WVMA
WISCONSIN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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Presented by

Dairy Cattle Veterinary Medicine in Wisconsin

Cows Need Doctors Too!
Activity Book

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Cows Need Doctors Too!
Activity Book
Farmers provide their cattle plenty of feed and water, and a regular visit from the veterinarian.  
*Cows have doctors, too!*
The veterinarian goes to the farm to care for the cows. They carry medical supplies in their truck.
Newborn calves drink milk, just like you. When calves grow up, they will eat grains, alfalfa and other plants to make milk and beef.
Veterinarians help farmers keep their cattle healthy with vaccinations and check-ups. Some veterinarians bring a veterinary technician along to the farm to help, just like a nurse!
Cattle sometimes get sick and need a visit from their doctor. The veterinarian first examines the sick cow, then treats with medicine or performs surgery.

Veterinarians help farmers make responsible choices for treating and raising their cattle to produce safe food.
Veterinarians work with computers to help farmers keep track of their cattle. Pregnant cows are examined with an ultrasound machine, the same type of device doctors use to examine a human mother and her baby. Veterinarians do research to discover new and better ways to take care of cattle.

Get the veterinarian to the cow at the end of the maze. On the way, be sure to pass through the microscope, computer, calf, and stethoscope!
Amazing Dairy Facts!

Dairy cows are unique creatures
* There are six main breeds of dairy cows: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey and Milking Shorthorn. A seventh, Red and White, is a variation of the Holstein breed.
* Males are called bulls. Females, prior to giving birth, are called calves or heifers. After they give birth, female dairy animals are called cows.
* The average mature dairy cow weighs about 1,400 pounds.
* Cows can smell something up to 6 miles away!
* Cows have 32 teeth: 8 incisors on the bottom front, 6 molars on the top and bottom of each side, and a tough area of skin called a dental pad instead of top front teeth.
* The average body temperature of a cow is 101.5°F.
* Contrary to popular belief, cows do not have 4 stomachs; they have 4 digestive compartments: (1) The rumen holds up to 50 gallons of partially digested food. This is where cud comes from. Good bacteria in the rumen help digest the cow’s food and provide protein for the cow. (2) The reticulum is sometimes called the hardware stomach, because if cows accidently eat hardware or small piece of metal, it will often lodge here. A pill-like magnet is given to each cow to attract any stray metal pieces she might eat to help keep her safe. (3) The omasum is sort of like a filter. (4) The abomasum is like our stomach.

An average dairy cow diet
* Cows drink about 35 gallons of water a day – the equivalent of a bathtub full of water.
* A cow that is milking eats about 100 pounds each day of feed, which is a combination of hay, grain, silage and protein (such as soybean meal), plus vitamins and minerals.
* Farmers employ professional animal nutritionists to develop scientifically formulated, balanced and nutritious diets for their cows.

Milk – Nature’s most perfect food
* Milk is rich in vitamins and minerals. Three servings of dairy products are recommended every day.
* Low fat dairy has been shown to aid in weight loss programs for adults.
* Each day, the average U.S. dairy cow produces about 7.6 gallons of milk, enough for 40 people to enjoy three 8-oz. glasses per day.
* It takes 21.2 pounds of whole milk to make one pound of butter.
* It takes 12 pounds of whole milk to make one gallon of ice cream; vanilla is America’s favorite ice cream flavor.
* All 50 states in the United States have dairy farms, producing 23 billion total gallons of milk each year.
* Milk and milk products provide 73% of the calcium in our food supply.
* Most dairy cows are milked two or three times per day. On average, a cow will produce six to seven gallons of milk each day. Cows are referred to as the foster mothers of the human race because they produce most of the milk that people drink.

Beef - Provides energy and nutrients for a busy life
* A 3-ounce serving of lean beef provides 25 grams (about half) of the daily value of protein, which is one of the most significant nutrients.
* Beef is full of ZIP. Zinc, iron, and protein.
* B vitamins in beef help to give you the energy you need to tackle a busy day.