

Cowabunga! (All About Breeds)



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5TH EDITION

Nessie Will Produce for You!

Nessie is a Holstein cow originating from the Netherlands, a country in northern Europe. Nessie weighs 1,500 pounds and is one of the largest breeds of dairy cattle. She is known around town as a real classy gal, partly because of her simple, black and white wardrobe. She wears all white, with large black spots. Unfortunately, cows don't get to change their clothes; it's what they're born with. Differences in coloring help us identify breeds. Nessie's great-great-great grandmother entered America by ship in 1852, arriving in Boston, Massachusetts. Holsteins make more milk than any other breed. Nessie is no exception and produces about 10 gallons of milk per day.

A Sweet Swiss

If you travel to Switzerland, a mountainous country in Europe popular for skiing and cheese, you are sure to meet Heidi, a Brown Swiss dairy cow. She enjoys grazing on grass, but she sure does have a sweet tooth!! She produces pure white milk high in lactose, also known as milk sugar. Her milk is perfect for making cheese. Heidi weighs 1,500 pounds and

is very athletic. Brown Swiss cattle are famous for strong feet and legs, and for their brown coloring. Heidi's ancestors came to America in 1869, arriving in Massachusetts. Heidi, like her Brown Swiss relatives, lives and works well in both hot and cold climates.

Strike it Rich with a Golden Guernsey!

Gertrude is a Guernsey cow from Guernsey, a very small island nation off the northern coast of France. Gertrude's family came to the Americas by boat in 1840. They entered through a port in New York. Guerneys like Gertrude are famous for producing milk that is golden in color. Everything about Gertrude is golden, including her gold coat with white patches. Gertrude is a medium-sized dairy cow, weighing 1,150 pounds. She will be making milk for you for many years, as her breed is well known for living longer than any other breed.

An Unbelievable Udder

Red and white speckled Adie

the Ayrshire is a dairy cow from Scotland, but she can't play the bagpipes. She can, however, produce milk used for high quality butter and cheese. Adie and her relatives weigh about 1,200 pounds each. They are considered medium-sized cows famous for having healthy udders. Ayrshires entered America in 1822. They arrived in Connecticut by ship. Adie's ancestors thrived in the rocky hills and cold weather, similar to their home in Scotland.

Little in Size, but BIG in Milk

If you travel to the small island of Jersey off the coast of France, you will find relatives of Jenny the Jersey. Jenny only weighs 900 pounds and is small compared to other breeds, but she still produces high quantities of milk for her petite size. Many people call Jersey cows, like Jenny, the "prettiest" breed, as they are small and slim through their head and shoulders and have an attractive honey-brown coat color. Jersey cows were first introduced to America in 1850, and continue to be the second most common breed in California.