

Infant Lesson Plan 5

From Grass to your Glass

Objective

To develop pupils' awareness of the importance of dairy farming and their understanding of everyday life on a farm. Duration: **30 minutes** (approximately).

Curricular Links



Geography:

Human environments ⇨ Living in the local community ⇨ People at work

Words of the Day

Dairy Farm – A type of farm where dairy products are produced.

Grazing – Animals, like cows, feeding on growing grass.

Milking Parlour – A building on a dairy farm which is used for milking cows.



Class Discussion

Pass the Beanbag - Ask pupils to share their prior knowledge/experience of dairy farming by passing a beanbag around the class. Pupils who have the beanbag share with the class.

Prompt Questions:

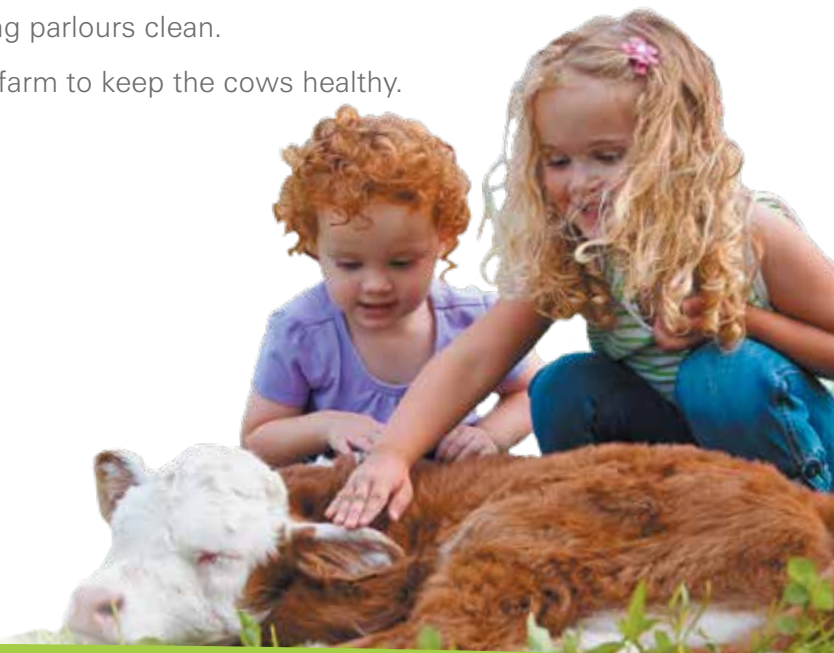
- 1 What is dairy? (It is food like milk, yogurt and cheese).
- 2 What is dairy farming? (It is the type of farming which gives us dairy products like milk, yogurt and cheese).
- 3 What animals do you think you would see on a dairy farm? (Cows).
- 4 Have you been to a dairy farm? Describe what you might see on a dairy farm. (e.g. cows, a milking parlour, milking machines, hay).

Pair Discussion

Ask pupils to think about how farmers might take care of the cows on their farm. Ask pupils to discuss their ideas with a partner and then to share with the class.

Prompts for discussion:

- Farmers have bedding for cows to sleep on.
- Farmers can leave cows grazing on fresh grass outdoors for an average of 240 days a year!
- Farmers move cows from field to field so that they have enough grass to eat.
- Farmers bring cows indoors during the cold weather in winter.
- Farmers make sure cows have food to eat.
- Farmers keep the cow sheds and milking parlours clean.
- Farmers make sure that a vet visits the farm to keep the cows healthy.



Personal Activity

Begin by asking pupils as a class to think about how milk gets from a farm to a glass on the kitchen table. Then give each pupil a copy of the 'From Grass to your Glass' activity sheet. Ask them to look at the images for the 6 stages of milk production 'From Grass to your Glass' and to sequence them in the correct order from 1 to 6. Then discuss as a class, talking through each of the stages in the milk production process. *(Correct sequence outlined on page 23).

Extension Activities

- 1 Ask pupils to design the cover of a milk carton.
- 2 Ask pupils in groups to create their own class/school 'From Grass to your Glass' wall frieze.

Bring it Home

Encourage your pupils to take home the message of the importance of dairy farming.

As a homework activity, you can ask your pupils to:

- 1 Look at dairy products in the fridge and identify where they were sourced from. For example, was anything sourced from a local farm?
- 2 Does milk in their fridge carry the NDC 'Farmed in the Republic of Ireland' guarantee?
- 3 Do they know a local dairy farmer?
- 4 Ask them to find out how many litres of milk each family member has for a week. Compare.

