

# What Do Dairy Cows Eat?

## Feeds that people can't eat . . .



Hay from grass or legumes such as alfalfa



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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