

HARVEST of the MONTH in the CLASSROOM



DAIRY

HISTORY

People have been drinking animal milk for as long as we have had domesticated animals. The ancient Egyptians produced dairy products, but reserved it for royalty! In European nations, it wasn't until the 14th century that cow's milk became more popular than sheep's milk. Dairy cows were brought to North America by Europeans in the early 1600s, but it took hundreds of years, until 1884, for the glass milk bottle to be developed, and it wasn't until the 1930s that the milk carton was used!

FUN FACTS

Neolithic herdsmen from Central Asia may have discovered yogurt by accident, when milk curdled and thickened!

There are over 800 different breeds of cow and six different breeds of dairy goat. Goat milk is popular outside of the U.S.

The average cow produces six gallons of milk per day, or about 55 pounds. This adds up to about 350,000 glasses of milk in a lifetime.

There are about 1,200 dairy farms in New England, but all 50 states have dairy farms.

FARMER BIO



High Lawn Farm (Lee, MA) owns 1,600 acres of land, and actively farms 460 of those acres and the rest is protected woodland for wildlife. They grow hay and corn to feed their herd of Jersey cows, which they milk. They produce a wide range of dairy products, and cheese (Italian Cheddar, Blue, and Vache are just some of the cheeses they make!) is their favorite. Their products are available at their farmstead creamery, and they ship to grocery stores, restaurants, and schools throughout New England.

A FARMER'S DAY

Grades K-3 • 20 minutes



DAIRY

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how a dairy farmer spends their day.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

What do dairy farmers do?
How do you take care of a dairy farm?

MA STATE FRAMEWORK(S)

K-3 Language Standards
K.L.1
1.L.1.D
2.L.3

MATERIALS NEEDED

Farmer chore cards

PROCEDURE

Introduction

Ask students the following questions:

Do you have any pets?

What are some of the tasks we do to take care of our pets?

Is this work easy or hard?

Ask them to imagine if they had hundreds of animals to care for. Farmers have to take care of many different animals at once. Together the class will imagine what a day in the life of a farmer is like!

Activity: Chore Order

Hand each student a packet of chore cards. Have students arrange the cards in the order they think a farmer should complete their tasks. Ask students to read their arranged list of chores, then share the correct order of the list. If they placed some tasks out of order, discuss why they chose to place them in the order they did.

Wrap up

Ask students how they think its possible for a farmer to complete all the tasks in one day.

Do students think the farmer has help on the farm?

Discuss other types of farms and ask students to guess what tasks might be the same, and what might be different.

Does anyone in class want to be a farmer? What would they grow or raise?

Lesson developed in partnership with:
[Island Grown Initiative](http://www.islandgrowninitiative.org)

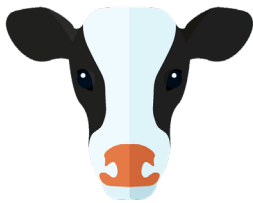
A FARMER'S DAY

Farmer Chore Cards

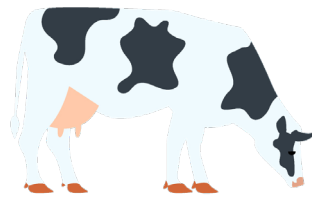


DAIRY

Wake Up + Milk
Cows



Feed Cows
Breakfast



Eat Breakfast



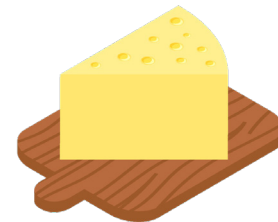
Feed Calves
Milk



Talk with
Distributor



Eat Lunch



Milk Inspection



Feed Calves
Again



A FARMER'S DAY

Teacher Guide: Farmer Chore Cards



DAIRY

Time of Day

3:00AM

Wake Up + Milk
Cows



6:00AM

Feed Cows
Breakfast



7:00AM

Eat Breakfast



10:00AM

Feed Calves
Milk



11:00AM

Talk with
Distributor



12:00PM

Eat Lunch



1:00PM

Milk Inspection



3:00PM

Feed Calves
Again



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