



The Milk Makers

Gail Gibbons

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You probably drink milk at almost every meal. But have you ever wondered where it comes from? Cows eat special feed to make good milk. But after the cow is milked, there are still many steps the milk must go through before it reaches you. This book describes them all. And you'll be surprised to find how many other things you eat and drink come from milk, too.

Gail Gibbon's unique style makes this a fascinating book for children and adults alike.

The Milk Makers Details

Date : Published March 31st 1987 by Aladdin (first published January 1st 1985)

ISBN : 9780689711169

Author : Gail Gibbons

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Genre : Animals, Science, Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review The Milk Makers for online ebook

Rachael LaRochelle says

milk makers by Gail Gibbons

Milk Makers is a book about how milk is made. There are 5 common breeds of dairy cows. Dairy cows make most of the milk we use. Cows can make milk at 2 years old when she has had her own calf. She makes more milk than her calf can drink so we get the extra milk. Dairy cows eat food that is tough, course and hard to digest. The milk travels through the cows blood stream into her udder where the milk is made. Milk comes out of a cow's nipple called a teat. A cow can be milked by hand ,but most farmers use milking machines. The milk is then pumped into an insulated truck and taken to the dairy where it is packaged. Delivery trucks pick up the milk and deliver it to the stores. Finally, the milk is put into a cooler and refrigerated for us to buy.

Milk Makers is a great book for children to learn where the milk they drink every day comes from. Gail Gibbons does a phenomenal job simplifying the milk making process into terms that a child, or any adult, can understand. I think that both children and adults can benefit from reading this book.

Theresa says

a cute resource for children teaches were food comes from

CFAITC says

Text and pictures explain how cows produce milk and how it is processed before being delivered to stores.

Jeremy says

Who knew?

Anthony Bonaffini says

As a person who read this back when I was a kid I can say that it was an amazing book. it provided colorful pictures with informational text. it may not be for the younger people but kids age 7-10 will greatly enjoy it.

Alicia says

This book is mostly about cows and where cow milk comes from. It does show other animals that make milk. It also shows a baby calf, cows on the farm, milking by hand and by machine, and cow milk processing.

Ch_beverlyatwood says

Informative book about dairy cows and milk processing. The simple pictures with their parts labeled are helpful in identifying little known facts. I would use this book when preparing to visit a farm, or when talking about cows and their anatomy. The description about milk processing is good to use after completing a graph about which students had milk, white or chocolate for lunch.

Angela says

Author: Gail Gibbons

Grade Level: K-3

Content: Milk process, cows, informational

This book covers the cow on a pasture, and their producing of milk. Then it shows how the milk is processed through the factory and the ready for distribution to the public. This is a great labeled book that allows students with easy identification of items.

Amanda says

Gail Gibbons is the best at non-fiction for young readers. You can't go wrong with any of her books.

Peacegal says

1985's *The Milk Makers* ably illustrates what happens when promotion of an industry melds with children's literature. The result can best be described as, well, "truthiness."

The book opens with a few Holsteins grazing on a verdant pasture.

Cows are grazing in an open meadow. They are dairy cows, the milk makers.

If only. Well again, maybe this was an accurate picture considering the date of publication of this book. The blog Counting Animals writes of the American dairy industry:

The percentage of cows in large operations with 1000 or more cows has risen steadily from 0 in 1992 to 44% in 2010.

(Mega-dairies don't graze cattle but rather crowd them into feedlot facilities.)

The book goes on to note:

Other animals make milk, too. But dairy cows make most of the milk we use.

The three “other animals who make milk” pictured are a goat, a sheep, and a reindeer. How silly. Every mammal species, including those of the human variety, are capable of making milk. It’s one of the major things that defines us as, well, mammals!

A cow is able to make milk when she is two years old and has given birth to a calf. Her milk is the food for her baby. She makes more than the calf will ever need—so we use the extra milk.

Now you’re just lying. It is true that selective breeding and feeding programs have turned the dairy cow into an animal that produces far more milk than it ever would in nature. But the idea that we’re just using the “extra” milk after Bossie Jr. gets her fill is ridiculous. On any sort of dairy operation that hopes to make money, the calf will be removed from the cow soon after birth. If the author spent any time on dairy farms researching this book, she would be aware of this standard industry procedure.

The only illustration in the book that hints at anything amiss in the dairy industry is one in which cows kept in a stanchion barn for winter are shown tightly chained in little stalls. Animals chained in such a manner would not be able to turn around or even take a few steps forward or backward. Here’s a real photo of one such operation.

After lots of discussion of how milk is processed after it leaves the farm, we get this on the last page:

Milk is a nutritious drink that makes our bodies strong and healthy.

I’d correct that by saying that milk is a somewhat nutritious but non-essential drink that a large portion of the Earth’s population cannot digest properly. Despite the claims of some, it has no magical properties, but it is over-produced to the nth degree and shows up as an ingredient in just about everything. And at the end of the day, that’s why most of us still use milk products.

Also, lying is wrong.

Brian Cave says

This informational book in tells the whole process of the milking, to filling up our glass of milk. It gives the reader information on how cows are fed special feed, how the milking process works, and the process of how the milk reaches the consumer. A great informational book.

Faith Bart says

We read this informational book on Tuesday. We talked about how we already know lots of information about cows. We made a list of what we already knew. We then realized that we can use what we already know, the pictures and diagrams, and our "imagination station" to help us "read" this book. I modeled this "reading" process.

Los Gatos Library says

This story follows the path of milk from the hay a cow eats to the carton on a child's dining room table. Gibbons explains that many animals make milk, but we mostly use milk made from cows. She describes various kinds of cows and touches briefly on the inner workings of a cow's digestive system. Next comes information on milking, and what happens to milk at a dairy. Finally, the milk is shipped to supermarkets for people to buy. This is a wordy book for our age group, but the words are simple and approachable. The companion ink drawings help clarify new information readers might not be able to process easily. The Milk Makers was featured on Reading Rainbow, when host LeVar Burton visited a California dairy farm to see how milk is made. I would heartily recommend this book to parents and children in our age group who were interested in where milk comes from. If I were going to use this in a storytime, I would probably skip over a few pages, just to shorten it up, unless it was a long story presentation. I would like to show some of the Reading Rainbow footage to go along with this book. In a regular storytime setting, we'd follow this up with a round of "Old McDonald."

midnightfaerie says

We got a themed box of books from the library about Farms and this was one of the books. My children found this completely boring. It was one of those books that had some great pictures, but words were everywhere, detailing every aspect of every piece of farm equipment. Maybe for older children this would be more informational, but my 5 yr old and twin 3 yr olds didn't really care for much except the pictures.
