

Lesson 1: **Animal Health: Making Cows Smile**

Lesson Introduction

Dairy farming is a way of life for over 40,000 farm families in the United States. Dairy farmers have a very important job to do. In this lesson, students will learn ways farmers care for their cows every day and some of the people helping the dairy farmer care for their animals. The lesson will also highlight the career of being a dairy farmer.

Lesson Objectives

- Students will define important dairy vocabulary terms.
- Students will list at least three ways dairy farmers care for their cows.
- Students will list the skills and responsibilities of being a dairy farmer.

Time: 45 – 60 minutes

Standards: See the [Discover Dairy website](#) for complete listing by grade level.

Vocabulary

- Barn, bull, calf, dairy cow, dairy farmer, and heifer

Materials Needed

- Computer
- Lesson PowerPoint
- Multimedia Projector and Screen
- Internet Access
- [Fun on the Farm with Farmer Caroline Video](#)
- Pencils

Activities

- Comparison Matching Activity
- PreK and K Writing Prompt Activity
- Grades 1 and 2 Writing Prompt Activity
- Vowels Identification and Vocabulary Activity
- Milk Letter Trace and Cow Dot-to-Dot Activity
- [Kahoot! Game](#)

Procedure

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduction
- **Activating Strategy:** Let's look at how dairy farmers take care of their cows by watching the video, [Fun on the Farm with Farmer Caroline.](#)

Words on a Dairy Farm (5 minutes)

- Go over the essential vocabulary terms and their meanings for this lesson.
- Use the Lesson 1 PowerPoint with the students to show the meaning in pictures.

Farmers Care for Their Cows (10 minutes)

- Introduction
- Go over the four main responsibilities of a dairy farmer.
- Use the Lesson 1 PowerPoint Slides 15-18 to show the comparison of parents and dairy farmers with their care of children and cows respectively.

Career Spotlight: Veterinarian (6 minutes)

- Introduction
- Facilitate the Career Spotlight on the Dairy Farmer using the video and discussion of other responsibilities of dairy farmers.
- Closure: Dairy farmers have a lot of responsibilities other than taking care of their cows.
 - Tell us one responsibility of a dairy farmer.
 - Are you interested in being a dairy farmer when you grow up?

Summative Activity (15-30 minutes, depending on the activities)

- Introduction
- Pass out Activity to students.
- Allow students class time to complete the Activity.
- Walk around, offering help and answering questions as needed.
- **Lesson Closure:** Today you learned about what dairy farmers do every day to take care of their cows, so we have milk to keep us healthy. Tell us one way that dairy farmers take care of their cows.

Career Spotlight

Dairy Farmer

Summative Assessment

Students will complete at least one of the activities with a mastery level of 80% or higher.



Lesson 1: Animal Health

Career Spotlight: Dairy Farmer

Description

Dairy farming is not only a career but also a way of life to over 40,000 men and women in the United States.

Dairy farmers have a very important job to do. We depend on those animals to produce milk to keep us healthy.



Common Responsibilities

- Providing their animals with a place to live
- Keeping their animals healthy
- Providing their animals with a nutritious diet
- Providing safe milk and dairy products for us

Education/Training Requirements

High School Diploma with Work Experience on a Dairy Farm Business (minimum of 5 years) and Post-Secondary Training in Business (strongly recommended)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 1 Animal Health

Comparison Matching Activity

Direction: Draw a line comparing how a cow's care requirements compare to our own.

1. Providing a Nutritious Diet



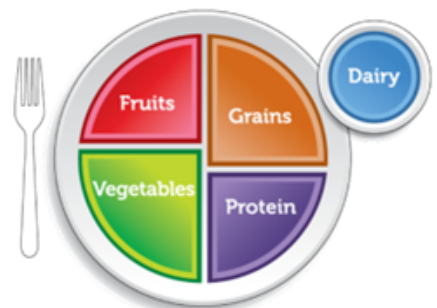
2. Keeping the Animals Healthy



3. Providing a Place to Live



4. Providing Safe, Quality Milk



Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 1 Animal Health

Comparison Matching Activity

Direction: Draw a line comparing how a cow's care requirements compare to our own.

