Beefin' with the Facts

Objectives:

- Students will be able to describe the products that cattle produce in agriculture
- Students will be able to recall various facts related to cattle production
- Students will be able to critically think about statements and determine if they are true or false

Age Appropriate: K - 4th grade

Time Length: 5- 20 minutes depending on how many questions are asked.

4-H Life Skills:

- Team work
- Critical thinking

Materials:

- Beefin' with the Facts signs (1 per student; attached)
- Beefin' with the Facts facts and fibs sheet (attached)
- Prizes for participants (optional)

Developed by:
Heather Crabtree and Jenny Bennett

National Ag Literacy Outcome :

- T2. K-2, Identify animals involved in agricultural production and their uses (i.e., work, meat, dairy, eggs)

Resources:

- Colorado Proud Fun Facts
- Florida Museum of Natural History
- CO Dept of Ag Beef Facts Sheet
- Guinness World Records
- Cabot Creamery Dairy Facts
- Activity adapted from National Western Stock Show Teachers Guide and Nebraska Ag in the classroom

Options for Differentiation:

- Add movement! introduce movement to the activity. Designate one side of the classroom as **Truth** and the other as **Beefin'**, and challenge students to safely move to the side they believe represents the correct answer.
- For larger groups, groups with individuals of various ages or backgrounds, or to boost energy, divide students into teams. This adds a competitive element and encourages collaboration.
- Tailor the difficulty of the questions to suit the age and abilities of your participants. Simplify questions for younger audiences or make them more challenging for older or more knowledgeable groups.

Pre Lesson information:

1. Place 1 cow head in front of each seat
2. Prepare prize basket (optional)
3. Place fact sheet with answers in front of presenter
4. Next, immerse yourself in the provided background materials. Gain a solid understanding of the topics covered.
5. You are ready to start the game!

***Note: If you'd like to assess participant learning afterward, consider asking reflective questions at the end of the game such as: "What is one new fact you learned?" "Did you learn anything that surprised you?" Participants can share their responses with the facilitator or discuss them with a friend.

Background Information:

Cattle were domesticated approximately 10,500 years ago and originally resembled a wild ox known as the aurochs. In 1493, Christopher Columbus brought cattle to the Caribbean, and by the 16th century, cattle had spread throughout the Americas. The scientific name for cattle is Bos taurus, and they belong to the Bovidae family, which also includes oxen, goats, sheep, buffalo, and bison. Cattle production in the United States is generally divided into two main categories: beef and dairy. Certain breeds, such as Angus and Hereford, are prized for their meat, while others, like Holstein and Jersey, are exceptional milk producers.

Cattle are an essential farm animal, contributing to the production of a wide range of goods. They provide meat such as hamburgers and steaks, and milk, which is used to produce cheese, yogurt, ice cream, and other dairy products. Cattle also supply byproducts used in items like medicine, clothing, fireworks, and even band-aids. Your favorite baseball glove, soccer ball, lipstick, or boots might have originated from a cow!

In Colorado, Of the total land area of 66.3 million acres, 31.8 million acres were used by the 38,893 farms and ranches throughout the state, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Cattle production is Colorado's number one agricultural commodity with 2.7 million head of cattle being raised by families in every county of Colorado. Approximately 60% of the state's $7.1 billion in agricultural cash receipts are attributed to livestock. Farmers and ranchers provide food and habitat for 75% of the nation's wildlife. The inventory for cattle and calves makes Colorado 10th in the nation with 2.8 million head; Colorado places fifth in the U.S. with 1 million cattle on feed.

Procedure

First, introduction: *Today we are going to play a trivia game called Beefin' with the Facts where we test your knowledge about cattle and see if you can use your cow knowledge to find out the truth about these cattle facts?!*

Next, read the following Instructions to play the game:

1. Each person should have a Beefin' with the Facts sign in front of them.
2. I will read a list of facts from the set I have prepared.
3. Your task is to decide whether each fact is Truth (true) or Beefin' (false).
4. Once you've made your decision, hold up your sign with either the Truth side or the Beefin' side facing the front of the class.
5. I will then reveal the correct answer after everyone has had a chance to respond.
6. We will continue this process until the game is over.
    a. *Tip: For younger students (ages 7 and under), ask 5–7 trivia questions. For students aged 8–13, ask 8–10 questions. For students aged 14 and older, ask 10–15 questions.*
7. If you understand the directions and are ready to start the game, please give me a thumbs-up. If you have any questions or need clarification, give me a thumbs-down, and I'll help you before we begin!

Let's get started and see who knows their facts!

