



The Nutrition Education People
stldairyCouncil.org

DAIRY COW BREEDS

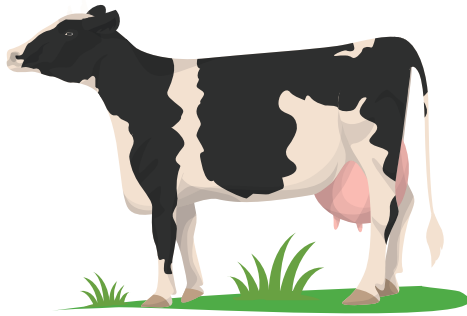


HOLSTEIN

When you think of a dairy cow, you probably picture a black-and-white Holstein. Holsteins are the most popular of the dairy cows in America, and the reason that farmers love them is because they make a lot of milk. In fact, they produce more milk than any other dairy breed.

Fun Fact:

Did you know Holstein cows' spots are like snowflakes? No two are exactly alike.

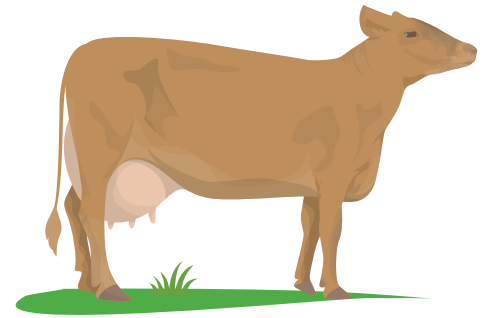


JERSEY

Jersey cows are a smaller breed with soft brown hair and great big beautiful eyes. With Jersey cows, though, it is what is on the inside that counts as they produce some of the richest milk, often used to produce butter and cheese. Calm and friendly, Jersey cows can handle the hot sun pretty well in the summertime.

Fun Fact:

Did you know that some people confuse baby Jersey cows with deer?

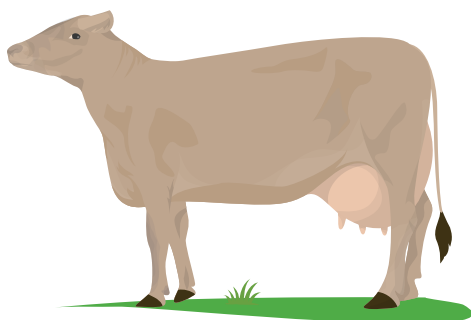


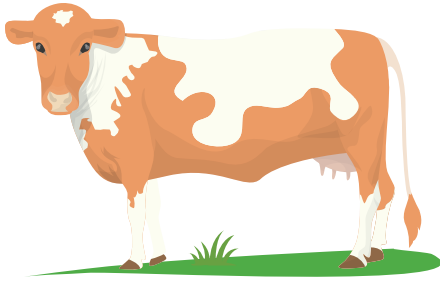
BROWN SWISS

Brown Swiss cows are believed to be the oldest breed of dairy cows. Maybe it is those centuries of wisdom that have made this breed so calm. They are also known for their big furry and fuzzy ears and for being able to make almost as much milk as a Holstein cow. Their milk is ideal for making cheese because of how much protein it has!

Fun Fact:

Brown Swiss have a kind nature and a calm personality.





GUERNSEY

Guernseys are known as “The Royal Breed” thanks to their milk having a golden color, which is due to its high amount of vitamin A. Guernsey cows are from Britain but are believed to have originated from two French breeds. They often have white legs and white areas on their bodies.

Fun Fact:

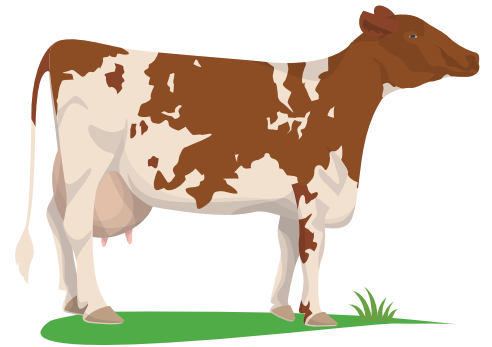
Because of the Guernsey’s golden-colored milk, she earned the nickname “Golden Guernsey.”

AYRSHIRE

Ayrshires (pronounced air-sheers) used to be called Dunlops. They are orangey-brown and white and known for being tough and long-living. Although they tend to have more opinionated personalities than other dairy breeds, Ayrshires adapt easily to their environment.

Fun Fact:

Because of their adaptability, Ayrshires are found in most parts of the world, including Southern Africa.

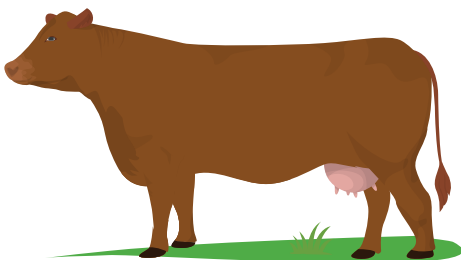


MILKING SHORTHORN

Milking Shorthorns are known for being good grazers that are easy to manage. Large in size, the Milking Shorthorn is white and red, black, or brown in color, but also can be predominantly red with some white markings. Its milk is known for its high protein-to-fat ratio.

Fun Fact:

Milking Shorthorns are part of the Shorthorn cattle breed originally developed for beef production, but it turns out they are very good at milking too!



RED AND WHITE HOLSTEIN

The Red and White Holstein is the most recent breed of cow due to farmers really liking her unique red color. Like their black and white family members, Red and White Holsteins make a lot of milk. They are also known for a strong immune system and don’t mind the heat as much as their black and white cousins do.

Fun Fact:

This breed of cow was not recognized until 1964, so they are the newest breed in the dairy gang!

