



In Britain, we drink around 6 billion litres of milk each year. Of all the milk produced on British dairy farms, just under half is for drinking and the rest is made into cheese, yogurt and other dairy products.

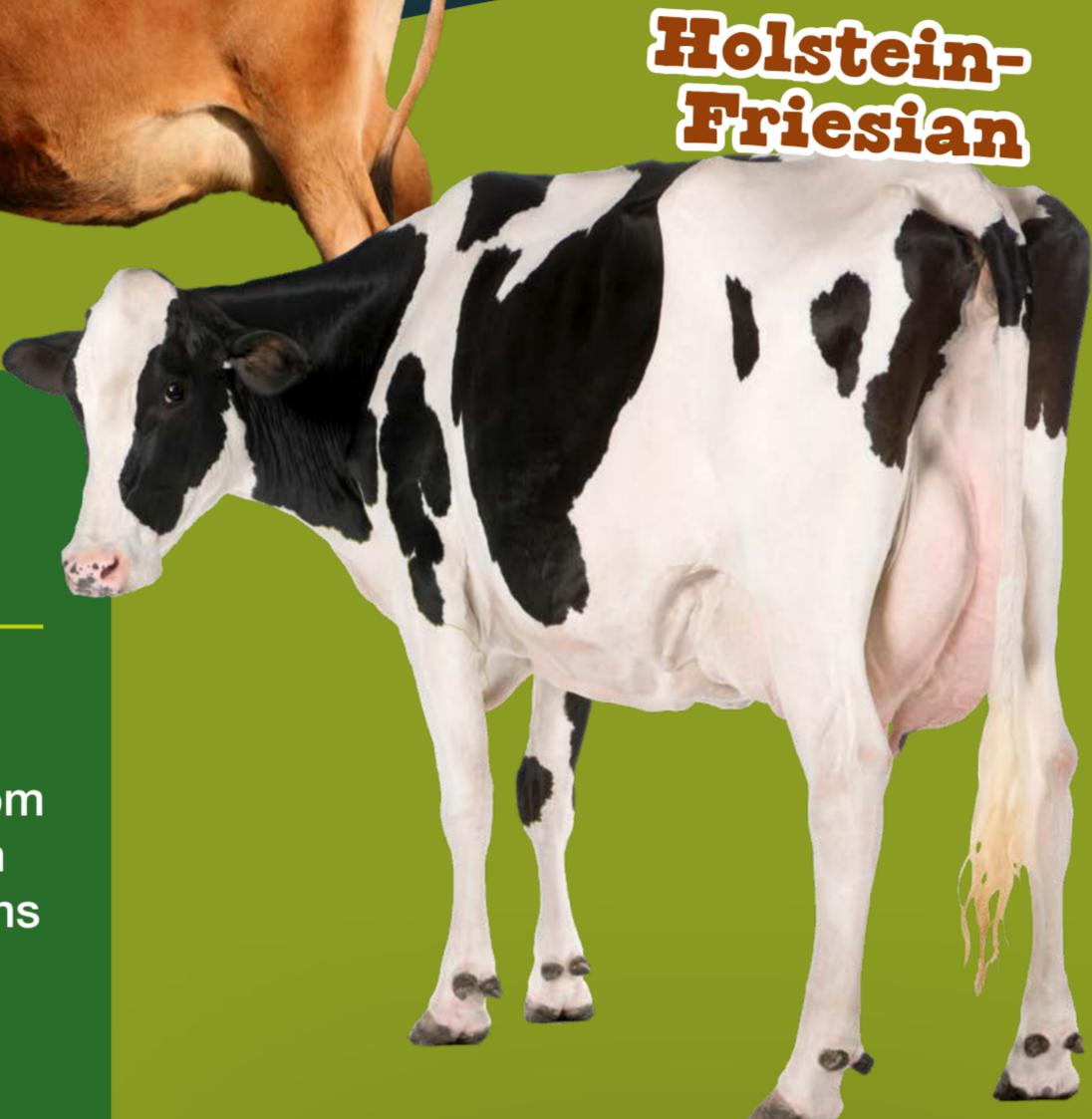


The dairy farm and farmer

There are thousands of dairy farms in the UK. Dairy farms are all different shapes and sizes, from farms with 10 cows to farms with more than 1,000 cows. Most farms are in the western half of Britain where the warm, wet climate is ideal for grass growth.

The farmer's most important job is to look after the health and welfare of the cows.

The farmer looks after the countryside, for example maintaining hedgerows, planting trees and creating new ponds. This helps wildlife and birds flourish.



The cow

Holstein-Friesian cows, which are black and white, are the most common type of dairy cow in the UK. Each cow weighs 650 kg and gives up to 50 litres of milk a day. Jersey cows weigh 450 kg and give around 20 litres a day.

Most British dairy cows eat grass during the summer and silage (pickled grass or maize) in the winter – around 25–50 kg a day. They drink around 60 litres of water. Some cows that give more milk also have additional food and drink more.

Cows wear ear tags so they can be identified. Some cows wear pedometers to count their steps!

Farming food for you



Dairy

Milking

Cows are milked around 2 or 3 times a day.

Each cow produces around 22 litres of milk a day.

Milking is not painful or uncomfortable, it is like the cow feeding its baby calf.

After milking, the milk is chilled and stored, ready to be taken away to be processed.

Uses

Dairy cows produce milk, which can be made into cheese, yogurt, butter and cream.

Dairy products are used in a wide range of different drinks, dishes and meals.

Yogurt and fruit

