

Dairy Farming

Here at POKE College we have about 30 cows, situated in our dairy cowshed. As part of our animal management, we take part in at least one full weeks' worth of work at the cowshed. We learn to manage their feed, learn to recognise a cow in heat, assist the cows in calving if necessary and learn about the calves' nutrition too.

Our cows are milked via an automated milking machine, which gives us more time to focus on the other aspects of their welfare. We do, however, still practice manual milking with a milking machine connected to a pipeline system.

The breeds of cow we have are Ayrshire, Holstein and one of our countries landrace breeds "Lapinlehmä", a small but hardy Finncattle breed originating from Lapland. Our cows are lucky, as in the summer they get to roam outside in our pastures too. Not all cows in Finland get to do this!

Part of our responsibilities while working in the cowshed is to care for the college's sheep and lambs too. We have numerous ewes and keep one ram with them, who we change roughly every three years. All of our sheep are the landrace breed Finnsheep. We learn to manage their nutrition and recognise a sheep in heat, in addition to learning how to fully shear a sheep, sending off any wool we collect to be used. All of our sheep end up being used as meat.

