



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Adopt-A-Cow: Dairy

LESSON 3: MY LIVING ENVIRONMENT



KEY TERMS

Habitat, Environment

EDUCATION STANDARDS

English Language Arts

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

Educational Technology

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

Science

- K-LS1-1

TIME NEEDED

Lesson and Video: 10 minutes

Activity: 30-40 minutes

MATERIAL LIST

Materials for the whole class:

- Computer
- Projector/TV/Promethean board
- PowerPoint

Materials for the individuals or teams

- Paper
- Pencil
- Construction Materials (See Activity Preparation)



EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES

OBJECTIVE 1 – Youth will visit the living environments of their cow and calf through an instructional video.

OBJECTIVE 2 – Youth will make observations about what their cow and calf need to survive and relate that back to themselves and other animals.

OBJECTIVE 3 – Youth will apply what they have learned to make a model of their calf's environment.

BACKGROUND

All living things need certain things to survive. Cattle need to have food, water, and shelter to remain healthy and thriving. In this lesson youth will explore the environment in which dairy cattle live.

One component that is unique to dairy cattle is the milking parlor. This is the location where the cows go to be milked. Milking parlors came into wide usage during the World War II era. Prior to the use of milking parlors, farmers moved from cow to cow and carried the milk to the milk house. The milking parlor reduced the labor required to milk cows. In a parlor system, the cows come to the machine and the machines carry the milk to the milk house.

VOCABULARY

Habitat – The natural home or environment in which plants, animals, or organisms live. It is comprised of the biological components of an environment.

Environment – The surroundings in which a person, plant or animal lives. This includes all the biological (living), physical (non-living), and man-made components that make up the surroundings.

ACTIVITY PREPARATION

Be prepared to discuss the various components related to the cattle's environment.

Decide if you are going to have youth draw their calf's environment or build it. If they are drawing, they will simply need a pencil and paper; however, if you choose to have them build it you will need to gather some construction materials. Some suggested items include:

- Scissors
- Glue or Tape
- Construction Paper
- Fabric
- Cotton Balls
- Pipe Cleaners
- Cardboard
- Craft Sticks

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

- I. Review Lesson 2 (Slide 2)
- II. Video: (Slide 3) (2 min)
Watch the video that introduces the class to their cow/calf pair. (youtu.be/nE4OqKRvgiU)
- III. Video Review (Slide 4)
Reflect on the following items discussed in the video:
 - a. What do people need to survive? Food, Water, Shelter
 - b. What do animals need to survive? Food, Water, Shelter
 - c. What is the cow's environment?
 - Food
 - Water
 - Shelter (milking parlor, bedding, cleanliness, etc.)
 - d. What is the calf's environment?
 - Food
 - Water
 - Shelter (bedding, cleanliness, etc.)
- IV. Activity: Environment/Habitat Design
Have youth apply what they learned about their calf's environment to design one. This can be done as a group or individually. They should include everything that is needed to meet the calf's necessities (a place for food, a place for water, and shelter). You may choose to have them simply draw their calf's environment or to construct it.
- V. Design Share
Have youth share their designs.
 - a. What items did they include, why?
 - b. Would the environment have everything they needed to survive?



EXTENDED LEARNING

Planet Protectors: Dynamic Dairy Farmers – Dairy farmers strive to create sustainable environments on their farms. Cattle themselves are great recyclers. To learn more about Dairy Recyclers, check out this lesson: ymiclassroom.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/udim_recyclers-kit.pdf

A Day on the Farm: Minecraft (30 minutes) – Minecraft is a wonderful way to engage youth in learning. Through this lesson, youth will utilize Minecraft to learn more about the versatility of milk, the nutrition of milk, and about life on a working farm. education.minecraft.net/lessonsupportfiles/6049_Dairycraft_LessonPlan_ADayOnTheFarmv2.pdf

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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