

Dairy Cattle

1. There are 7 dairy breeds in Canada: Holstein, Jersey, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn and Canadienne.
2. Approximately 1.375 million dairy cattle (dairy cows and heifers) can be found in Canada, and of those million cows, 93% are of the Holstein breed.
3. There are approximately 320,500 dairy cows in Ontario.
4. Quebec and Ontario are the major dairy producing provinces, with 5,120 and 3,534 farms, which produce 37% and 33% of Canada's total milk.
5. There are 431 dairy farms in Perth County, Ontario.
6. A mature Holstein cow weighs about 1500 pounds and stands approximately 59 inches tall at the shoulder.
7. Cows can sleep while standing.
8. Cows can see almost 360 degrees.
9. Dairy cattle eat pasture grasses, hay and silage.
10. A typical mature cow will eat approximately 29 kg of feed every day.
11. A female cow that has not yet had a calf is called a heifer. Once a heifer gives birth to her first calf, she becomes a cow.
12. Holstein heifers can be bred at 13 months of age, when they weigh about 800 pounds. It is desirable to have Holstein females calve for the first time between 22 and 26 months of age.
13. The Holstein gestation period is approximately nine months.
14. A healthy Holstein calf weighs approximately 90 pounds at birth.
15. While some cows may live considerably longer, the normal productive life of a Holstein cow is six years.
16. Milk comes from seven main breeds of dairy cows: Ayrshire, brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, and milking shorthorn.
17. Cows, like humans and other mammals, only produce milk after giving birth.
18. It takes about 5-7 minutes for a cow to be milked.
19. **By law, Canadian milk must be free of antibiotic residue, additives and preservatives, as well as produced without the use of artificial growth hormones.**
20. The Blue Cow logo proudly represents products made with 100% Canadian milk and milk ingredients.