

# Washington County 4-H Master Showmanship Dairy Cattle Fact Sheet

## Breeds of Dairy Cattle

- > **Ayrshire**- Purebred Ayrshires only produce red and white offspring, the red color is a reddish-brown mahogany that varies in shade from very light to very dark.
- > **Brown Swiss**- Largest Dairy breed, color ranges from a light white/gray to a dark brown/gray, with a white or light gray ring around their muzzle and a light colored dorsal stripe down their backs.
- > **Guernsey**- Almost endangered, color ranges from a light fawn and white to deep brownish red and white. Noted for high amount of betacarotene in their milk.
- > **Holstein**- Most common breed, colors are either black and white or red and white. Highest milk producing breed.
- > **Jersey**- Smallest breed in term of size, color ranges from solid brown, brown and white, light gray (Mouse) to almost black. They have a black tongue and switch. Most Jerseys have a black muzzle, black rings around eyes and inside ears. Noted for high butterfat.
- > **Milking Shorthorn**- Colors range from red, red and white, to a roan color. This is a dual purpose breed. It is bred for milk and/or meat.

## 4 Compartments in a cows stomach, in order

1. Rumen-Largest compartment in a mature cow.
2. Reticulum
3. Omasum
4. Abomasum- Largest compartment in a calf.

## Information

- ◆ Heifer-----Name given to female cattle before they have had their first calf.
  - ◆ Cow-----Name given to female cattle after they have had one or more calves.
  - ◆ Bull-----Name given to male cattle of any age that is not castrated.
  - ◆ Sire-----Father of a calf
  - ◆ Dam-----Mother of a calf
  - ◆ Free Martin-----A female calf, usually twin with a male, that is sterile.
  - ◆ Mastitis-----Highly contagious, hard to treat disease of the udder. Caused by bacteria (~70%), Yeast and Molds (~2%) and Physical trauma or weather (~28%).
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- > Length (in days) in a standard lactation- 305 days
  
  - > Length of a standard dry period- 45-60days or 2 months
  
  - > Gestation Period- 280 days or 9 months
  
  - > Average weaning age- 60 days or 2 months
  
  - > Breeding age- 14-16 months

> The udder has 4 quarters, each quarter is separate from the other.