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Elementary Students Learn about the Texas Dairy Industry

The students of Kristen Worley's third grade class from the Garland Club Hill Elementary were excited to see a milking demonstration. At the demonstration, milk facts about healthy living were discussed along with pasteurization of milk, the addition of vitamins A and D, the testing of milk up to 17 times before putting it out in grocery stores.

The young students sat quietly, absorbing the new information, and engaging in the activity questions asked by the speaker, Bernadette McKenzie of Southwest Dairy Farmers. Before the milking demonstration started the students were asked, "Are you guys excited?" to which they responded with an enthusiastic chant of "YES!" With that introduction, the milking began and gasps of fascination and interest came as they pointed to the milk gushing out of the cow's udder. Such gasps included comments like "Wow!!" and "Look, that's cool!!"

While during the demonstration, a cow is milked on a shorter time frame, the process of completely milking a cow takes about three to five minutes depending "on how much the cow produces" said McKenzie. "Is it over already? We just got here!" complained an interested little girl in the front of the display as she watched the end of the demonstration. Expecting the milking process to take a while, she was disappointed that it didn't last longer. This fast rate of production, along with other facts about the milking process came as a bit of a shock to many people, such as this little girl, who were seeing a cow milked for the first time.

“Less than two percent of the population report themselves as coming from an agricultural background. So, this gives us a chance to really educate the children on where their milk comes from and what all goes into the process.” said McKenzie.

The demonstration did just that! It gave the Garland Club Hill Elementary students a better insight into the agricultural aspect from where their milk comes.

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