

Key Vocabulary:

- **Colostrum:** The first milk a mother produces after giving birth that is filled with good antibodies
- **Calf:** A baby cow
- **Dairy Cow:** A female bovine that is raised for her milk production
- **Dam:** The mother of the animal
- **Heifer:** A young cow who has not given birth
- **Jersey:** One of the seven breeds of dairy cows in the U.S.
- **Ruminant:** A hoof-footed mammal with multiple stomachs or stomach compartments
- **Sire:** The father of the animal

Meet Your Calf, Jezzabelle!

Name: Erdman Oliver Jezzabelle

Birthdate: 9/12/2018

Sire: Oliver

Dam: Jackie

Lesson Idea:

"What's in a name?"

Show students how the calf's name provides information about her. In the registered name, the **prefix** — or first part of the name — describes the farm or is the farm name of where she lives. Jezzabelle lives on Erdman Dairy owned by the Erdman family. Therefore, Erdman stands for "Erdman Dairy." **Suffixes** in the name describe other facts about the animal. For example, "Red" means red in color "TW" means the calf is a twin.



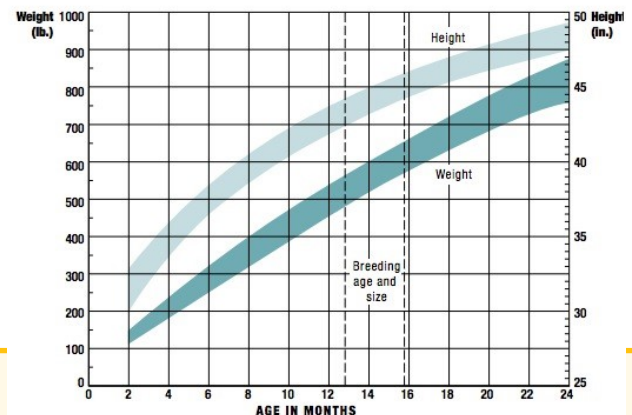
Her Diet:

Today, Jezzabelle is just a little over one month old. When she was first born, she was fed colostrum produced by her mother. Colostrum is the first milk a mother produces and it has naturally occurring antibodies that helps build and boost a calf's immune system. Calves, like humans, are born with little to no immune systems, which makes the delivery of colostrum to a newborn calf one of the top priorities of every farmer. After receiving colostrum and within a day, Jezzabelle then began drinking whole milk and soon after was eating a grain mixture. She also had and continues to have fresh water in front of her which was also first introduced the day after she was born.

Jezzabelle is slowly being weaned off of milk and will soon eat a diet of mostly grain and hay to help her stomach develop properly. Cows, like Jezzabelle, are what is known as "ruminants" — which are animals with four stomach compartments. Each compartment allows her to digest hay, grass and other roughage that monogastrics — or one stomach animals — could not digest as easily.

Her Growth & Development:

When Jezzabelle was born, she weighed about 85 pounds. Now, she is already close to weighing about 150 pounds. At birth, she was about 33 inches tall and will grow about one inch each month in the first four months of her life. Jezzabelle will become a mature cow by the time she is two years old. At that time, she should be about 55 inches tall and weigh about 1,350 lbs.



Lesson Idea:

"Compare & Contrast"

Compare Jezzabelle's growth and development to how we as humans grow and develop. How big are we when we are born? How long does it take to become an adult? What do we eat during the different stages of our life to aid in our growth and development? Use the worksheet enclosed to help with the exercise.

Her Dam, or Mother's, Role on the Farm:

Right now, Jezzabelle's job on the farm is to grow and develop into a healthy mature cow, just like your job is to grow into a healthy and productive adult. Jezzabelle's "Dam" (or her mother) Jackie has a very important job — to produce high quality milk for the Erdman family to sell so that it can be made into fluid milk and dairy products for you and your family to eat and drink.

Currently Jackie is producing about 80 pounds — or about 10 gallons — of milk a day. If you add up all of the milk Jackie will give this year, it will total about 25,000 pounds — or 50,000 glasses — of milk.

Cows like Jackie don't start producing milk until they have a baby. They give milk for about 10 months, before they take a two-month vacation. This, "vacation" is called a cow's "dry period" and it allows a cow, like Jackie, to spend the last two months of her pregnancy focusing on developing and growing a healthy calf.

Activity Idea:

Ask the school cafeteria how much milk your school drinks each day and figure out how many cows like Jackie it would take to supply that milk. **Hint:** You'll be surprised that it's less than you think!

Life on the Dairy Farm:

The farmer's job is to make sure Jezzabelle, Jackie and their herd mates (the other animals in the herd with them) are kept healthy and content. Not only is it important for their well-being, but it plays a significant role in their ability to grow to become capable of producing high quality milk.

Here are just a couple things that they need to stay healthy:



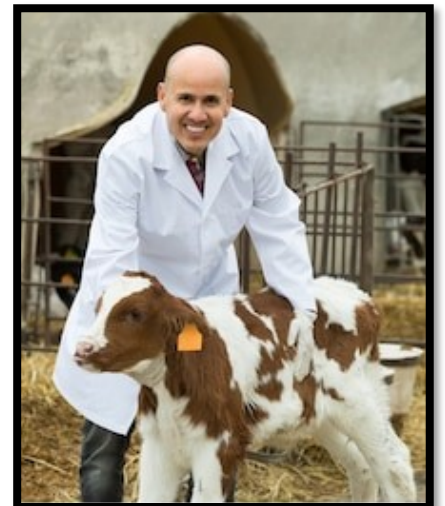
1. A well-balanced diet: As Jezzabelle grows, she will be fed a diet that meets her nutrition needs. High fiber foods like hay and grass will make up a large portion of her diet, with grain added to give her more energy and nutrients. The Erdman family works with "nutritionist" to make sure every bite the calf or cow eats is perfectly balanced.