1. Providing a Nutritious Diet



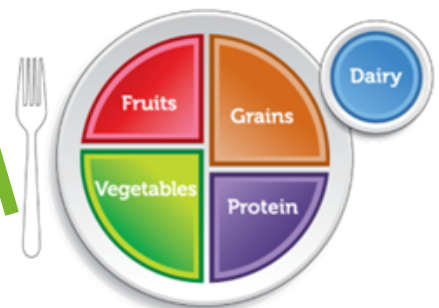
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4. Providing Safe, Quality Milk



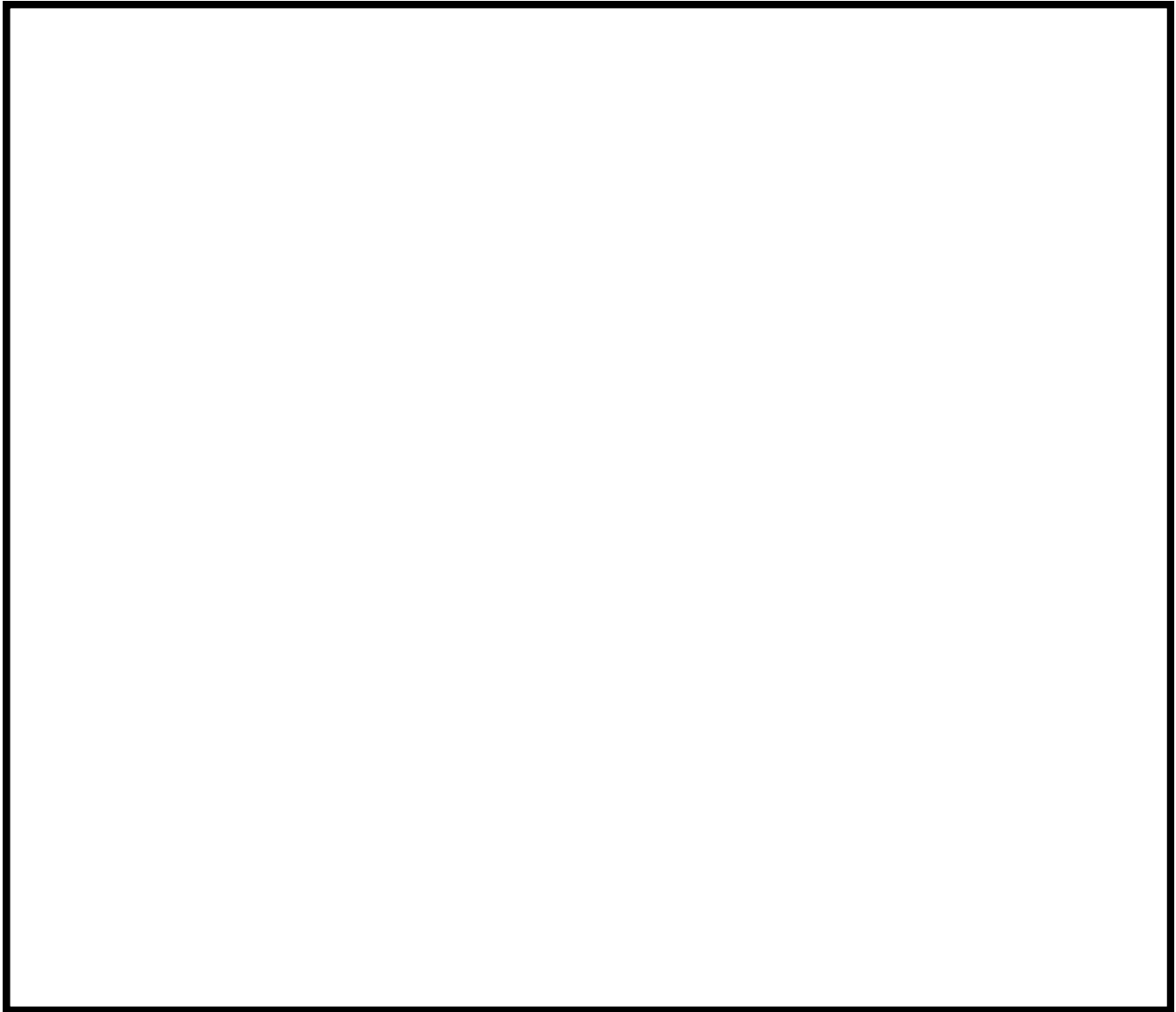
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Lesson 1 Animal Health

Writing Prompt

Prompt: Draw a picture showing a farmer taking care of their dairy cows. Write a sentence about it.



