

## Inspiration for activities & demonstrations\*

### Demonstrations

Milking demonstration. If you have a herringbone parlour you could clean one side as a viewing gallery with cows being milked on the other side. You could use a portable milking machine.

Calf tagging. Butter churning/making

### Talk about

The milking process, feeds used, different breeds, artificial insemination, genetics, the breeding cycle. Your system - extensive, more intensive, high input/output. Managing manure, heat exchange and bulk tanks, pasteurization. Animal welfare - hoof trimming, hoof care, dehorning, mastitis. Daily routines and the people involved, your vet. The pricing challenges of milking in 21st century.

### Displays

Products connected to milk.

Tools and equipment used.

Different feed grains and supplements used.

Poster of different dairy breeds.

Photos of the cows and farm over the year.

### Questions to ask visitors

How many different breeds of dairy cow there are?

What type of breed do I use and why?

What foodstuffs rely on milk in some form?

Can we produce milk without calves?

How many calves can a cow have in its life?

What time of year do you think we have calves?

How much do you pay for milk? How much do I get paid?

### Activity 1: 'Butter making' (3+)

#### Materials

Small milk bottles or clean jars with lids, cream.

#### Instructions

Pour cream into bottles/jars. Tighten lid. Shake vigorously!

### Activity 2: 'Model milking cow' (8+)

Full instructions to build one can be found here:

[www.face-online.org.uk/resources/how-to-make-a-model-milking-cow](http://www.face-online.org.uk/resources/how-to-make-a-model-milking-cow)

#### Instructions

Set up your milking cow. Mix up powdered milk - you could get a visitor to help with this. A milking stool is a nice touch. Let visitors have a go at milking. Have clusters nearby to show what is actually used in a modern parlour, including iodine, wipes etc and use these props as discussion points whilst visitors are waiting to have a go at milking.

### Activity 3: 'Pin the cow tail' (3+)

A fun activity for children. Same principle as pinning the tail on a donkey. Follow up with making 3D cows for younger children (help with scissors needed) using template found at: [www.face-online.org.uk/resources/3d-cut-out-farm-animals](http://www.face-online.org.uk/resources/3d-cut-out-farm-animals)

### Activity 4: 'Dairy Sequencing cards' (8+)

Provide the children with a set of cards explaining they show the things that take place on the farm. See if they can put the cards in an order that tells the story of the farm to make a milk production process sequence. Here are some suggestions for the images you can use. This activity can take place after a tour to see what children can remember.

#### Materials

A set of 10-15 photos from around your dairy farm relating to farm activities (dependent on age and ability as to how many steps you include).

#### Instructions

1. Place the cards jumbled on a table or similar flat space.
2. Ask visitors to identify the pictures and say what each is about in the milk story.
3. Put the cards in an order that tells the story of milk for this farm.

**Suggested images:** Milking cows, AI straw, calves, calf feeder, parlour, cluster unit, heat exchanger, bulk tank, tanker, supermarket/shop, bottle of milk, followers, feed, pasture, silage, slurry pit/lagoon, tractor spreading slurry.

The Back British Farming campaign website [www.nfuonline.com/backbritishfarming](http://www.nfuonline.com/backbritishfarming) lists the many reasons why British farming should be backed and how you can show your support.

For more information about LEAF and LEAF Marque and how to support our work, please visit [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)

\*Text kindly supplied by FACE (Farming and Countryside Education)



## Key messages

- The average lifespan of a dairy cow is about six and a half years.
- The majority of British dairy cows eat grass during the summer and silage (preserved grass or maize) in the winter. This is usually supplemented with dry feeds such as cereals and protein feeds with added vitamins and minerals.
- We buy enough dairy products every year to fill nearly 4,500 Olympic-size swimming pools!
- Holstein-Friesian cows (the black and white ones) is the most common breed and represents 90% of the British herd. Other breeds include Ayrshire, Jersey and Guernsey.
- The average herd size in Britain is 123 cows.

## Speak Out top tips

- Be aware of background noise - pick a spot where everyone can hear you
- Create a circle – put an umbrella in the ground and ask people to stand round it; stand so that no one has your back to them
- Keep it personal – about you and your farm; it will be more memorable
- Be positive – if you are asked a negative question, turn it round and talk about the good things you are doing
- Keep out the jargon – a drill and headland mean something different; explain the terms you use e.g. an agronomist is a crop doctor, an acre is just over a football pitch
- Make your story relevant – start by talking about food and how your visitors benefit from your produce, rather than starting off talking about farming
- Use props – to illustrate what you are saying
- Talk with everyone – look at everyone, not just the people at the front
- Ask your visitors questions – interact with them, it will help keep their interest
- Engage the senses – encourage listeners to look, listen, smell and touch things to keep people engaged.

## Health & Safety

- If you allow visitors to touch your animals, hand washing facilities, signage and supervision are essential
- You must provide: running water, liquid soap and paper towels
- Anti-bacterial hand gels are NOT a suitable alternative to hand washing
- Helpers need to encourage and supervise thorough hand washing
- Locate eating areas away from animal contact areas
- Eating and smoking in animal contact areas should be forbidden to avoid hand to mouth contact
- Ensure animals have clean, fresh bedding and that no bedding protrudes into walk ways
- Ensure yards, walk ways, gates and railings are clean – watch for areas of faecal seepage
- Provide a tap and brushes for visitors to wash mud off boots and pushchairs, followed by hand washing
- Make sure the event is insured and that a risk assessment has been carried out (if you are a helper, please read it)

Read the industry code of practice: 'Preventing or controlling ill health from animal contact at visitor attractions.'

For more health and safety information see the Open Farm Sunday website: [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org)

