

GLOSSARY – for all underlined words in the book “Dairy Farming for ME”

3 Every Day of Dairy – Dairy products provide nutrients which lower the risk of diseases and medical conditions. Children need 3 servings of low fat dairy products every day as part of a balanced diet.

Baler – a machine usually pulled by a tractor that binds loose hay into round or square bales.

Barn – a building used to store hay, grain, or animals on a farm

Bulk Tank – A large tank used to store milk until it is shipped to the processing plant

Bulls – Male cattle

Calcium – A key nutrient in milk that strengthens bones and teeth, and helps the body perform healthy muscle movements such as your heartbeat.

Calf – Newborn cattle until they are six months old

Cheese – A high-quality food rich in nutrients. Cheese is made from the milk solids or curds and prepared in different ways. Cottage, Swiss, American and Cheddar are types of cheeses.

Combine – A large farm machine that harvests grain crops like oats, wheat and barley.

Dairy cow – Female cattle that, after having a calf, produce milk to drink and make into other dairy products

Farm Cost – The total cost of running a farm including wages, feed, fuel, electricity, veterinary fees machinery, taxes and more.

Farm Records – A records is kept on each dairy cow telling how much milk they make, birth and calving dates, vaccinations and more. There are also records showing the farm costs and income.

Fat or Butterfat – Stored energy in the milk that rises to the top unless the milk is homogenized. Whole milk is about 4% fat. Low fat milk is 1% fat. When the fat, or cream, is removed from the milk it can be used to make butter, cheese, ice cream or other dairy products.

Fertilizer – A substance containing nutrients that will help plants grow. Manure is a good natural fertilizer recycling the nutrients that the animal does not use.

Freshness Date – The date stamped on each milk container that tells the last date the milk is guaranteed to be fresh.

Grain – The seed of certain grassy plants, high in nutrients, that can be ground into flour or meal and used to feed dairy cows, people or other animals.

Grazing – Eating grass in a field usually enclosed by a fence. Cows have four compartments in their stomach which allows them to digest grass, hay and roughage that humans cannot digest.

Hay – Grass that is cut and dried to feed to animals

Haylage – A feed for cows that is made by storing fresh cut grass in a plastic bag or silo.

Heifers – Female cattle before they have a calf and join the milking herd.

Homogenized – Milk that goes through a blending process so the milk fat particles do not separate out

Hoof Trimmer – A professional that comes to the farm and trims the cows’ hooves so they can walk properly. It is a lot like trimming very large toe nails.

Hutch – A small, separate covering for a single animal, usually for new born calves

Ice Cream – A frozen dessert made from milk and cream usually mixed with fruit or flavoring

Mammal – An animal that gives live birth, has fur, and feeds their babies with milk

Manure spreader – A machine that is usually towed by a tractor and spreads manure on the fields as a natural fertilizer

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Manure – the waste that cows and other animals produce that can be collected and spread back on to the fields to recycle nutrients and help the plants grow

Mechanics – People that are trained to keep the farm machines running

Methane Gas – A flammable gas that can be produced by cow manure in a system called a digester. Farmers can use methane to produce energy to run their farm.

Milking Machine – A machine that milks the cow by gently pulsating and using mild suction to extract milk.

Milking Parlor – An area where the cows are milked. Different types are carousel (round), herringbone (parallel at an angle like fish bones) or straight stall. The farmer stands in the middle behind the cows. The cows enter from a holding area on one side and are released into the barn or pasture on the other side when they are finished.

Milk Truck – a large, refrigerated tank truck used to transport milk to the processing plant

Nutrient – a substance that helps an animal or a plant grow and be healthy

Nutritious Diet – The food the cow eats with the right nutrients to produces healthy milk

Pasteurization – The process of heating the milk, juice or other foods over a certain period of time it to kill harmful bacteria that can cause disease without changing the taste. This was discovered by Louis Pasteur in 1864 at the request of the emperor of France, Napoleon III.

Pasture – An open field used for grazing

Pipe Line System – A system of pipes used to transport milk from the cow to the bulk tank. Each cow has a stall in the barn. A large stainless steel milk pipe and a smaller vacuum pipe go around the barn close to the ceiling and have spigots between the stalls. The farmer moves a small milking machine with plastic hoses to each cow. The milk travels through the tubes to the bulk tank in the milk room.

Planter – a machine that is pulled by a tractor and plants seeds for crops such as corn, oats or soy beans.

Plow – A heavy farm tool with a wide blade that is pulled behind a tractor and used to till or cultivate the soil

Processing Plant – A place where milk is shipped to be bottled or made into other dairy products

Rake – A farm machine pulled behind a tractor that turns over the hay to dry, making rows that can be picked up by a baler

Silage – Chopped corn or grass that is stored in large bags or silos and fermented for the dairy cows to eat as part of a nutritious diet. People make sauerkraut the same way.

Silo – a farm storage area that can be a tall building or a trench or pit in the ground, used to hold corn or grass (called silage) cut in the summer until it is fed to the cows during the winter months

Total Mixed Ration (TMR) – Grain, hay and silage blended together to make a nutritious feed for dairy cows.

Tractor – A powerful vehicle that can pull a plow or other farm tools

Udder – Is the part of the cow where milk is stored until milking time. If a dairy cow is not milked every day they will become very sick.

Vaccination – a process used in dairy cows (and people) that gives immunity against diseases that could be harmful or deadly for them or the humans that work with them or use the products.

Veterinarian – An animal doctor

Yogurt – A thick custard like dairy product produced by the bacterial fermentation of milk