

Exploring Manitoba's Dairy Industry

TEACHER GUIDE (Gr 1)

Agriculture is an essential industry that we all rely on to provide us with food for our tables. Food that helps us maintain a well-balanced, healthy diet.

Agriculture in the Classroom – Manitoba invites your students to explore the world of dairy. First, students can take a virtual tour of Signer Farms, a local dairy operation in Kleefeld, Manitoba with host dairy farmer, Stefan Signer. Then students can expand their learning with curriculum linked activities.

Students will:

- Explore the production of milk on a local dairy farm
- Learn what dairy cows need to stay safe and healthy - building features, life processes and animal nutrition needs
- Compare life processes between themselves and dairy cows.

Grade 1 Activities

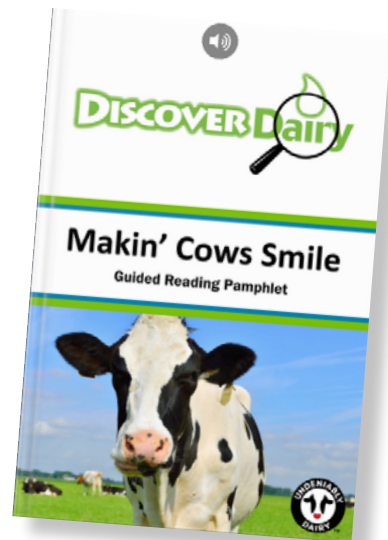
First, watch this virtual tour of Signer Farms, a dairy farm located in Kleefeld, MB (20:38):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nqo1OY-OhHg>

ACTIVITY 1: READ THE BOOK 'MAKIN' COWS SMILE'

Materials Needed

- Electronic book: [Makin' Cows Smile](#)



Procedure

Makin' Cows Smile is a guided reading pamphlet that covers the following topics and asks students the following questions:

Topic	Question
Dairy Farmers: Care for Their Animals	Who are people in your life that keep you safe, happy and healthy?
Dairy Farmers: Feed Their Cows	What nutrients/food groups do you need to remain healthy and strong?
Dairy Farmers: Give Cows a Place to Live	What items keep you clean and comfortable in your home?
Dairy Farmers: Provide Safe Dairy Products	Can you calculate how many glasses of milk a cow produces each day?

Project the book **Makin' Cows Smile** onto a screen and read it to your class, stopping to answer and discuss the questions along the way.

ACTIVITY 2: DESIGN A DAIRY COW BARN

Include everything that is needed to care for the dairy cows.

Materials Needed

- Pencil, coloured pencils/crayons
- Drawing paper or one copy of the [Design Your Barn sheet](#)

Procedure

Review what dairy cows need to stay healthy and happy (i.e. food, water, protection from the weather especially hot and cold temperatures, a clean, dry place to sleep, milking machines, health care). Provide students with drawing materials and tell them to draw a picture of a dairy barn and all the things in the barn that are needed to keep the dairy cows healthy and happy.

Curriculum Outcomes (Gr 1 Activities)

Science		Activities		
		Signer Farm Video	#1	#2
1-1-01	Use appropriate vocabulary related to their investigations of characteristics and needs of living things. Include: characteristic, human, animal, plant, living things, needs, as well as descriptive words relating to life processes.	✓	✓	
1-1-06	Observe and identify similarities in life processes between themselves and other living things. Examples: they eat, sleep, grow, and breathe, and so do other living things.	✓	✓	
1-1-07	Recognize that plants, animals, and humans, as living things, have particular needs. Examples: plants need sunlight and water.	✓	✓	✓
1-1-08	Describe what is needed to care for a pet, a farm animal, or an indoor plant. Examples: provide fresh water for their hamster daily, feed and bed calves regularly.	✓	✓	✓
1-1-11	Design a representation of an environment that meets the needs of a Manitoba animal. Examples: a model, a diagram.			✓
1-4-12	Identify features of buildings that help keep humans sheltered and comfortable throughout daily and seasonal cycles. Examples: furnace, lights, air conditioners, fans, windows, blinds, walls, roof.		✓	✓
1-4-17	Use the design process to construct a device or structure that helps a Manitoba animal adjust to seasonal changes. Examples: winter bird feeder, doghouse, dog “booties” for winter.			✓