

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!

Claiborne County  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### OBJECTIVE:

Students will understand and appreciate the historical, environmental, and economic significance that cattle have on humans.

Students will understand the difference between dairy cattle, beef cattle and cattle used for draft.

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!

Cows and people have had a long history with each other. Cows were first tamed by people as far back as 10,000 years ago.

In ancient times, cattle were used by people for food, to pull carts and plows, for clothing and for religious purposes. Even today, cattle are considered to be sacred in some parts of the world and some people use cattle to measure their wealth, kind of like money.

Cattle have supplied all three of man's basic needs: food, shelter and clothing.

The cattle that we have today came from a single ancestor: the wild Aurochs (or-ocks). The Aurochs was a very large wild form of cattle that was found in Asia during the last ice age. This animal stood 6 feet tall at its shoulder. Very few modern cattle breeds are this big. Why do we not want our cattle this big today?

They are hard to handle, eat too much, and take too long to grow up.

The historical significance of cattle is explained on this slide. Take the time to explain each of the paragraphs as they appear. Stress that cattle have supplied and continue to supply our three basic needs (depending on where you live in the world).

Point out the ancestor species of our modern cattle, the Aurochs, and how to pronounce it. They will need to know this for the Jeopardy game.

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!



This is a cave painting from Lascaux, France showing an aurochs. This was painted during the last ice age, between 15,000 and 20,000 years ago.

This is a very famous cave painting from France. It was painted by prehistoric man about 20,000 years ago. It is a painting of the wild aurochs from prehistoric Europe during the last ice age.

This shows that man has had a close relationship with cattle for a very long time.

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!

From the Aurochs descended two separate kinds of cattle that we know today.

Beef-type cattle were developed for their meat.

Dairy-type cattle were developed for their milk.

All of our cattle breeds in the United States today fit into either the beef-type or dairy-type groups of cattle.

A breed of cattle is a group of animals that look alike, are the same size, and produce babies that look just like the parents.

Can you name some breeds of cattle?

This slide points out the difference between beef cattle and dairy cattle. It also defines what a breed of animal means.

Ask the class to name some breeds of cattle. If they are unsure about what a 'breed' is, explain it in terms of dogs. The kids will be able to name and understand dog breeds. Then try to get them thinking about cattle breeds.

Most will think of Angus cattle. The next couple of slides will show the common types of beef and dairy cattle in the United States.

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!



Angus



Charolais



Gelbvieh



Hereford



Salers



Simmental

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!



Ayrshire



Brown Swiss



Guernsey



Holstein



Jersey



Milking Shorthorn

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!

Can anyone tell us why raising cattle might be called an "ecologically friendly" farming activity?

Here are some things to think about concerning cows and the environment.

- Cows can eat grass and turn it into meat and milk. People cannot eat grass so cows turn a low-protein plant like grass into high-protein foods like meat and milk that we can eat.
- Grass grows well in areas where we cannot grow other crops. Land that is too steep for us to plow, and would suffer from bad erosion if we did plow it, can grow grass and cows can walk around and eat the grass.
- Some areas of the world are too cold, windy or dry to grow crops but still can grow grass. In these areas, cows can be raised along with sheep and goats. This way, we can produce food in areas that cannot grow anything but grass.

This slide explains why raising cattle is an ecologically sound method of producing food.

As each paragraph comes up, explain it to the class and then ask the class for comments or questions.

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!

Cows are a special kind of animal call 'ruminants.'

A ruminant animal has a 4-chambered stomach. This allows ruminants to eat plant materials that are high in cellulose or fiber.

This allows cattle to eat grass that humans cannot digest and then turn that grass into very nutritious meat and milk that humans can digest.

This slide explains that cows are ruminants. That means they have a four-chambered stomach and they can digest the cellulose in grass that humans cannot.

Ask the class to name some other animals that are ruminants. Answers may be deer, sheep, goats, elk, moose, camels, etc.

This list does not include horses or pigs. They are not ruminants. They are actually called pseudo-ruminants and have a two chambered stomach.

## IT'S A COW'S WORLD!

We are now going to play a game to test your knowledge of cows. This a "Jeopardy-type" game and we will divide into three teams. Each team will have a team captain and that captain will select the questions for the team and will also give the answer. The captain will ask the team for help in determining the correct answer for each question. If one team gives the wrong answer, the question goes on to the next team until someone gets the right answer or all three teams have had a chance. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Good Luck!

This slide transitions to the jeopardy game. There is both single and double jeopardy files on the disc. Use the files marked: ppt. and not pptx.

Make sure you explain the Bread baking and Model Vehicle contests the next slide before changing files for jeopardy.

**SEWING CONTEST CATEGORIES:**

<b>Clothing</b> .....	Any article of clothing. Examples could include shorts, vest, skirts, etc.
<b>Toys</b> .....	Stuffed toys, doll clothes, or other cloth toys
<b>Clothing Accessories</b> .....	Caps, hats, aprons, purses, ponchos, travel kits, belts, backpacks, etc.
<b>Other Sewn items</b> .....	Pillows, quilts, or any sewn item that has not been listed.
<b>Miscellaneous</b> .....	Cross stitch, embroidery, crochet, knitting

# Sewing Contest

**SEWING CONTEST GENERAL RULES:**

1. Name, grade, and club name must be attached to the entry.
2. The 4-H member must sew the entry on his or her own. Entries can be hand or machine sewn. 4-H member's may receive guidance and direction from a parent or adult; however, the actual construction must be the work of the 4-H member.
3. One item may be entered in each category.
4. Items may also be entered in the 4-H section of the Claiborne County Fair in August. Clothing items may be entered in the Regional Fashion Show held during Fashion and Design Conference.

## Remember to enter your photos and sewing in the Claiborne County Fair!

**PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

“Say Cheese, Please!” Take your best snapshot and bring it to your March club meeting. **Photographs must be taken by you.** They should have been made after the 2011 Photography Contest.

Add a short caption or title under your photo. Select a photo that shows some imagination! Get close to a building and be careful of the light in the background when taking photos outside.

The categories are:

1. Animal(s)
2. People or Person
3. Building(s)
4. Landscape
5. Plant(s)

Label your photos with the category on the back. 4-H members may enter only one photo in each category. Photos must not be mounted together on a poster board.

(Photos must be labeled by category with the 4-H member's first and last name.)

# Photography Contest