2. A clean, comfortable place to live:

Jezzabelle sleeps on bedded straw and sawdust in a calf hutch, while the mature cows like Jackie, sleep on sand bedded stalls. They stay in well-ventilated, clean barns and have continual access to fresh water.



3. Regular health care: Dairy animals like Jezzabelle and Jackie need regular care. They get annual vaccinations to protect them against diseases, and the veterinarian does regular herd checks to make sure the animals are healthy.



Activity Idea: "Visit an Online Farm," Go to www.midwestdairy.com/farm-life/online-farm-experience/ and see where milk comes from during a 10-stop video tour of dairy farm located in the Midwest United States. This experience showcases different areas on a dairy farm, from the calf barn to the feed area.

Comparing:	People/Children:	Cows/Calves:
What size were they/you when they/you were born?	Height: Weight:	Height: Weight:
How quickly did it take for them/you to double their/your weight?		
How big will they/you be when they/you are grown up? (Estimated)	Height: Weight:	Height: Weight:
How long were they/ you on milk formula or whole milk for the calf?		
How many compartments do they/you have in your stomach?		
What does a balanced diet look like for them/ you?		

1. How is a cow's growth and development similar to yours as a person?

2. How is a cow's growth and development different than yours?



Top Left: This is Jackie, Jezzabelle's dam. She is now with the milking herd and gets milked twice a day for 5-7 minutes each time. When she isn't being milked, Jackie relaxes on her sand bed, has free access to all the food and water she wants and socializes with her herd mates.



Top Right: Jezzabelle loved posing for the camera on a beautiful fall morning!

Middle Center: This photo is of the hutches that the calves like Jezzabelle live in for the first few weeks after birth. A hutch is like a calf's bedroom!



Bottom: The farm started in 1933 when Myron Erdman bought his first calf at 5 years old. Today, Erdman Dairy milks over 600 cows and farms 1,000 acres of land, supporting 3 families and 8 employees.



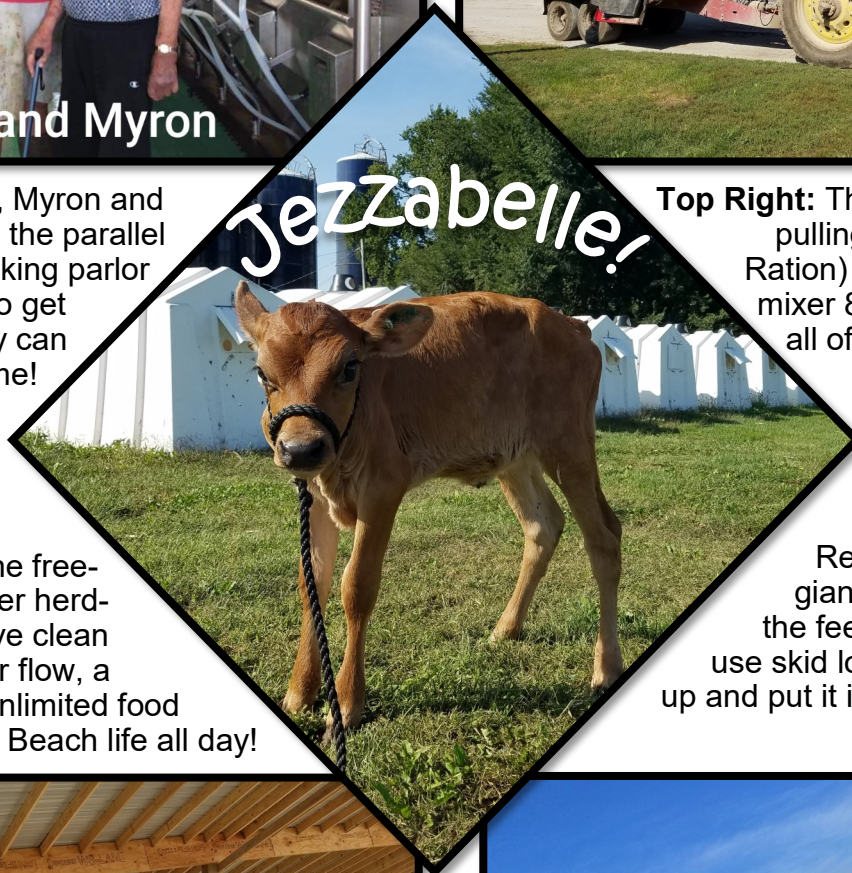


David and Myron

Top Left: Grandfather, Myron and grandson, David are in the parallel milking parlor. The milking parlor is where the cows go to get milked each day. They can milk 30 cows at one time!



Top Right: This is one of their tractors pulling their TMR (Total Mixed Ration) mixer. They fill this huge mixer 8 times every day to feed all of their cows. That is more than 700,000 lbs of feed every day!



Bottom Left: This is the free-stall barn Jackie and her herd-mates live in. They have clean sand beds, constant air flow, a sprinkler system and unlimited food and water all day long! Beach life all day!

Bottom Right: This is Reese standing next to the giant Ag Bag! Ag Bags store the feed for the cows. Farmers use skid loaders to scoop the feed up and put it in the TMR mixer to feed to the cows each day.





The Erdman Farm is a family business that began with Myron & Neta Erdman. Their only son Mark decided to continue the family business and later brought on board David and Jeff— his sons-in-law.

97% of dairy farms across the country are family owned and operated just like the Erdman Dairy. Dairy Farming is a family affair, with a lot of love, hard work and perseverance put in to take good care of their cows. Jezzabelle is well loved by them all!

FAMILY

