences that is appropriate for your grade level.) Illustrate your sentences.

*"Udder painting". Fill a rubber glove with paint and poke a hole in the finger tip. Suspend the glove from a frame (a chart stand will work) and place paper (and lots of newspaper) underneath. Squeeze the glove as the paint squirts out.

Books About Cows:

Are You A Cow by Sandra Boynton

Cows! by Becky Wolff

Cows and Their Calves by Margaret Hall

Cows In The Kitchen by June Crebbin

From Cow to Ice Cream by Bertram T. Knight

Kailey's Ag-Adventure...Milk Comes From a COW? by Dan Yunk

Milk: From Cow to Carton by Alike

Sixteen Cows by Lisa Wheeler

The Cows's Boy: The Making of a Real Cowboy by Charlotte Caldwell

The Milk Makers by Gail Gibbons