



DAIRY COWS

THE BASICS:

- HEIFER : female that hasn't had a baby
- COW : female that has had 1 or more calves and gives milk
- CALF : baby
 - Bull Calf : Boy
 - Heifer Calf : Girl
- GESTATION PERIOD : 9 months
- ADULT SIZE : Cow – 900-2000 lbs
- Cattle are cud chewing animals or RUMINANTS with a 'split' hoof, four stomachs and no teeth on top.

THE EXTRAS:

- A cow must be bred each year to continue milk production. The first calf is generally at 2 years of age.
- A Cow will give milk for 10 months of the year, with a 2 month break right before she gives birth.
- Cows are milked twice a day, giving a total of 8-10 gallons of milk per day.
- A cow must "let her milk down" before being milked. She must be relaxed.
- A cow stores her milk in her udder. The udder has 4 compartments and 4 teats. Milk is about 102 degrees when it leaves the udder.
- It takes 3-5 minutes to milk a cow with a machine, and about 20-30 minutes by hand.
- Some common breeds of Dairy Cattle include: Holstein, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey and Jersey.

OUR COWS:

- We currently have 1 cow, her name is Dottie.