

ACTIVITY 3 Full Circle



Milk is a nutritional powerhouse, and over the past decades, agricultural practices have enabled dairy farmers to produce more milk with fewer resources. In fact, more milk is produced today with only 9 million cows than with 26 million cows in 1944. How? Dairy farmers take great care to provide the best environment, food, and medical care for their cows, because comfortable cows are productive cows!



Dairy farming is a rewarding career that often allows families to work together. Abbie Evans (pictured at left) works alongside her husband, Andrew, on their dairy farm in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Part 1: Myth vs. Reality

How much do you already know about the care of dairy cows and the value of their milk? Take this quiz to test your knowledge. In the left column, circle the correct answer. In the right column, check off whether the statement is true or false.

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| <p>1. About _____ of U.S. dairy farms are family owned and operated.
A. 95% C. 70%
B. 45% D. 15%</p> <p>2. Cow manure can be recycled into _____ and even pots for planting.
A. energy C. bedding for cows
B. fertilizer D. all of the above</p> <p>3. Many dairy farmers also recycle _____ up to 3 times — first, for cooling milk, then for cleaning stalls, and finally as a nutrient-rich fertilizer for the fields.
A. packaging C. water
B. corn husks D. storage tanks</p> <p>4. Each day, a cow drinks about 35 gallons of water — enough to fill a bathtub — and produces approximately _____ of milk.
A. 7 gallons C. 35 gallons
B. 25 ounces D. 1 gallon</p> <p>5. Milk is tested for _____ on the farm and at the processing plant. If milk tests positive, it cannot be sold to the public.
A. hormones C. antibiotics
B. viruses D. excess fat</p> | <p>Now decide if each statement is true or false.</p> <p>6. Cows spend about 8 hours chewing their cud every day.
<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False</p> <p>7. Cows can get nutrition from byproducts of other farms, like citrus pulp from juice farms and cottonseed from cotton farms.
<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False</p> <p>8. Cows' diets are carefully designed by farmers and nutritionists to provide the best nutrition possible for optimal health.
<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False</p> <p>9. Robotic milking systems allow dairy farmers to put cows on a strict schedule for maximum production that automatically milks them every 1-2 hours.
<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False</p> <p>10. In free-stall barns, cows can move about to eat, drink, and rest whenever they like; these enclosures let in fresh air and sunshine, while providing shade and protection from the wind, cold, or rain.
<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False</p> |
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Part 2: Future Dairy Farmer?

Dairy farms create an estimated 900,000 jobs in the U.S. Whether you're interested in agriculture and animals, food science, environmental protection, or even engineering, you can explore your area of interest in sustainability with career options across the dairy industry.

Visit O*NET Online (onetonline.org/find/career?c=1) and check out the career cluster, "Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources." Choose a path that best fits your personal interests, values, and career goals. Use what you find to complete the following chart, and note any career-specific information you would need before pursuing this option in the future. You can make another copy of the chart to check out more than one path.

Career Path	
Education needed	
Additional skills required	
Average salary	
Job environment (work activities/context)	
Occupational outlook	
Reasons it seems like a good fit	
Reasons it may not be a good fit	
Notes to research further	



AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION NORTH EAST



Local milk is available 365 days a year.