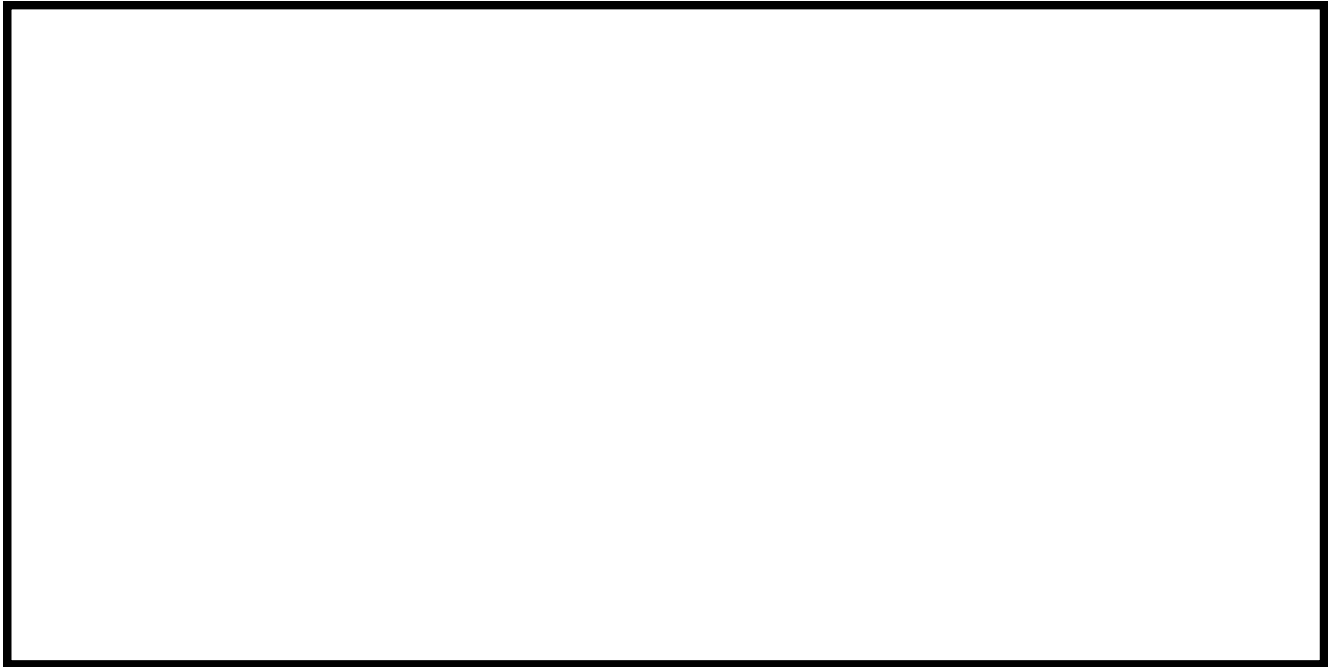
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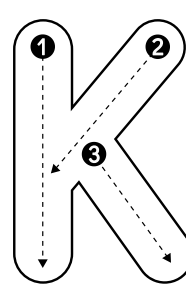
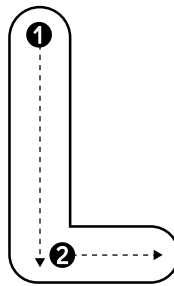
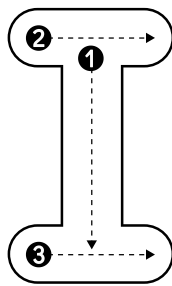
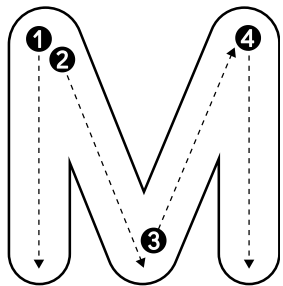
Lesson 1 Animal Health

