Dairy Facts

Vo-Cow-Bulary

Bull – A male bovine.

Cow – An adult female bovine.

Calf – A baby cow or bull.

Heifer – A “teenaged” cow before she has a calf.

Steer – A castrated bull often raised for meat or draft purposes.

Butterfat – The fatty portion of milk that gives milk its creaminess.

Homogenize - To blend milk so that butterfat particles are evenly distributed throughout.

Pasteurize - To heat milk to a high temperature for a short time to protect its purity.

Cud – Food swallowed by the cow, but is not thoroughly chewed until later.

Udder - part of the cow where milk is stored.

Teat - One of the 4 nipples on the cow’s udder where milk comes out.

Dry Off - Period when a cow is not being milked.

Let Down - Condition when cow is ready to be milked because the teats are filled with milk.