Activity 2

Farming for the Future

Reproducible Master

Part 1 Dairy farmers care for the communities where they live. They work to protect natural resources like water, soil, and air by practicing environmental **sustainability**. That means finding ways to restore natural resources and recycle waste, so that Earth's ecosystems remain healthy far into the future.

Read about some of the ways dairy farmers practice environmental sustainability. Then match each of these sustainable farming practices with a similar practice at home by writing the correct letter in the space.

Sustainability on the dairy farm:

( ) 1. Use new technologies, like methane digesters, to help save energy.

( ) 2. Compost cow manure to keep the community's air and water clean.

( ) 3. Use recycled materials, like sand, to make bedding for cows.

( ) 4. Use recycled water for things like washing barn floors and irrigating fields.

( ) 5. Grow grains and other crops for feeding cows directly on the farm.

Methane digester

Sustainability at home:

A. Collect plastic, glass, paper, and metal for recycling into new products.

B. Turn off lights, computers, televisions, and other electrical appliances when not in use.

C. Grow a vegetable garden at home, or eat food grown in your area.

D. Take short showers instead of baths and turn off the faucet when brushing teeth.

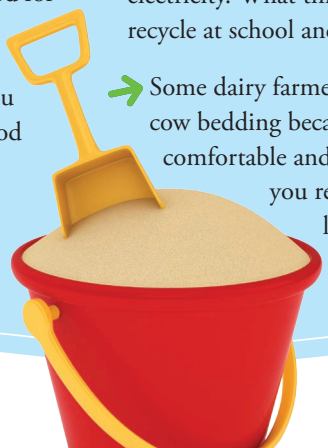
E. Compost fruit and vegetable waste from meal preparation and leftovers.

Part 2 Like dairy farmers, you can practice sustainability every day, even at school. Visit the **Green Schools Initiative** website at http://greenschools.net for ideas. Then download the *Green Classroom Checklist* (greenschools.net/downloads/Green%20Classroom%20Checklist.doc) and talk about how you can use the Three R's — reduce, recycle, and reuse — to help protect the environment.

Part 3 How does your family practice sustainability? Take this sheet home to share with a parent, and use the "at home" list above to create your own Green Family checklist. Show your family how dairy farmers in your region are working to protect the environment by visiting the *Caring for the Environment* section of the **Dairy Farming Today** website (dairyfarmingtoday.org/Caring-For-The-Environment/Pages/CaringForTheEnvironment.aspx).

Fun Facts!

- Many dairy farmers grow the food for their cows right on the farm. Do you grow any food at home?
- Dairy farmers can recycle the methane gas in cow manure to create electricity. What things can you recycle at school and at home?
- Some dairy farmers use sand for cow bedding because it is so comfortable and clean. Can you remember the last time you lay in the sand?



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Dairy farmers produce milk 365 days a year.

Healthy Farming, Healthy You