

What is a Cow Share?

You own a share of a cow. A Jersey cow can produce up to 35 gallons of milk a week. We sell shares based on the milk production of a given cow. One cow share receives about one gallon of milk per week. Share numbers are adjusted at freshening time as the cow's production changes.

Why a Cow Share Program?

In Colorado it is illegal to buy and sell raw milk, but it is not illegal to drink fresh milk from a cow that you own. We provide a service for you by feeding, caring, and milking your cow.

What is the cost?

You can purchase a share for \$40.00 (undivided interest) in a cow. It is a one time cost. When you leave the cow share, you sell your share back and get your \$40 back less any outstanding balances owed. One cow share entitles you to about 1 gallon of milk a week. If you need more than one gallon a week then you will need to buy more shares. The boarding fee pays for labor and the expenses involved in feeding and caring for your share of the cow. Costs may be subject to increase. The boarding fee cost is currently \$35 per month per share. The first monthly boarding fee will be prorated depending on when you purchase your share(s).

How do I get started?

Read and sign the Cow Share Boarding Agreement which can be obtained by contacting R PATCH O'HEAVEN . As soon as we receive your signed agreement and payment you will own a share of a cow.

Our role (R PATCH O'HEAVEN):

1. R PATCH O'HEAVEN will determine the number of shares available and then sell the shares to individuals.
2. A monthly boarding fee is charged to each Share Holder to cover the costs (daily care, feed, milking supplies, vets, etc.) incurred.
3. R PATCH O'HEAVEN maintains a majority of shares and control of all cows in the herd. R PATCH O'HEAVEN can sell, buy, and replace cows as needed.

Your role as Share Holder:

1. Gives the Herd Owner full management and control in the cow share(s) purchased by

the boarding agreement.

2. Pays the monthly boarding fee, which covers daily care, feed, milking supplies, vets, etc. of the cow represented by the cow share(s).
3. Boarding fees will be paid by the first of every month prior to receiving any milk for that month. Boarding fees not paid within 30 days will void the Boarding Agreement and the share(s) will revert back to R PATCH O'HEAVEN.
4. Milk from your cow can not be sold to others (it is illegal).

What kind of cow am I buying?

Jerseys and Red Holstein which give very rich milk, high in butterfat content.

What are my cows fed?

Our cows always have access to grass pasture. They are also fed grains and alfalfa while they are being milked. No soy products.

What kind of grain do you feed?

While we adjust the grain mix to suit the cow's needs. The grain is made up of corn and a calcium supplement.

Will my milk be handled safely?

Yes! We drink this milk too! A weekly test is given to test for mastitis (infected udder). All utensils and milking equipment are cleaned and sanitized before and after each milking. The milk is chilled in an ice bath then stored at 35 degrees F.

Are hormones used?

Absolutely NOT

Are Antibiotics used?

Antibiotics will be used as a last resort and never given as a preventative measure. The milk will not be used if antibiotics are given until the hold off period is over.

Are the cows tested for Bovine Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Johnes, and Salmonella?

Yes. Colorado is certified free for Bovine TB and Brucellosis. Cows will be tested when added to the herd.

How is the milk collected and stored?

The cow is milked twice a day by machine. After a thorough washing of the udder and teats, the area is dried with a clean towel. We are careful to milk the cow completely to assure good production and prevent mastitis. The milk is then taken to the milk room and run thru a strainer into your clean jars. The jars are placed in an ice bath for rapid cooling and then are stored at 35 degrees. Finally all the milking equipment is cleaned with a dairy detergent and sanitizer.

How do I get my milk?

Your part as a cow share member is to pick up your milk at the farm or at one of our agent locations at a mutually agreed upon time each week. Always phone or Email if you will not be making your normal weekly pickup. We recommend using a cooler to transport your milk home! This is critical in the summer. If your milk warms up on the way home, shelf life will be reduced..

What about the jars?

The cost is \$10.00 for four 1/2 gallon glass jars and lids (two for you to take home and two for your next milk pickup). We ask that you do a general cleaning of the jar before trading out each week, though we will wash each jar also. Please do not return jars smelling of sour milk.

How long does a cow produce milk?

A cow produces milk after birthing. A cow is normally milked for 300 days and then is dried up for 65 days prior to giving birth again.. The cow's milk output normally starts out high then tapers off. Production also drops drastically because of hot weather or illness so your milk share may be less if problems occur. Because R PATCH O'HEAVEN has a rotating herd no loss of milk production is anticipated.

How long will my milk stay fresh?

If kept properly at 35 degrees F, your milk should be good for 2 weeks. Any time spent above 35 degrees F, the quality of the milk will decrease.

How can I pay?

We accept cash and checks and accept credit cards.

Ready to sign up?

