

From Dairy Farm to You

How does milk get from the farm to you? First, the cows must be milked. Most dairy farmers milk the cows using special machines inside a dairy barn. The milk is pumped into a holding tank. The tank is cold, so the milk stays fresh.



▲ On many dairy farms, cows are milked twice a day.

Next, the milk is pumped into a tank truck. The truck hauls the milk to a processing plant. There, the milk is pasteurized, or treated, to make it safe to drink. It is heated until it is very hot, then quickly cooled. This kills any bad germs in the milk.



▲ Milk is also homogenized, which blends the fat and keeps the cream from rising to the top.

After that, the milk goes into bottles and cartons that have a date on them. The date tells how long the milk will stay fresh. Then, the cartons are sent on their way.

Milk is a good. The people who stack the cartons and the truck driver who hauls them to stores provide a service.



▲ A date stamped on every bottle or carton tells how long the milk will stay fresh.

At last, the milk arrives at the store. Workers place the milk inside large refrigerators to keep it cold.

Finally, you and your family buy the milk and take it home. As you enjoy a cold glass of milk, think about its journey from the dairy farm to you!



▲ Many delicious dairy products are made from milk.