

Dairy Council of California®  
**MOBILE DAIRY  
CLASSROOM**



**History:** The Mobile Dairy Classroom began in the 1930s as a joint venture between Venice, Calif., dairyman Clarence Michel of Edgemar Farms and Dairy Council of California. Michel would travel weekly to Los Angeles-area schools in a truck built to accommodate a live cow and teach children how milk and dairy foods were produced.

After World War II, the Dairy Council teamed with Los Angeles City Schools and hired a professional teacher to increase the program's educational impact. Ultimately, the program expanded into a statewide teaching curriculum.

**Today:** Dairy Council employs five full-time instructors who bring their Mobile Dairy Classroom units to schools throughout California at no cost to the schools. They are able to reach more than 350,000 elementary school students each year. In an ongoing effort to give back to the community, numerous California dairies support the program by providing cows for the school visits. The program teaches children about making healthy choices from all food groups and being physically active for lifelong health and wellness.

**Lesson:** The Mobile Dairy Classroom lesson plan includes:

- Agriculture's role in supplying the food children enjoy
- The origin of milk, its nutritional value and its role in bone health
- The basic anatomy of a cow, the life cycles, information on the food it eats to stay healthy and the milking process
- How the milk stays safe and nutritious from the farm to the table

Teachers throughout California have reported great success integrating this hands-on experience into their classroom curriculum. For many students, Mobile Dairy Classroom is their first opportunity to see a live cow and learn the connection between agriculture and the food supply.

Dairy Council of California also offers nutrition education programs to California teachers for free. The programs, available for kindergarten through high school classes, meet state education standards and help support local school wellness policies.

**For more information about Mobile Dairy Classroom and Dairy Council of California,** visit [www.dairycouncilofca.org](http://www.dairycouncilofca.org) or email Leona Bettencourt at [lbettencourt@dairycouncilofca.org](mailto:lbettencourt@dairycouncilofca.org).

*Digital images are available upon request. Please contact Natalie Haack at 619/296-0605, ext. 230, or via e-mail at [nh@nstpr.com](mailto:nh@nstpr.com).*