

Flat Aggie Adventures Reproduction

Edition 2



DID YOU KNOW?



Gestation: The process of carrying a calf inside the female cow.



Heifer: Young female cow



Cow: Adult female cow



Calf: Baby cow



Bull: Male cow



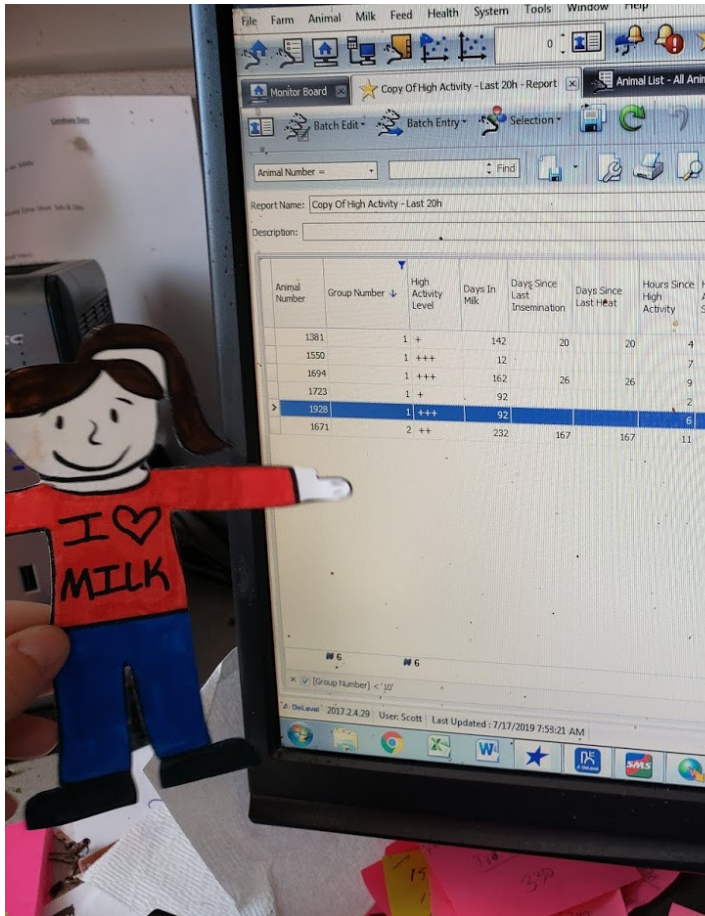
Genetics: Study of how certain traits pass from parent to child.

FAMILY TREE

There are multiple breeds of dairy cattle. Flat Aggie is taking us on a tour of a Holstein (leading milk producer) dairy farm but just like breeds of dogs, breeds of cows are unique in size, shape, color and characteristics. The photograph to the right displays in order Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Milking Shorthorn, and Brown Swiss.



Flat Aggie explains that similar to our family tree, a dairy cow or bull will pass on their traits to their calves. This is through a practice called heredity and we can study what traits the calf will have by examining the cow or bulls genetics. Flat Aggie breeds cows to be strong, high milk producing and docile (well behaved).



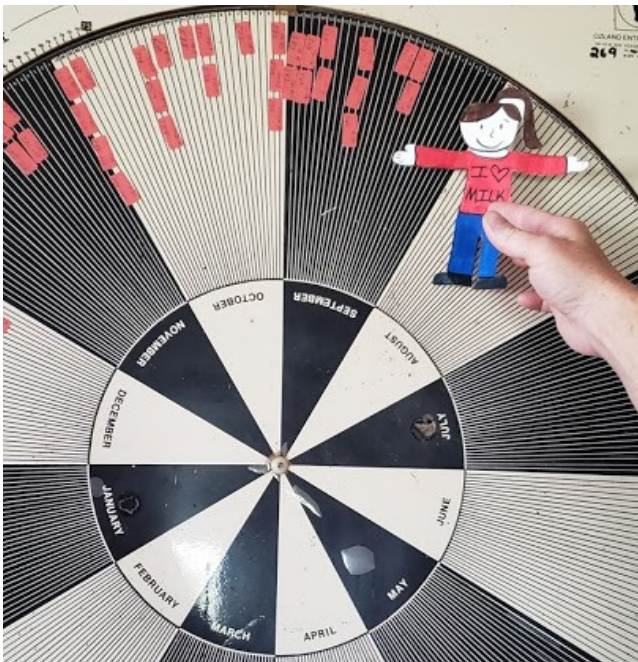
A cow's milk cycle begins by birthing a calf. A cow is pregnant for nine months. A veterinarian will visit the farm midway during the gestation period to do a health check on the cow.

The health check includes an ultrasound that will determine if the cow is pregnant. The veterinarian also shares with Flat Aggie when she expects the cow to give birth.

Flat Aggie gave us and inside look into the technology she uses to help identify which cows are ready for breeding. Some farmers use the calendar below but more and more farmers are switching to computer programs to keep their breeding data organized.

CAREER CORNER: VETERINARIAN

A veterinarian is a professional trained to provide medical treatment and care to animals. Vets provide routine checkups and emergency care to sick and injured animals. There are vets who are specialized in large, small and wild animals.



FUN DAIRY FACTS

- The temperature of a cow's body is 101. 5 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A baby is called a calf.
- A calf can walk within an hour after birth.
- Cows are pregnant for 9 months.

JOKE OF THE DAY

What does a bull put on his head when he wants to listen to music?

Steer phones!

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