HEALTHY COWS ACTIVITY 1

FARM TECHNOLOGY

Technology has made modern farming more productive. On dairy farms, it also keeps cows healthier and more comfortable. Jared Kurtz and his family, who own Kurtland Farms in Elverson, Pa., milk cows on their farm using **robots**!

Juno feed pusher used on Kurtland Farms

The Kurtz Family, Kurtland Farms, Elverson, Pa.

Part 1

Robotic milking systems allow cows to choose when they want to be milked and provide farmers with valuable information on the health and habits of each animal. To see how, watch the video of Farmer Jared at https://youtu.be/o8Ftm_tKnLw. Think about how robotic milking systems help farmers take better care of their livestock. Then, answer the questions below.

1. How do robotic milking machines benefit farmers? _____

2. What kind of information do the sensors collect about each cow? _____

3. Why do the cows choose to be milked? _____

4. How do robotic milking machines help farmers take better care of each cow? _____

Part 2

Modern farmers use technology in many other ways, too. They use satellite and sensor technologies like GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to collect information about their soil, crops, livestock, and even the weather. They use GPS (Global Positioning Systems) to map fields, guide tractors, and check crops, even at night. Drones and robots can be used to disperse chemicals, plow fields, plant seeds, weed, irrigate, and harvest the crops. See how Kelsey O'Shea of Mapleview Dairy in Madrid, N.Y., uses harvesting technology in the video at https://youtu.be/ki6XtYvszEU. These tools save time and money. For dairy farmers, it means more time spent caring for the cows themselves.

Choose one of the technologies listed in the paragraph above. Research how it is used on modern dairy farms and write down 3-4 benefits it offers to farms, families, animals, and the environment. Write your list on the back of this sheet.

YOUR MILK COMES FROM A GOOD PLACE

AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION NORTH EAST

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