

What do dairy cows eat?



Hay from grass or legumes such as alfalfa

Feeds that people can't eat . . .



Silage (feed preserved via fermentation) from grasses, alfalfa, or the whole corn plant



Grass from pastures
These forages are often grown on land that isn't suitable for row crops.

including leftovers from food processing . . .

People eat

Cooking oil from soybeans
Sugar from sugar beets
Beer from barley
Orange juice
Sugar from corn
Baked goods, candy
Almonds

Cows are great at recycling!

Dairy cows eat

Soybean meal
Beet pulp
Brewers grains
Citrus pulp
Corn gluten feed
Waste products
Almond hulls



and from other manufacturing.

Cotton for clothes
Corn ethanol

Whole cottonseed
Dried distillers grains



Dairy cow diets are carefully balanced.

Forage is the basis. Then other ingredients, such as those listed above and common feeds such as corn and soybeans, are added for the right amount of protein, fiber, minerals, etc.

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