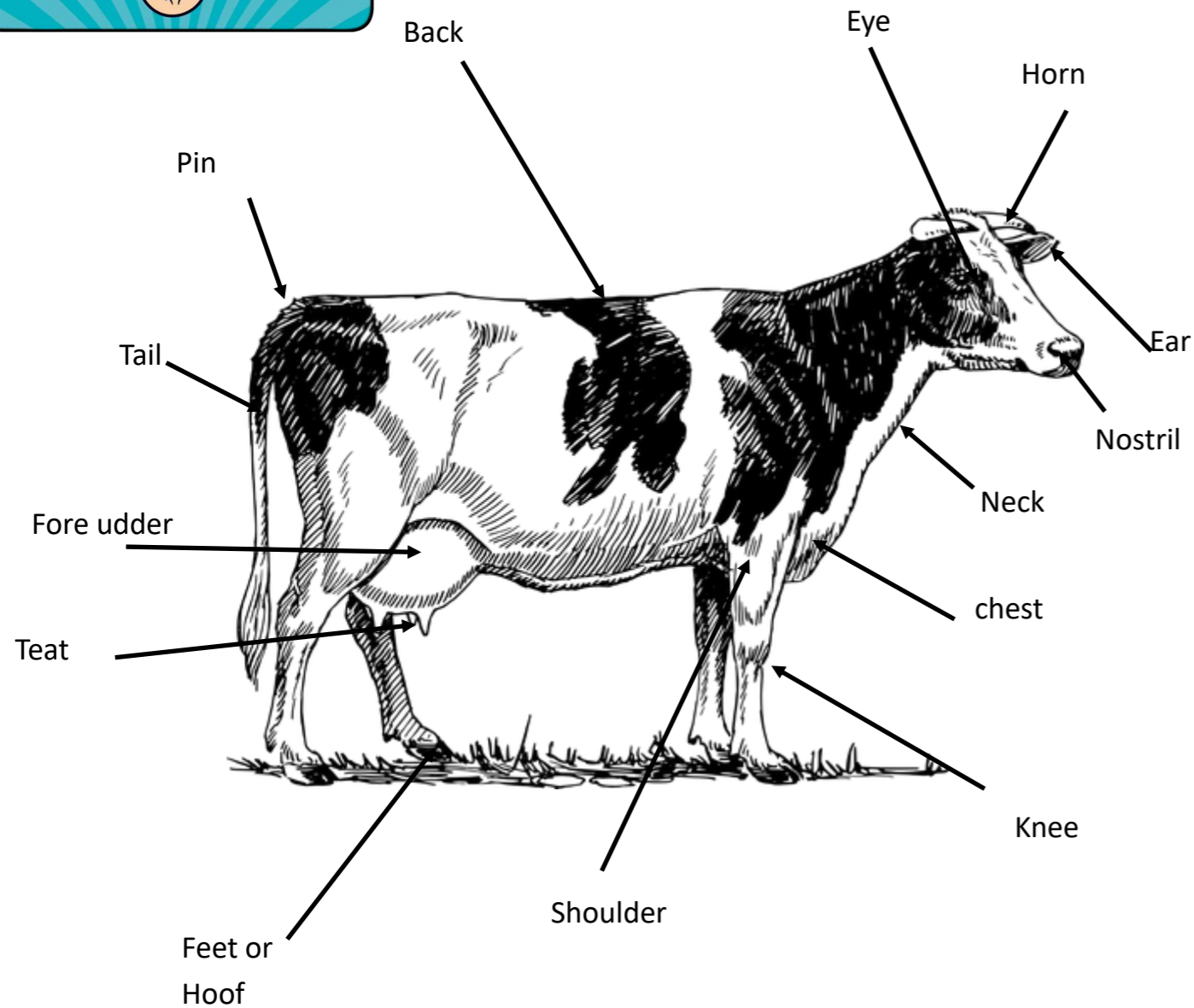




# Cows—Parts of the body of a Cow



When we talk about cows, it can actually be a little confusing. The technical name for this type of animal is cattle. Young cattle are called calves until they become adults. **When we use the word “cow” in our information, we are talking about all of these different kinds of cattle in general**



Cows are herbivores that eat vegetation such as grass and plants



Cows' stomachs have four chambers which help break down what they eat



Cows drink lots of water, about a full bath tub full each day



Cows don't sweat, they prefer to lay in the shade to keep cool.



Cows can see in colour except, they are red and green colour blind.



Cows can live up to 25 years



Cows are creatures of habit and they don't like change to their daily routine.



