

From the Cow to the Carton: How Milk Gets to You

By Erin Horner

This morning I had milk on my cereal. At school, I had chocolate milk with my lunch. After dinner, I had a yummy treat: two warm cookies. I washed them down with an ice-cold glass of milk. I love milk! I know that cows make milk. But how does milk get from the cow to my carton?

Twice each day dairy cows are hooked up to machines that pump their milk. First, the warm milk is pumped into a holding tank. This tank cools it down. Then, a handler comes to pick up the milk. First, the handler takes a sample of the milk. He tests the sample to make sure that it is safe. If the milk is safe, he pumps it out of the holding tank and into a milk truck. Then, milk is taken to a processing plant. There the milk is pasteurized. When milk is pasteurized, it is heated up. It is kept warm for a period of time. Then it is cooled down again. This process helps to kill any bacteria that may be in the milk. It helps to make the milk safer to drink. Lastly, it is put into a container or carton and delivered to the store. There, families just like yours and mine buy it.



Most of us reach into the fridge and grab a gallon of milk without even thinking about it. The next time you pour a tall glass of milk, though, be sure to think about all of the hard work that it took to "moo"-ve it from the cow to your carton.

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Questions

1. What happens to milk when it is pasteurized?

_____ 2. What would most likely happen if the pasteurizing process was skipped?

- A. It might contain bacteria that could make someone sick.
- B. It would be cheaper.
- C. It would not taste very good.
- D. It would be too hot to drink.

_____ 3. The author probably wrote this story to _____.

- A. Describe how milk gets from a cow to a carton
- B. Persuade you to drink more milk
- C. Demonstrate the best ways to drink milk.
- D. Inform you about her favorite beverage

_____ 4. Why is a handler important in this process?

- A. He sells the milk to the store.
- B. He milks the cows.
- C. He makes the milk taste better.
- D. He tests the milk to make sure that it is safe.

