



Cattle

Curriculum Links:

- **Science** Living things
Environmental awareness and care
- **Geography** Human environments
- **SPHE** Myself and the wider world

Lesson objectives:

To revise material covered in Module 1. To discuss what cattle look like and how they behave. To develop awareness of the many foods, products and resources that we get from cattle.

Teacher guidelines

Teachers should ensure that students are familiar with the vocabulary and concepts introduced in the previous module before starting this lesson.

Keywords and concepts introduced in Module 1:

cattle cow bull calf low herd grass hay meat milk

Cattle eat grass and usually live outside in fields. During the winter, they live in sheds and the farmer gives them food like hay to eat. We get meat and milk from cattle. We use milk to make cream, butter yoghurt and cheese.

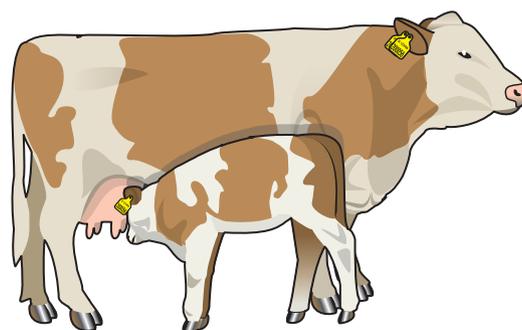
After revision of the above, teachers could discuss the more detailed information below.

Keywords for this lesson:

hooves horns grazing beef cream butter cheese leather

What do cattle look like?

Cattle have four legs and a tail. Their feet are called **hooves**. Most cattle have **horns**, but because these can be dangerous, they are removed when the calf is young. Like humans, all cattle do not look the same. They can be lots of different colours and sizes. The majority of black and white cows that we see in Ireland are called Freisans and they are used to produce milk.



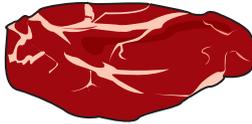
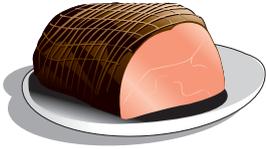
In the field

Cattle are usually kept outside in fields. They spend a lot of time **grazing** (eating grass). They often lick themselves or each other to get clean and to get rid of any insects that might be crawling on their skin. They use their tails to flick away insects.

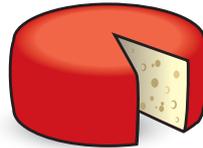


What do we get from cattle?

The meat that we get from cattle is called **beef**. We can cook beef in many different ways, for example roast beef, steak and minced beef.



We get milk from dairy cows. Milk is not just a healthy drink (see Healthy Eating, page 5), milk can be used to make many different things like **cream, butter, cheese, yoghurt, ice cream** and chocolate.



Leather (or animal hide) also comes from cattle skin and it is used to make jackets, shoes, belts, gloves, rugs and furniture coverings.

Suggested activities:

- Photocopy the activity sheet on page 43
- Discuss what cattle look like. Encourage students to use the correct vocabulary. Ask students to draw labelled pictures that will clearly show the ears, eyes, mouth, hooves and tail of the cow
- Sponge painting can be used to make cow print patterns. Compare this with other animal patterns that are found in nature. Discuss the fact that not all cows are black and white
- Compile a list of all the products we get from cattle under the headings 'Food' and 'Leather'. Ask pupils to list different cuts of meat they get from cattle
- Conduct a class survey to find the most popular product made from milk. Students should record all of the products made from milk that they eat in a day. Draw a chart showing the results
- Discuss the fact that people, animals and plants depend on one another and that we rely on farming for food (See 'The Irish farmer', page 2)
- During computer time, investigate the life and work in the day of a farmer. For example, find out how often they must milk cows and how often the milk is collected from the farm etc.
- For extension material, see Modules 3 and 4

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should be able to describe what cattle look like and be aware of the products and resources they give us e.g. milk, meat and leather.

Additional Resources:

- www.agriaware.ie



Cattle

Name: _____

Date: _____

1

Use these words to fill the blanks:
grazing, beef, milk, tails, hooves

Cows feet are called _____.

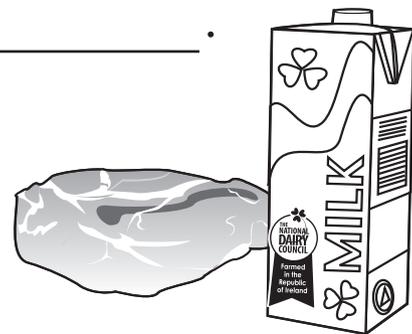
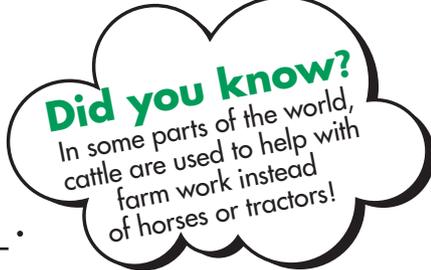
They use their _____ to flick away flies.

They eat grass. This is called _____.

We get meat from cattle.

This meat is called _____.

We get _____ from cattle too!



2

Read the words. Draw the pictures:

Butter	Ice cream	Cheese
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3

What are these three things made from? _____

* hint – this comes from dairy cows.

***To be used with teacher guidelines, page 6**