Cows are farmed for a number of agricultural products including meat, dairy products, leather, and entertainment



Meat from an adult cow is known as beef. Meat from a calf is known as veal.

From the days of being used for money, to the days of showing off at Agricultural shows, cows have played a huge role in how people interact with each other. These amazing animals are udder-ly fantastic



**Bulls** – a fully grown male used for breeding purposes.

**Steers** – male cattle that are used primarily for beef (and not for breeding).

**Bullocks** – male cattle that are used for beef (and not for breeding).

A group of cows is called a herd of cows

Cows are known as “ruminants” because the largest pouch of the stomach is called the rumen.

Cows are raised for many purposes:

Joints of meat (Veal is meat from younger animals and is very lean)



Dairy products like milk, cheese, yogurts and butter



Leather comes from the hides of a cow for wallets, purses, furniture and shoes.



**Cows** – a fully grown female animal of a domesticated breed that has given birth to at least one or two calves, kept to produce beef or milk.

**Heifers** – female cattle that have not had a calf.



**Calf** – a young female or male in its first year.



### Where do cows live?

Cows are found on farms, grazing in the fields in the summer and indoors in the winter. They prefer to have a space where they can spread out and eat plenty of food.



### What is the gestational period for a cow?

Cows are pregnant for around 9 months, the same as people!

### Calving

A newborn calf's size can vary among breeds, but a calf typically weighs 25 to 45 kg (55 to 99 lb). Adult size and weight vary significantly among breeds and sex. Most cows have 5 to 8 calves in their life.



New born calves are fed colostrum for the first six hours of life. Colostrum is produced by the calf's mother after giving birth and it contains essential antibodies, vitamins and minerals to protect the calf during its life. It is very important for calves to take in enough colostrum in the early stages of life as it determines future health and performance for the calf .



Cows usually give birth to one calf a year, though twins are also known to be born.

The calves have long strong legs and can walk a few minutes after they are born, so they can follow the herd

### What do eat?

Most cows spend the summer months in fields grazing on grass and indoors in the winter when the grass has stopped growing. During the winter they will eat grass which has been preserved as silage. A Cows diet is often supplemented with cereals such as barley or protein feeds such as beans.



### Do cows have teeth?

A cow has 32 teeth: three types of teeth: incisors, premolars and molars. Cows can't bite because they don't have top front teeth. They may "gum" you, but they can't bite you. Cows have molars on the upper and lower jaw, but their incisors are only the lower jaw. A cow uses its teeth to chew grass many times to help with digestion. Part of a cow's routine is to chew grass, swallow it, then regurgitate it to chew it some more. This is known as chewing its cud.



### Communication

A cow communicates with her calf by vocalizing in a soft moo.

A Cow will moo loudly when something is wrong and they need your help - e.g. if they get stuck on the wrong side of the fence/ gate for some reason, need / want food or need help - they will moo and ask for help

### Do cows make friends?

Cows are special animals; they form large herds and will bond with some herd members while avoiding others.

### Do they have good eye sight?

Cattle are red/green colour blind. In the sometimes controversial sport of bull fighting, bulls are angered by the movement of the cape rather than its red colour. Surprisingly, cows have nearly 360 degree vision, with the only blind spot directly behind them. This is the reason why cows shift their head back and forth when they walk – always checking to see what is to the rear.

### Cow senses

Just like people, cows recognize voices and sounds, smells and touch. Cows are very curious animals, and they are constantly monitoring their surroundings. As a farmer or visitor to a farm, it is always interesting to watch as they utilize their various senses to try to be first in line for food or milking or to avoid the farm dog. By applying their five senses to their everyday life, cows are both similar and very different from humans.

They can sense a smell up to six miles away and they know their meals are being served, well before they hear the tractor enter the barn!



### Cow information –

Cattle is a word to describe animals which are mammals and belong to the genus Bos.

Within the general term of cattle are **cows**, bulls, oxen, heifers, steers, bullocks and calves.

Cows are the most common type of large domesticate hoofed animals.

They are a prominent modern member of the subfamily Bovinae.

