



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Adopt-A-Cow: Dairy

LESSON 2: WHO AM I?



KEY TERMS

Antibodies, Nutrients, Veterinarians,
Ear Tags

EDUCATION STANDARDS

Educational Technology

- ET.EL.2, ET.CT.1

English Language Arts

- SL.1, SL.2, SL.3

Health Education

- 1.2.3, 3.2.1, 5.2.1

Mathematics

- K.CC.B.4

Science

- K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, K-2-ETS1-1

TIME NEEDED

Lesson and Video: 10 minutes

Ear Tag Activity: 20 minutes

Naming Activity: 20 minutes

MATERIAL LIST

Materials for the whole class:

- Computer/Projector/TV/
Promethean board
- PowerPoint

Materials for the individuals or teams

- Ear tag or copies of ear tag
handout (Appendix A)
- Markers, colored pencils, or
crayons if using ear tag handout



EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES

OBJECTIVE 1 – Youth will meet their cow and calf pair through an instructional video.

OBJECTIVE 2 – Youth will learn about what happens to ensure the health of the baby calf once it is born.

OBJECTIVE 3 – Youth will explain the importance of unique and individual identification for each animal.

BACKGROUND

While newborn calves can generally walk within an hour of being born, the calf still requires care from either their mother or caregiver. Newborn calves need to consume colostrum, a milk that has a high concentration of antibodies and nutrients, within its first hours of life as the calf's abilities to absorb the antibodies decreases over time.

Within these first hours, ranchers will also weigh these calves and provide them with their identification. When a human baby is born, parents identify them by giving them a name. Similarly, dairy farmers provide their calves with an identification number. This number is put on an ear tag that the calf will then wear for its entire life. This ID allows ranchers to track information specific to that animal. Similar to a human medical record, ranchers keep growth rates and medication records for each animal.

Ear tags can come in different colors such as blue, green, red, yellow, white. Some farmers and ranchers use letters and/or numbers in tagging their livestock. A letter can correspond to the year when the cow was born while other farmers use numbers to indicate the year born. Ear tags make it possible to track the progress of the herd and create an easy method of retrieving an animal's record.

VOCABULARY

Colostrum – The first milk produced by the mother. It is very nutrient dense and contains antibodies to protect the baby from diseases.

Antibodies – Protective proteins utilized by the body to remove bacteria, fungi, viruses, and toxins.

Nutrients – A substance that provides nourishment for the growth and maintenance of the body.

Veterinarian – A person whose job it is to care for the health of animals.

Ear Tag – A plastic or metal identification object placed in the ear of domesticated animal.

Electronic Identification (EID) Tags – Ear tags that can be used to electronically identify and track the animal's health and performance history.

ACTIVITY PREPARATION

Prepare for Ear Tag Design Activity

For this activity, paper ear tags or livestock ear tags can be utilized.

- Paper ear tags can be printed using the template included with this lesson. For these ear tags, markers, crayons, and colored pencils can be utilized to create the tags.
- Livestock ear tags can be purchased from a local farm store or veterinary supply store like Runnings, Fleet Farm, and Tractor Supply Company. For these ear tags, permanent markers or paint pens will work best
- There are many types of ear tags available. If possible, purchase tags with button backs. This is because the piercing component of these tags is separate and will remove the risk of sharp items around youth. If these are not available, it is suggested that the piercing portion of the tag be removed.
- To enhance the experience, consider also purchasing the tagger, to demonstrate how ear tags are put on calves. For this demonstration, tags can be put onto a piece of cardboard.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

I. Review Lesson 1 (Slide 2)

During lesson 1, we discussed that milk and other dairy products come from cows, specifically dairy cows. We also talked about the different types of dairy cows and their babies.

Today we are going to learn a little bit more about Dairy Farms and meet a special dairy calf and her mom.

II. Video: (Slide 3) (3 min)

Watch the video that introduces the class to their cow/calf pair. (youtu.be/lc4azN_tsEM)

Reflect on the following items discussed in the video:

- a. What are some of the things that we learned in the video?
 - Farmers work to keep their cows healthy and safe.
 - Farmers keep safety by wearing closed toed shoes.
 - Newborn calves are cared for in a nursery.
 - Farmers feed baby calves with bottles
 - Newborn calves get colostrum when they are born to help keep them healthy.
 - Calves receive ear tags to track them as they grow.
 - Once calves leave the nursery, they get solid foods along with their bottles.

III. Ear Tag Design (Slide 4):

Encourage students to come up with their own ear tag design.

They could identify their imaginary herd by the following:

- Names



- Numbers
- Symbols

To make this a collaborative activity, you can have youth work in a small group to create something that represents their herd. They may select a small symbol or a pattern that could be used on their tags to make them identifiable from the rest of the 'herds' in their classroom.

IV. Name Your Cow and Calf

As a class name your cow and calf. Some ways that you can do this is by having youth brainstorm ideas and then vote on them or have youth put names into a hat and draw one out for the cow and one for the calf.

EXTENDED LEARNING

Moo Mail – Do you or your students have a burning question that you would like to ask about your cow or calf? If so, send us a letter and we will answer your questions. Send your Moo Mail to:

Christine.Wood@sdstate.edu

Or send us mail at:
SDSU Extension – MOO MAIL
c/o Christine Wood
4101 W 38th St. Ste 103
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

LESSON FEEDBACK

In an effort to continuously improve the content provided, we have developed a brief feedback form for educators to utilize. Scan this QR code and take the survey to let us know what you think of this lesson.



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