Wow that Cow!

What cattle do for our lives and world.

Iowa Beef Industry Council
WOW! Cows live on Iowa farms.
This is a beef cow. They give us meat.
This cow is a dairy cow. They give us milk. Her breed is Holstein.
Just like people, cows come in different colors, shapes and sizes. Different kinds of cattle are called **breeds**. Cattle is a word used to describe two or more cows.
Dairy cows give us foods made with milk. Beef cows give us foods made with beef. **What are other milk and beef foods?**

**Dairy Foods**
- Milk
- Cheese
- Ice Cream

**Beef Foods**
- Hamburgers
- Meatballs
- Steak
A calf is a baby cow. It weighs about 80 pounds when born.
Newborn calves get milk, or **nurse** from their mother, a cow.
Girl calves are **heifers**.
They will become mother **cows** and have babies.
Bulls are the fathers. Wow! Bulls are big.
Calves stop drinking their mothers milk at about 6 months old. They are weaned when they eat and drink on their own.
Farmers care for their cattle. They give them food, housing, and keep them healthy.
Farmers check their cattle everyday to make sure the animals are eating and drinking.
The farmer uses ear tags to know each animal.
When animals get sick, farmers call animal doctors, who are called **veterinarians**, to help make their cattle get well.
In the spring and summer, cattle eat grass in a **pasture**. A pasture is a field of grass.
In the fall, cattle can eat cornstalks in the cornfields.
Cattle can live outside all year long. Their hair grows thicker and longer in the winter to keep them warm.
Farmers cut grass and hay and roll it into bales. Cattle eat hay in the winter when no grass is growing.
The farmer grows corn in cornfields to feed to cattle. The corn is ground to make it easier to eat. This corn is not like the sweetcorn we eat.
WOW! Cattle can eat grass, hay, and corn because they have a stomach with four parts. People can’t eat these things.
Cattle eat their food, swallow it and then burp it up and chew it some more. This is called **chewing cud**.
Cattle give us beef to eat, like this cheeseburger. The meat comes from beef cattle. The cheese comes from dairy cattle.
Now that you have learned about cows, you can say WOW! THAT COW!
Brought to you by the
Iowa Beef Industry Council

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For more information:
http://www.iabeef.org
http://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com

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