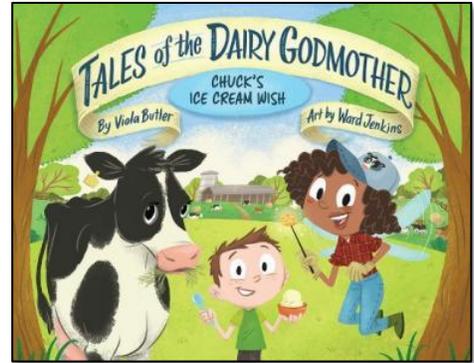


Which Moo for You? Lesson

Procedure

1. After reading the story, Tales of the Dairy Godmother, Chuck's Ice Cream Wish, this follow-up lesson will teach students that there are many different breeds of dairy cows. Since most marketing around dairy involves Holstein (black and white) cows, students are often surprised to find out that there are other breeds that contribute to the dairy industry.
2. Ask students to tell you what a dairy cow looks like. *Accept 1-2 responses.* "Black and white cows" will likely be the answer given.
3. You may hold up the page in the book where the cows are in the pasture and show that there are more than "black and white" cows.
4. Explain that the "black and white" spotted cows are Holsteins and like our fingerprints, no two Holsteins are alike. Their spots are unique, and some farmers can even tell their cows apart by their markings!
5. Display the given images of the different types of dairy cows (included in the Volunteer Kit) and give a brief explanation of each one. Some sample explanations are below if you'd like to use them (some details below come from [UMD Extension AgSploration Lesson, "Moo Who"](#))
 - a. **Black & White or Red & White Holstein** – *This breed originated in Holland and can be either black and white or red and white. They weigh approximately 1,500 pounds! They are the most numerous breed of dairy cattle in the U.S. making up about 90% of U.S. dairy animals. They also produce the largest quantity of milk per cow of all dairy breeds at an average of 6.4 gallons of milk a day.*
 - b. **Jersey** – *This breed originated in the Isle of Jersey off the coast of France. They are fawn color with black points, and the tongue and end of its tail are typically black. They produce the largest percentages of fat and protein in their milk which makes for good ice cream or butter. They are smaller than Holsteins at about 900 pounds and give around 4.5 gallons of milk a day, similar to a Guernsey. Students may have spotted some Jerseys in the story.*



- c. **Ayrshire** – This breed originated in Scotland, and the cattle are red and white. They are known for being hardy, good grazers with superior udder quality. They weigh around 1,200 pounds. They give around 5 gallons of milk a day per cow.
 - d. **Brown Swiss** – These cows originated in Switzerland and are known as the “Big Brown Cows” for their grayish-brown color. They are known for their size, strength, and excellent durability. They weigh around 1,450 pounds. Their milk is excellent for cheese production.
 - e. **Guernsey** – This breed is from the Isle of Guernsey, a small island off the coast of France. They are fawn color with white markings, and their skin and milk is yellowish because of Vitamin A or carotene as part of their diet. They weigh around 1,200 pounds, like the Ayrshire. They make less milk than a Holstein because they make around 4.6 gallons of milk per day.
 - f. **Milking Shorthorn** – This breed originated in England alongside the beef Shorthorn. They are red, white, or speckled (roan). They are known for their versatility and weigh about 1,400 pounds. It was not declared a dairy breed until 1969, but they do give about 4.8 gallons of milk a day.
6. Pass out or display the **Dairy Cow Student Image Sheet** to help students design the dairy cow of their choice on their sheet. Also, direct students to label which type of cow they chose.
 7. Ask students to raise their hand and tell you some new facts they learned about dairy cows. Repeat what they say. This helps students remember these facts.
 8. Encourage students to write three facts they learned about dairy cows (or the dairy industry) from the book or lesson on their **Story Reflection** sheet. Depending on the student’s age and ability, it may be more appropriate for them to draw instead.