Welcome to the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center Farm

Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin

Much of the feed for cows, mainly corn and alfalfa, is preserved as silage and stored in these tall silos, in long silage bags, or in bunkers.

Dairy cows produce milk that is made into nutritious food for people.

The USDFRC dairy farm is different from most farms because scientific research is conducted here, including research that helps improve the environment.
Because they have a special stomach with a “rumen,” cows are able to eat lots of things that humans can’t eat and turn it into nutritious milk. They also eat waste products from human food, fiber, and fuel industries, such as citrus pulp, cottonseed, distillers grains, and almond hulls.

Baby calves each have their own house called a calf hutch.

The girl calves, or “heifers,” graze on pasture for part of the year. Sometimes they’re used in grazing research trials, too.
The 3 most popular forages fed to cows are corn silage, alfalfa (hay & silage) and grass (pasture &hay).

Farmers and researchers are finding ways to feed cows and manage manure in ways that do a better job of protecting our environment.

**Nutrient Cycle**

1. Crop **nutrients** are harvested and fed to cows.
2. Cows put **nutrients** into food we eat.
3. **Nutrients** that cows don’t use go into manure.
4. Manure spread on fields gives **nutrients** to crops.

We all need **nutrients**: crops, cows, and people.
WORD FIND

Draw a line to match the products people use to the leftovers cows eat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People eat, drink, or use:</th>
<th>Cows eat/recycle what’s left over:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>almonds</td>
<td>citrus pulp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cotton fiber</td>
<td>bakery waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orange juice</td>
<td>candy waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sugar from beets</td>
<td>dried distillers grains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethanol for fuel</td>
<td>whole cottonseed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cakes &amp; cookies</td>
<td>almond hulls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>candy</td>
<td>beet pulp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Draw a line from each word to the correct bucket.

- yogurt
- hay
- silage
- butter
- cheese
- alfalfa
- grass
- ice cream
- cottonseed

feed cows eat

dairy products people eat

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

The Dairy Forage Research Farm is operated jointly by the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center/USDA Agricultural Research Service and the University of Wisconsin-Madison/Agricultural Research Stations S8822 Sunset Dr. (off of Hwy. 78), Prairie du Sac, WI (608) 643-2438 www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/madison/dfrc

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