

# How Dairy Farmers Keep Cows Comfy

**Chew-ing cud is a sign that cows are content and comfortable.**



Dairy farmers' number one priority is making sure their cows are happy and healthy, and they work hard to keep their cows comfortable from the moment they're born.

**Have you ever thought about being a hoof trimmer when you grow up?**



Cows get regular hoof trims by experts to avoid foot problems and keep them moving. Some barn floors have special grooves so cows don't slip when they're walking.

Dairy farmers work with nutritionists to make sure their cows eat a healthy diet for their whole lives. They also make sure their cows always have plenty of food and water every day.

## From Moo-ternity Ward to Calf Hutch

Just like your mom may have stayed in the maternity ward of a hospital when you were born, dairy farms have a special area for cows to have their babies. These areas are designed to keep mom and calf feeling calm.

To keep calves safe and healthy after birth, they stay in individual calf hutches until they're two months old. In the hutch, they can't get trampled by bigger cows, and there's a lower chance of catching an illness.

## Keeping Cows Comfortable

From the tips of their toes (or rather, hooves) to the tops of their heads, it takes a lot of work to keep cows comfortable.



Many barns have brushes that massage the cows' backs and may even swivel to reach each pesky itch.



Cows are cleaned and sanitized before they get milked.



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## A Bed for Beauty Sleep

Dairy farmers always make sure their cows have a clean, comfortable place to sleep. Many farmers use sand for bedding because it cushions the cows' bodies. It's like they are laying on the beach! Some even have a tool to fluff sand for extra comfort.



Farmers spend a lot of time with their cows and can usually tell right away if they're uncomfortable.



Regular check-ups help the cows stay happy and healthy.

## Not Too Hot, Not Too Cold

Because cows live outside, keeping them cool in the summer and warm in the winter is one of the most important ways dairy farmers make sure their cows are comfortable. They use curtains, fans, and misters in the barns to move the air and keep it cool or warm. If the temperature gets too cold for calves, some farmers give them coats and cow "earmuffs."

