

# *A Visit To The Farm*

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*The xxx Family  
Any Town, New York 12222*

**Date of my visit:**

## Greenhouse Barn & “Calf Condos”

After the calves are born they are moved to our greenhouse barn or to their own “calf condo”. If we did not do this, they could get hurt or not eat properly.

First we feed them with a very large “baby bottle” filled with a measured amount of colostrum, (the mother’s first milk) which is nutritious and will give them natural antibodies to fight any germs.



We monitor what they eat and constantly check to see that they are healthy. One of the most important things for the calves is fresh air and good ventilation. As they grow we feed them milk, water, grain, and hay. Their condos and pens are cleaned EVERY DAY.

Every little lady loves jewelry --- each calf receives **ear tags** (like earrings) with numbers. These numbers identify the calf so the we know who is who, and in our computer we can look up her Mom (dam), Dad (sire), birthday, health record, ....and lots more. Just like your doctor keeps a record about you!

We built all of the barns...we are also carpenters, plumbers and electricians!



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## Freestall Barn

Our free stall barn is like a pasture with a roof to protect the cows from the sun and rain. The cows are “free” to eat, drink, nap, or hang with their friends.

There are big curtains on all sides of the barn that are adjusted so that the barn is cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Many big fans and an opening in the ridge of the roof provide for good ventilation. We have water sprayers working in the very hot weather, it is like playing under a sprinkler for our cows.



Have you ever been to the beach?

Our cows “live” at the beach...their beds are filled with sand that is soft & comfortable...

Our ladies have a VERY nutritious diet! They even have their own Nutritionist who gives us a chart of the exact amounts of the many different types of feed they eat. They are monitored daily to be sure they are eating healthy!

The many different things they eat are mixed together as a total mixed ration, so that they eat all the good things, like meatloaf when you eat everything...cleaning the plate for every meal. They can snack whenever they like...24/7!



Some dogs have tails that are “docked”, and we have cows! By docking the tail the cow is much cleaner and does not have any problems with flies because she is not putting dirt and manure on herself with her tail. Also it is much safer for the animals and people around her as she can’t hit them (ie:in their eyes) when her tail would swing around.

Our cows with tummy aches or others who may not be feeling 100% are kept in a separate barn where we can more closely monitor what they eat and how they are doing. Our vet visits on a regular basis to care for our cows, and also whenever needed, no matter what time of the day or night...he makes “barn” calls.

## **Tractors of all shapes and sizes!**

Everyone on the farm who uses tractors has special training. Equipment is VERY expensive, and we want everyone to be safe.

We use tractors for a lot of things...field work, crops, plowing the snow, moving things, piling the big bales, pulling the feeding/mixer wagon and cleaning the barns. We have different implements we attach for different jobs.



Some tractors have GPS (Global Po-

sitioning System) so you can tell exactly where you are and what you have done in a big field or anywhere you might be.



Global positioning system is a system consisting of satellites, transmitters, transponders, and receivers which allow the user to find his position on the earth. Using software built into his receiver, the user can "find" and "go to" designed locations, plot "best routes", and a myriad of other tasks.

A lot of "computers" are in the cab of the tractors, they do many different jobs.

We also have to know how to repair the tractors. Do you see different "tractors" here? What jobs can you think of that we need a tractor to do?

## **Heifer Barn – Jersey/Holstein Breed Differences**

The girls move from their condos and the greenhouse barn to the heifer barn, where they live in "groups" – like clubs. They are free to lie in their bedding area, eat, drink or socialize! They get used to interacting with each other plus get plenty of fresh air and a "balanced" diet provided by our nutritionist. All of the feed is tested so that their menu includes all the vitamins, minerals, protein, etc. that they need at this age.

The feed storage bunkers hold thousand of tons of corn silage (total corn stalk chopped up) & haylage (hay that is chopped). This chopped feed ferments which releases nutrients that are best utilized by cows.

The piles of haylage and corn silage are piled and packed down tight, covered by plastic with tires on top...like food in a baggie...it is stored for the cows to eat all year long.



## Milking Parlor

Our cows are milked 3 times EVERY day...at 4am, Noon, and 8pm (every 8 hours). This gives us more time with the cows, plus helps keep our cows very healthy.

Our ladies walk from the free stall barn to the milking parlor in groups. We milk 8 cows on each side of the parlor. Before they are milked, each cow is washed thoroughly and dried. The milking machine is attached and the milk travels from the cows through stainless steel pipe to a "Precooler" and into tank where it is kept at 36-42 degrees. The milk is never touched by human hands...The cows are "dipped" after the milking machine is removed and before they leave the parlor to prevent any germs from entering the teat.

Each cow produces about 10 gallons every day. The cows enjoy their time in the parlor, as they chew their cud and wait patiently while they are milked and like the undivided attention of one of our farm team of workers.

The milk is picked up EVERY SINGLE DAY WITH NO EXCEPTIONS, even on Christmas, Easter and my birthday! Our milk truck driver pumps the milk into the tank of his big tractor trailer after carefully measuring the amount, agitating (stirs it up) and taking a sample that will be tested in a laboratory to insure that it is high quality and meets the many standards required. Our milk goes to many different plants throughout the Northeast. This means that no matter what the brand or packaging, you are getting Grade A, antibiotic-free, high-quality milk and dairy products.

All the milking equipment and the parlor are cleaned and sanitized after every milking. The milk tank is cleaned and sanitized every day after the milk is picked up.



The bulk tank goes through the wall. It is made of stainless steel and is kept spotless inside and out!



Look for the REAL seal on REAL dairy products...don't be fooled with imitations!



Did you know that all cows and bulls have horns, which is very dangerous for us AND all the other cows, so when they are little we put a paste on the teensy little nubs of beginning horns and they don't grow. We are also "Doctors"...if a cow has an upset tummy we give her a pepto bismal and if a calf has a tummy ache then she gets a smaller pill.

The "Pride of New York" seal means that the product was grown or processed right here in New York State...

**Here is a homework assignment...look for the Real Seal and Pride of NY Seal the next time you are in the grocery store...you'll know that you are buying quality!**

**Remember...Farmers wear lots of hats!**

**Nutritionist, doctor, carpenter, plumber, electrician, mechanic, cleaner, milker, feeder, tractor operator, planter, tractor driver, accountant, record keeper, statistician, and lots more!**



*Our Pride is Inside.™*

