

Dairy Facts

Feeding Cows

In order for cows to produce high quality milk they must consume high quality foods. Farmers work very hard with nutritionists & veterinarians to ensure that their cows are receiving a well balanced diet that supports milk production & keeps them healthy.

Cows eat A LOT! To make sure cows have fresh feed at all times, farmers feed them 2-3 times per day. Cows eat a “TMR” or Total Mixed Ration. A TMR is similar to taking all of the items on your dinner plate and mixing them together. This is done to ensure that the cows are eating a healthy, well balanced meal and not just picking out the sweet stuff!

A TMR can be made up of many different ingredients including corn, hay, soybeans, citrus pulp and bakery leftovers. In fact, dairy cows EVEN serve as food recyclers by eating the leftovers of the food manufacturing process that would otherwise go to waste.

When farmers create a TMR for their cows they must be careful to measure out each ingredient carefully, otherwise all of their cows could get sick and will not produce milk. Farmers use high tech scales and other equipment when feeding their cows. The TMR is then fed to the cows using a feed wagon that distributes it evenly to the cows.