

Modern dairy farmers go to great lengths to make sure each cow in their herd is maintained in prime physical condition. Cow health is paramount to the dairy farmer, whose end goal is to provide wholesome, top-quality dairy products to consumers.

Cows are creatures of habit and they don't like change to their daily routine. If a dairy farmer is running late, cows will often moo to let the farmer know he or she is off schedule.

The milking barn is a hospitable place. Cows often enjoy a treat while standing in the milking stanchion. With a modern milking machine, it takes less than five minutes to milk a cow.

Cows enjoy bountiful amounts of hay and grass (that's cow salad) and a tasty feed ration (cow casserole) made to fit the cows' nutritional needs.

Cool, refreshing water is available to cows all day, everyday.

Feed rations are altered periodically based on weather and the cows' nutritional requirements during each phase of her milking cycle.

Prior to milking, a cow's udder is thoroughly cleaned, dried and massaged with towels. Antiseptic skin conditioners are applied to the udder before and after milking to keep the cow's udder healthy.

To make sure their cows have the best of everything, dairy farmers hire consultants. Dubbed 'Dairy Diagnostic Teams' in the industry, teams often include a nutritionist, veterinarian, and a fellow dairy farmer.

Cows like cooler weather, so dairy farmers provide fans and water misters on hot summer days to keep their cows cool and comfortable.

Dairy farmers entice their cows to rest often by making the lounge areas appealing with bedding, including mattresses and soft sand. For a cow, everyday is like a day at the beach.

Cows' hooves are trimmed to ensure that their feet don't hurt. It's like getting a pedicure, minus the nail polish.

