

Farm to Table with Wisconsin Dairy

Milking Video Script

Dairy cows eat about 90 pounds of food each day and drink about a bathtub full of water so that they can produce milk.

At least 2 times every day dairy cows need to be milked. Let's see how some farms milk their cows.

This barn is called a stanchion barn. The dairy farmer brings a milking machine to the cow. The machine attaches to the udder of the cow. The machine gently massages the milk from the cow. The milk travels through the milking machine to a pipe that takes it to a cold storage tank, called a bulk tank.

Some dairy farms have special milking robots, called robotic milkers. One dairy cow at a time can be milked by the robot. The robot uses a special scanner to find the cow's udder and put the milking machine on. The robot holds the milking machine in place until the cow is done giving her milk.

Many dairy farms have milking parlors, or a special room where the cows will go to be milked. People clean the cows' udders and put the milking machines on.

A special milking parlor, called a rotary parlor, is a giant merry-go-round for cows! The dairy cow steps onto the "merry-go-round" and a person will put the milking machine on the cow. The cow will then ride on the "merry-go-round" until she is done giving her milk (about 5-6 minutes).

No matter how a cow is milked, most milk will leave a dairy farm in a refrigerated tanker truck to be taken to a factory to be made into milk, chocolate milk, yogurt, ice cream and cheese.