

WE ARE WASHINGTON

Newspapers In Education and the Washington State Fair present

An Introduction to the Animals and Plants of the Washington State Fair

Join Newspapers In Education and the Washington State Fair as we take a close look at the animals, people and exhibits of the Washington State Fair in Puyallup. Together, We Are Washington!



Cattle

Did you know that there are 241,000 dairy cows in Washington state? The average cow produces enough milk each day to fill six one-gallon jugs, or about 55 pounds of milk. That makes Washington 10th in total milk production in the United States!

Dairy cattle are one very important category of cattle (the other is beef). There are about 13,000 ranchers and cattlemen in Washington who raise over 640 million pounds of beef each year. This beef goes into many of the foods we enjoy for lunch and dinner. In addition to food, more than 100 medicines—including insulin used to treat those with diabetes—come from cattle. Cowhide from cattle can also produce enough leather to make 20 footballs, 18 soccer balls, 18 volleyballs or 12 basketballs. That's a lot of sports games!

The Washington State Fair hosts 760-900 cattle from which you can learn the process behind milk and beef production. Here's how:



Photo Courtesy of Patrick Hagerty

SEE IT AT THE FAIR

- Stop at the Milking Parlor to watch the mechanical milking process of dairy cows.
- Visit Mabel's Stable where you can experience hand milking with a life-size fiberglass Holstein cow named Mabel.
- Come to the Dairy Bar to sample white, chocolate and strawberry milk and observe hourly milking demonstrations.
- Don't miss the Dairy Cattle Show running September 5 through 11 at Barn M and the 4H and FFA competitions which run from September 13 to 16. At this show, you'll see six popular breeds of dairy cattle on display, exhibitors competing for industry prizes and information about dairy cattle care and diet.
- The Beef Cattle Show runs September 5-21 at Barn N, and the 4H and FFA competitions run September 13-16. The beef cattle show displays six popular breeds of beef cattle and shows exhibitors competing for industry prizes.

It takes 12 pounds of whole milk to make one gallon of ice cream! Do you know how ice cream is made? Check out this easy recipe to make ice milk:

1. Combine four cups of milk, one cup of sugar and one teaspoon of vanilla in a medium bowl. Stir until the sugar is dissolved.
2. Pour the mixture into shallow freezer-proof dish and put it in the freezer. Stir every 2-4 hours once crystals form. Freeze eight hours or overnight. The consistency may improve by stirring every four hours or so until fully frozen.

Poultry

The Washington State Fair is also home to a wide variety of poultry. At the Fair Farm you can see many breeds of chickens, turkeys and ducks, watch chicks hatching, and view newly hatched chicks in an incubator display. The Poultry Competition runs September 5-7 and September 18-21. The Washington Junior Poultry Expo runs September 18-21.



Washington Crops

Washington State Fair displays more than just animals and one of the most favorite exhibits of our Fair guests are the Grange displays. This is where you can see the bountiful crops of Washington on display. Granges are organizations that encourage families to come together in promoting the community's agriculture and well-being. Grange displays showcase a variety of fruits, vegetables and grains in unique, artistic and creative ways following a set theme. Wheat is grown on more acres than any other crop in Washington, and is prominently displayed in the grange exhibit. Wheat is also showcased in the Home Arts Foods competitions and is used in baked items on display in the Pavilion. Additionally, the Home Arts department also features baking and cooking demonstrations highlighting the many uses of wheat.



Photo Courtesy of Patty Herman

Think fast: How many products can you think of that are made from wheat? Time yourself for 60 seconds. Go! Did you know that wheat is used in non-edible products, such as the starch adhesive on postage stamps? Research other non-edible uses for wheat.

What does it mean to purchase an organic product? Organic products are those grown without the use of chemicals, fertilizers or pesticides. Why might it be important to purchase an organic apple? Which products do you think are most important to purchase organic? Why do you think so?