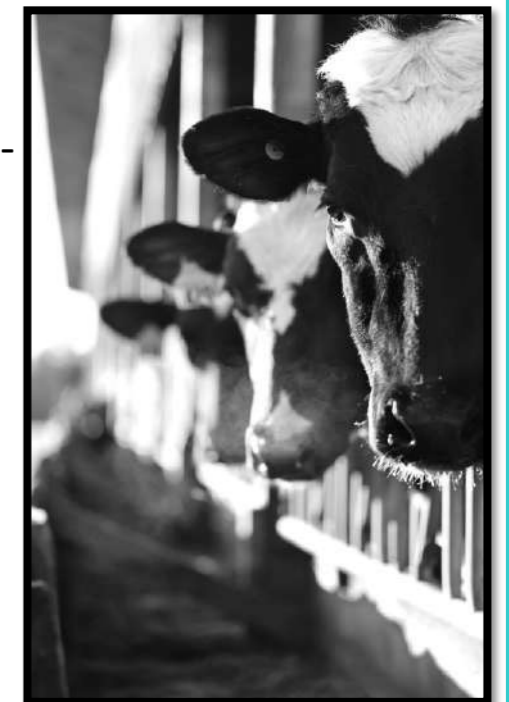
Cows are large grass-eating mammals with two-toed or cloven hooves and a four-chambered stomach.

Cows can be horned or polled (or hornless), depending on the breed. The horns come out on either side of the head above the ears and are a simple shape, usually curved upwards but sometimes down.

Cows usually stay together in groups called herds. One male, called a bull will usually have a number of cows in a herd as his harem.

A cow has around 25,000 taste buds – 2.5 times more than a human has! Part of the reason they have so many is because they are herbivores. Herbivores need to be able to differentiate between the poisonous plants and the non-poisonous plants.

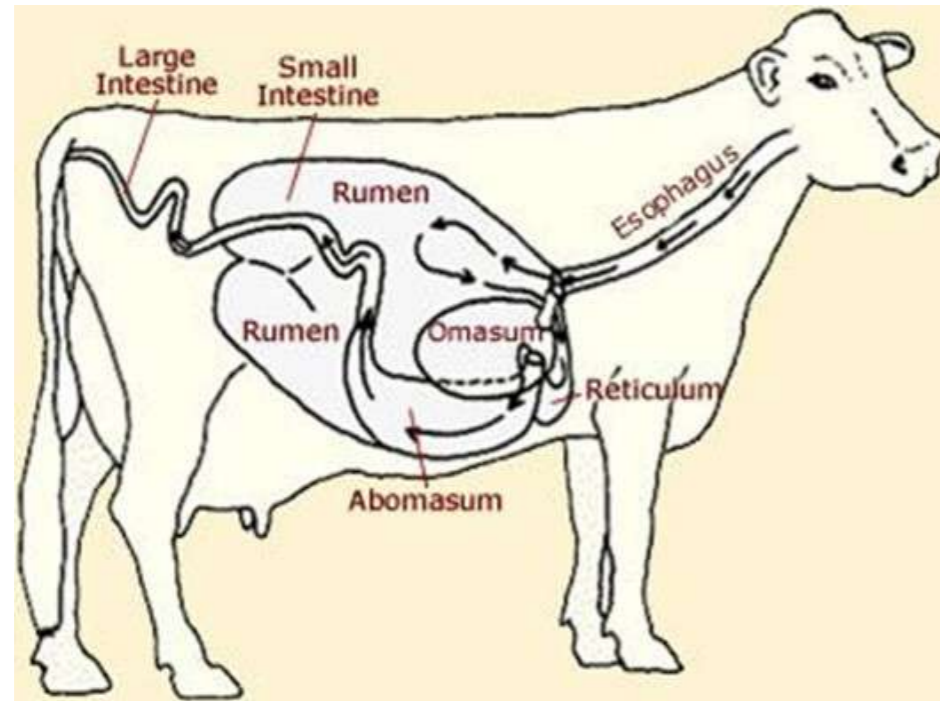
Cows are amazing creatures and getting to learn all their intricate attributes is just one of the joys of farming. No two cows are the same, but they are all incredible in their own way.



## Cows have a special digestive system.

Thanks to their special stomach, cows are able to eat a lot of different kinds of tough plants and grasses. When a cow eats, it first swallows its food without chewing, and stores it in one of its compartments. Once it finds a quiet place to continue, it vomits the food back up (yuck!) and slowly chews it into tiny pieces that are easy to break down.

It then swallows this food once again and it's stomach is able to digest it. Makes you hungry, doesn't it?



Cows are ruminant animals and have four stomachs, which enables them to convert coarse vegetation into high quality protein. The 4 stomachs are called the Rumen, Abomasum, Omasum and Reticulum. This stomach is adapted to help the digestion of tough grasses.

## There are many of breeds of the cows.

Here are just a few.