FACTS, FIBS, AND ANSWERS

**green indicates easy questions, yellow are moderate difficulty and red are challenging*

Statement to read	Fact or fib, with explanation
Dairy cattle can be utilized for meat production	True- While dairy cattle are primarily used for dairy products such as milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream. They can also be used for meat
Cattle can use their tail as a fly swatter	True- Cattle often use their tail to get flies away from their back legs and back, this is helpful in keeping them comfortable
There are more dairy cattle farms than there are beef cattle ranches in Colorado	False- As of 2023, there are about 11,267 beef cattle ranches in Colorado and there are only 517 dairy cattle farms
Retail cuts refer to the first cuts of beef that a carcass is broken into	false- those are called primal cuts, and there are 8 of them.
Cattle have 4 compartments in their stomach	True- They are the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum
When born, a calf weighs between 50-65 lbs	False- Calves can weigh anywhere between 65-90 lbs at birth and cows are pregnant for 285 days
A bull is the a female name for cattle	False- a bull is a male
The tallest cow ever was 6'2" tall	True- Her name was Blossom and she was a Holstein Cow who lived in Orangeville, Illinois who loved oats and chin scratches!
Cattle and calves are the number one agricultural commodity in Colorado	True- CO has 2.8 million head of cattle in the state
Cattle can be used to help with farming and tilling of land	True- While most cattle in the US are used for meat and milk there are still those who also utilize cattle for other purposes such as pulling plows
Beef is the most popular meat eaten, globally	False- The most popular meat eaten around the world is pork, followed by chicken. Beef, the third most widely consumed meat, represents 25% of total meat consumption. As of 2018, the United States, Brazil and China were the largest producers of beef.
Cattle can detect odor from 2 miles away	False- They can actually smell odor from 6 miles away!

Cattle have a poor field of vision	False- cattle have what is called panoramic vision. They can see almost 360 degrees when grazing, but they can't see directly behind themselves
More people prefer grilled cheese sandwiches to any other sandwich in the US	True- A survey in 2019 found that 79% of people like grilled cheese sandwiches, thanks cows!
Cattle have 20 teeth	False- Cattle 32 teeth, like most people, but they only have teeth on their lower jaw. They use their tongue to grab at grass instead of biting like other animals
A baby cow is called a calf	True- A calf is a baby cow, a bull is a male cow, a heifer is a female who hasn't had any babies, and a cow is a female who has had babies
Cattle can run up to 25mph	True- Even though cattle are sometimes seen as slow animals who stand around and chew their food all day they can actually run up to 25 miles per hour for short distances if needed
On average, dairy cattle can produce about a gallon of milk	False-The average dairy cow in the US produces more than 7.5 gallons of milk per day. A high-yielding cow can produce around 15 gallons per day during peak lactation. In their lifetime, dairy cows can produce 15,000 to 37,500 pounds of milk
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grades beef based on its tenderness, juiciness, and flavor. The grades are voluntary, and producers and processors pay for the service. Optimum is an example of one of the 5 quality grades for young cattle	False- the quality grades for cattle include prime, choice, select, standard and utility. Higher quality grades are associated with more positive eating experiences and higher prices.
Hereford cattle is the name of the breed of the black and white spotted dairy cattle	False, those are holsteins, they are the most productive dairy cow breed

The most recorded breed of cattle in Colorado is the Aberdeen Angus	True- Aberdeen Angus is the the breed commonly known as black Angus and because of marketing has been a popular cattle to breed and consume
cow-pies are a dessert item that cattle produce	False!- cow-pies refer to the pile of fecal matter left by cattle
A baby cow is referred to as a kid	false- they are called calves.
A steer is a male bovine who has been castrated	true!
The United States is the world's largest producer and consumer of beef products	False- The United States is the country producing the most beef in the world by some margin. This is according to forecasts for 2021 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The country is expected to produce 12.6 million tons of beef and veal this year.
Dairy cows drink up to 50 gallons of water a day!	True- A milking cow can drink anywhere from 30-50 gallons of water a day, enough to fill a bathtub!
Jersey cattle are known to be the largest cattle breed	False- Piedmontese are known to be the largest beed of cattle in the world developed for agricultural work
The hind quarter is where the BBQ favorite, the brisket derives from	False- the brisket comes from the chest of the animal
The "poll" describes the top point of the head of the animal	true!
The tenderloin is derived from the loin area	True!
A female bovine that has not had a calf is called a cow	False- they are called heifers
Hereford cattle are known for having the largest horns of any cattle breed	False- Watusi cattle, they can grown up to 8 feet!. While longhorn cattle are known to also have very long horns (sometimes 10 feet) the watusi horns are far thicker and considered to be overall, larger
Cattle production is Colorado's number 1 agricultural commodity	True!-2.7 million head of cattle being raised by families in every county of Colorado. Approximately 60% of the state's $7.1 billion in agricultural cash receipts are attributed to livestock

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BEEFIN'



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