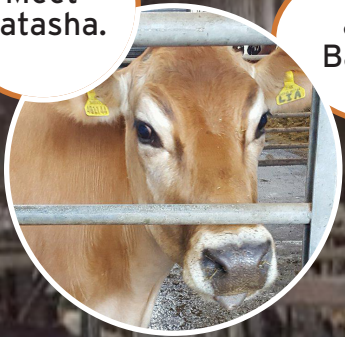


Meet
Natasha.



Natasha is
a dairy cow from
Badenheath farm in
Cumbernauld.

There
are 160 cow
stalls on the farm.
The cows pick which
stall they want to sit
in and can come
and go as they
please.

The
stalls all
have rubber mats
which are covered in
sawdust which keeps
them nice and dry. The
aisles between the
stalls are cleaned
out 4-5 times
a day.

Natasha
stays
outdoors for
about half of the
year, but when the
grass stops growing
in the winter the
cows come
inside.

Some
of the fields
the cows don't
graze on. Instead
they are left to
grow then cut
once in May and
then again in
August.

This grass
is then
chopped up
and tipped
into a barn.

A
tractor with a big
fork pushes it up against
a wall, stacks it up high
and squashes it down.
This process is called
buckraking.

The
farm buys
extra barley
and grains to feed
the milking cows.
Some of this food
comes in as
pellets.

There are
pellets made
from grain husks,
the pulp of oranges
and sugar beet,
which gives the
cows an energy
boost.

There
is also a mineral
lick for the mothers
who have just given birth.
The mineral lick is made
from a byproduct of the sugar
industry and is mainly made
up of molasses. It gives
the new mothers extra
minerals, so they can
stay healthy.

The grass is then covered with a sheet, to keep
the air out of it and is left for about a month
to pickle in its own juices, which keeps the
nutrients in the grass and preserves it for longer.

This
squished
grass is
called
silage.

QUESTION TIME!



Read about Natasha and the different processes at Badenheath Farm then have a go at answering the following questions:

- 1. How many stalls are on the farm? What does the farmer put in the stalls to make a bed for the cows?**
- 2. How long does Natasha and the other cows stay outside for?**
- 3. Can you describe what happens to the grass from May to August? What do the farmers call this process?**
- 4. Why do new mothers get the mineral lick?**
- 5. What are the 3 types of pellets made from?**