Writing Prompt

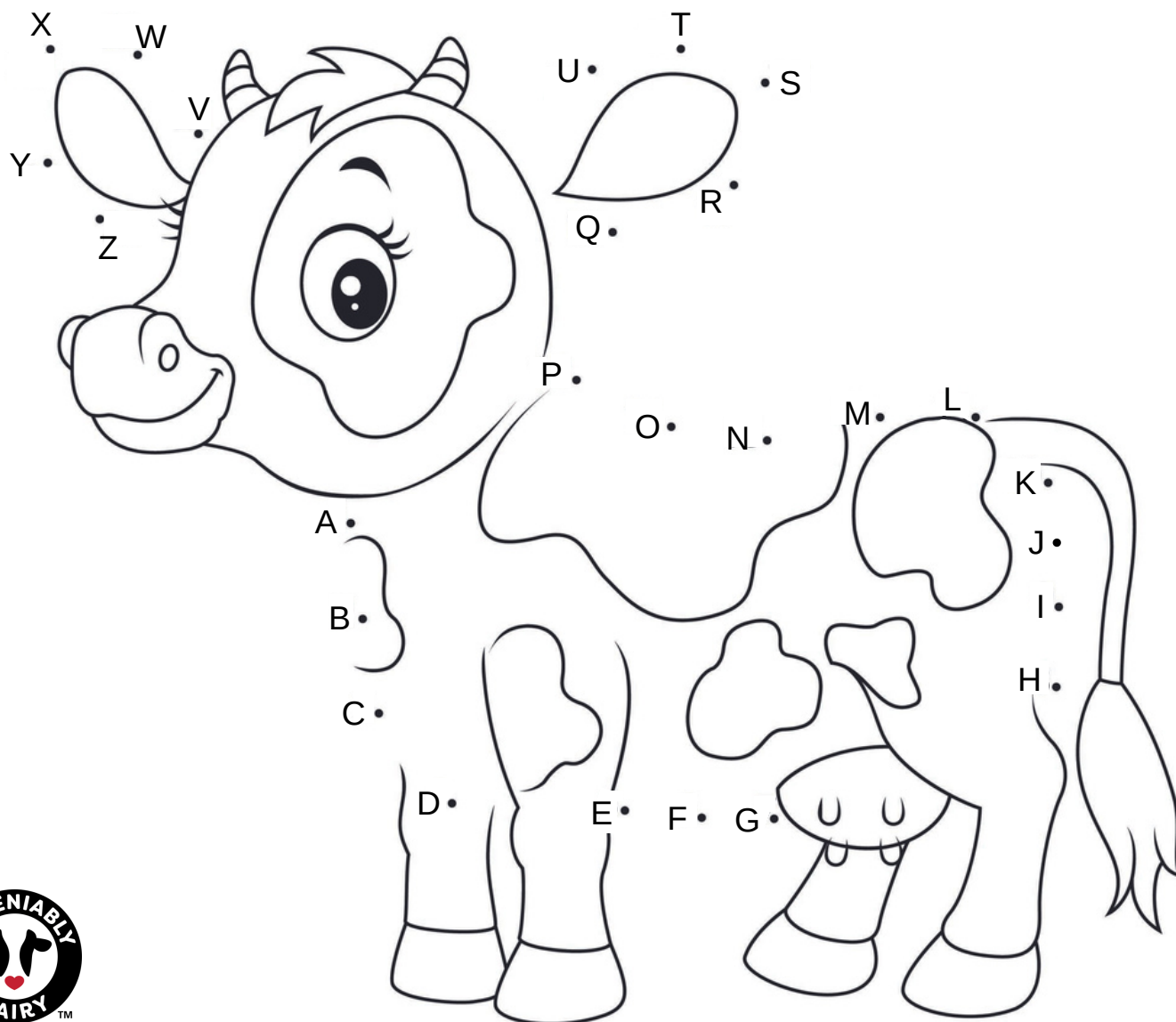
Prompt: Draw a picture to show one way that farmers take care of their dairy cows. Then write 1 - 2 sentences explaining how farmers care for their animals.



Trace these letters to spell MILK!



Connect the dots and color in the cow to bring her to life!





Circle the vowels in these dairy farming words.

Cow

Calf

Bull

Farmer

Heifer

Barn

Use the words above to match the definition.

What gives milk:

Who takes care of cows:

A baby cow:

Boy calf or cow:

Girl calf or cow:

