

# Milking a Cow

Milk

Farm Work

## Science Film Festival Films

 [The Show with the Elephant - Milk Special](#)

### Learning Goals

- To understand that milk comes from a cow's udder.
- Practicing milking improves hand coordination and facilitates appreciating farm work.

### Explanation of Scientific Principles

A cow is ready to be milked when her udder is full. The farmer has some flexibility when making a schedule of cow milking times. Usually, cows are milked in the early morning and again in the late afternoon. It is possible to milk a cow by hand. However, milking a whole herd of cows twice a day in this manner would take a great deal of time and energy. Before the invention of milking machines, people milked their dairy cows by hand by squeezing gently on the cow's teats using the thumb and forefinger.

### Explanation of Connection to the Film

In the film, the farmer shows us how hand milking used to be done. All he needs is a cow, a bucket and two trained hands. He keeps pulling on the teats and the milk squirts out. Here's a quick easy activity for hand coordination that's sure to get a couple of laughs too!

### Materials

**Each Squeeze model is for group of 8 students:**

- One plastic chair
- One rubber glove
- One plastic bucket
- 500ml water (with white color mix) or milk
- One needle



## Preparation

- 1) Take a needle and prick the end of one finger of the rubber glove. Depending on the thickness of your gloves, you may need to stretch the hole with the needle in a circular motion to widen the hole.
- 2) Fill the glove with water (or milk) and tie the open end of the glove so that it holds the liquid without spilling.
- 3) Hang it on the chair with a picture of a cow stick on that.
- 4) Now the fun can begin! Allow the child to grasp and squeeze the finger downward to simulate milking a cow. You can attempt to fill a small glass with the "milk."

# Milking a Cow

1

Ask students which part of cow' body they think the milk that they drink comes from.

2

Then show them the model of "milking cow".

3

Ask few students to squeeze the milk from cow's teats. Then ask their opinion that how to squeeze the cow easy and collect more milk.

4

Focus on 2 technique of hand milking.

5

Let the children perform the activity one by one. Each student has one minute to practice.

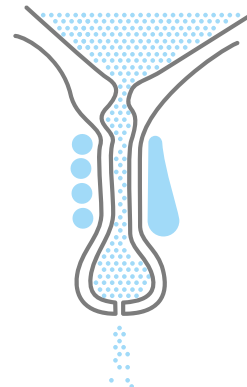
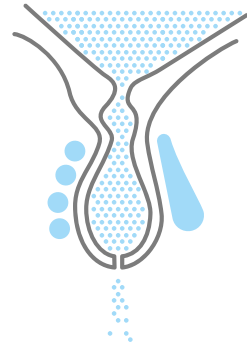
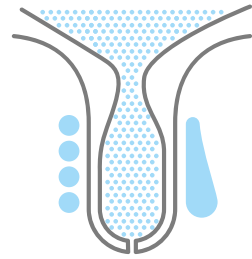
6

Explain to the students that the milk come from the udder and teats of female cow.

7

Remove the model and ask the children describe process of hand milking.

This Diagram shows the action of the hand and how milk is drawn out of the teats during milking



→ [aitc.okstate.edu/lessons/extras/facts/dairy.html](http://aitc.okstate.edu/lessons/extras/facts/dairy.html)

→ [www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Portals/0/InfoPaks/Cattle\\_handmilking.pdf](http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Portals/0/InfoPaks/Cattle_handmilking.pdf)

→ [animals.mom.me/hand-milking-techniques-cows-6220.html](http://animals.mom.me/hand-milking-techniques-cows-6220.html)