

# The Story of Milk

## How Bees Help Cows



Written and photographed by Stephen Schutz





You probably know that milk comes from cows.  
But did you know that bees help to make milk  
too? Look inside to find out more!

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**Starfall Education Foundation**

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Starfall Education Foundation is a publicly supported nonprofit organization, 501(c)(3)  
ISBN: 978-1-59577-067-7



Hi, I'm Roberto. I am the manager of this dairy farm.

There are many kinds of workers here. Some are big. Some are very small.

Who are they?





**Honeybees** are our smallest and hardest workers.

They work all day long collecting sweet nectar and pollen from flowers.  
As they do this, they carry pollen from flower to flower.

This helps **alfalfa** grow.







The farmer uses a tractor to cut the alfalfa.

Can you guess what we use the alfalfa for?

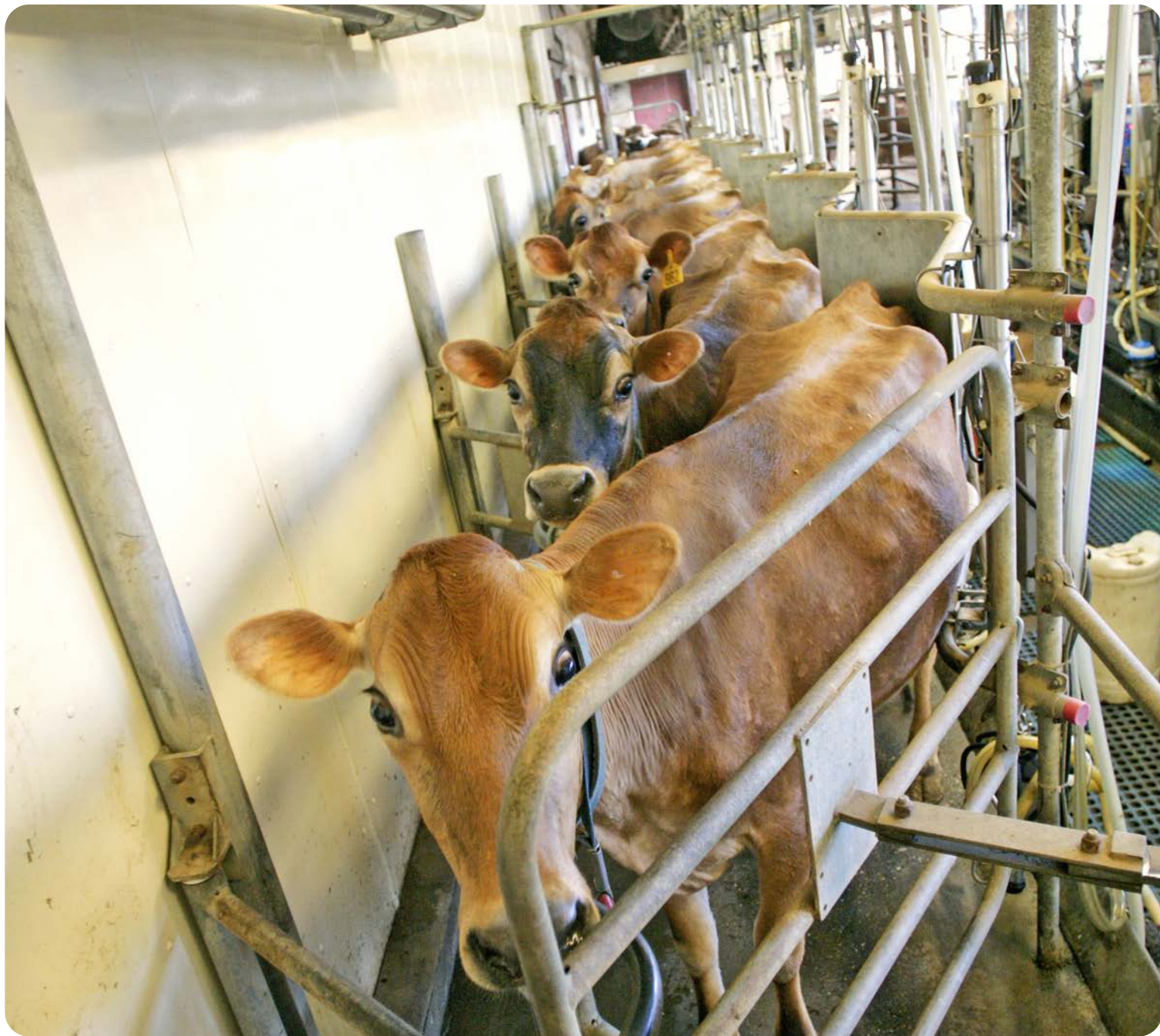






Alfalfa is a great food for **cows**. They love it!

It keeps them strong and healthy so they can make milk.





The cows line up to be milked twice a day.

They aren't usually late. They seem to know when it's milking time!

Who milks the cows?





The cows are milked by a machine!

The milk goes through tubes into a big tank.





We heat the milk to kill germs. This is called **pasteurization**.

It's the computer's job to help us do it right.





Once the milk is pasteurized, it is bottled. We have a machine to help us do this job too!

Not all of the milk gets bottled right away.





Some of the milk is made into chocolate milk!

We make chocolate milk just like you do. We take regular milk, add chocolate powder, and stir!





It takes many kinds of workers to bring milk to your table.

We couldn't do it without the help of insects, plants, animals, machines, computers, and humans!

## Words You Know



**honeybee**



**alfalfa**



**cows**



**pasteurization**



# The Importance of Honeybees

## Bees need flowers

Bees fly from flower to flower to collect nectar. They take it back to their beehive and make honey with it. They save the honey so they have something to eat in the cold winter. That's why bees need flowers.

## Flowers need bees

Did you ever smell a flower and get dust on your nose? Bees collect this dust as well as nectar. We call this dust pollen.

When a bee lands on a flower, some of the dusty pollen sticks to the bee's fuzzy body. When the bee lands on another flower, some of this pollen rubs off.

In this way, bees carry pollen from one flower to another. This is an important job. It's called pollination. It helps flowers make seeds. Seeds grow into new plants. That's why flowers need bees.

## How honeybees help make milk

We don't usually think about how bees help cows make the milk that we drink. But if it weren't for bees, alfalfa wouldn't make seeds, and new alfalfa plants wouldn't grow.

If cows didn't have alfalfa to eat, they wouldn't be able to make milk for us to drink!

So you see, honeybees are very important little workers that help make the milk we drink.



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## About the Author

At age 9, young Stephen Schutz was still struggling to read. What came easily for some children required many more hours of Stephen's work, and he was consistently toward the bottom of his class in reading. Now a Ph.D. in physics and a successful publisher and artist, Dr. Schutz wants to make sure children in his situation today have resources that can help. He turned to the Internet and conceived Starfall.com, an online educational resource available to children the world over.

## Acknowledgments

Starfall Education would like to acknowledge and thank Roberto, and the High Lawn Farm Dairy, whose participation and assistance made this book possible. Thanks also to Jason Garnish and Spencer Garnish. Illustration on page 23 is by Jill Graham.

