

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 veterinarian.

Lesson Objectives

- Students will list at least three ways dairy farmers care for their cows.
- Students will name people who help the dairy farmer care for their animals.
- Students will list the responsibilities and education of being a veterinarian.

Time: 45 – 60 minutes

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

Vocabulary

- Bulk tank, bull, calf, cud, dairy cow, heifer, milker, total mixed ration, and udder

Materials Needed

- Computer
- Lesson PowerPoint
- Multimedia Projector and Screen
- Internet Access
- [Discover Dairy and Animal Care Video](#)
- Pencils

Activities

- Animal Care Video Discussion Guide (fill in the blank with or without word bank)
- Comparison Matching Activity
- [Kahoot! Game](#)
- Making Cows Smile Activity
- [Making Cows Smile eBook](#)
- [Quizlet Set](#) (flashcards and Quizlet live game)
- Writing Prompt (picture or no picture)

Procedure

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Go over the essential vocabulary terms and their meanings for this lesson.
- Because multiple careers are discussed, go over the careers and their meanings.
- **Activating Strategy:** Let's discover how the health and care of dairy cows are important to the farmer by watching the video, [Discover Dairy and Animal Care](#).

Main Areas of Cow Care (8 - 15 minutes)

- Introduction
- Discuss the Main Responsibilities of a Dairy Farmer using the slides and their information.
- Have students read the Making Cows Smile eBook together or on their own.
- Closure: We discussed what dairy farmers do every day to take care of their cows. Tell the class one way that dairy farmers are responsible for the care of their cows.

Career Spotlight: Veterinarian (6 minutes)

- Introduction
- Facilitate the Career Spotlight on Veterinarians using the video and discussion of responsibilities and education.
- Closure: Dairy farmers depend on veterinarians to help them take care of their cows.
 - Tell us one way that veterinarians help dairy cows.
 - Are you interested in being a veterinarian 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 and that they work with many people to take good care of their animals, so we have milk to keep us healthy. Tell us one person farmers work with and what that person does to help the farmer and his or her cows.

Career Spotlight

Veterinarian

Summative Assessment

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

