

FARM TECHNOLOGY

Technology has made modern farming more productive. On dairy farms, it also keeps cows healthier and more comfortable. Aurora Ridge Dairy of Aurora, N.Y., uses collars on their cows to monitor the animals' health in real time, much like a fitness watch!



Aurora Ridge Dairy of Aurora, N.Y., uses collars to monitor their cows' health.

Part 1 Cow pedometers can be in the form of an ankle bracelet or a neck collar that cows wear all the time, much like a fitness watch. These track each animal's steps as well as other health and habits of the cows. To see more about this, watch the video of Kelly Reynolds at Reyncrest Farm at youtu.be/nj_h2qX74Ng?t=1364. Think about how cow health monitors help farmers take better care of their cows. Then, answer the questions below.

1. How do cow pedometers or collars (sensors) benefit farmers? _____

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

3. Why would a cow's number of daily steps change? _____

4. How would a farmer use the information collected by a sensor? _____



Part 2 Modern farmers also use other types of technology and data to care for their farms, solve problems, and improve their results. This is a precision farming approach to farm management. For example, some farmers 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. Check out how Stephen Gould of HaR-Go Farms of Pavillion, NY, uses technology and science to sustainably care for the land they crop to feed their cows at [youtube.com/watch?v=I46TJfSteM0&t=5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I46TJfSteM0&t=5s). 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.



AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION NORTH EAST

