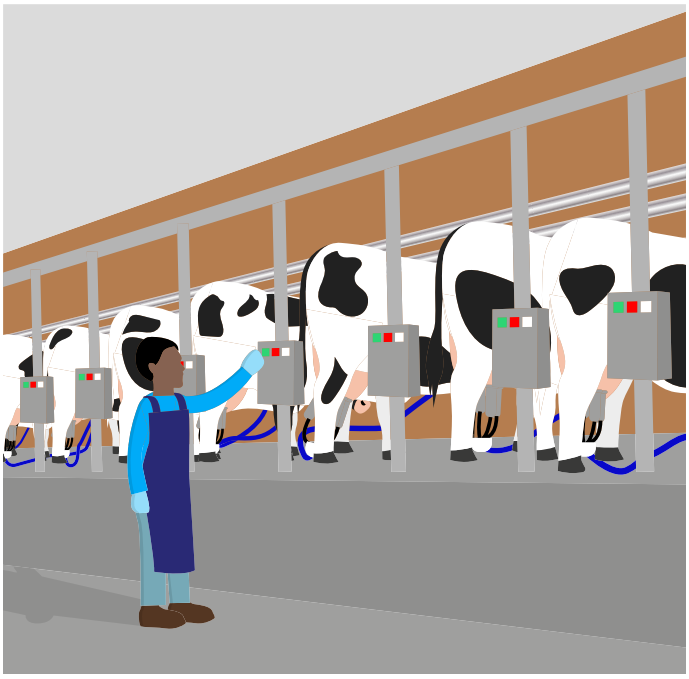
Milking Cows (in a parlor)

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job safely:

- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- Wear appropriate PPE, including moisture/chemical resistant apron, gloves, and footwear
- Comply with the working with large animals guideline
- Tall enough to reach the udders to wash/prep and attach equipment
- Stamina to work length of time needed to complete work
- Attention span long enough to complete work
- Good peripheral vision
- Good eye-hand coordination
- Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- React quickly to hazards
- Understand and consistently repeat a 10-step process
- Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times
- Maintain two-way communication link
- Shower and change clothes after completing job



Adult Responsibilities

- Verify ventilation system is working properly
- Provide rubber matting to reduce back/leg strain and reduce slip hazard
- Keep youth away from cows that routinely kick
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Provide appropriate training, including animal behavior
- Confirm animals are free of disease
- Demonstrate how to safely milk a cow in a parlor
- Provide youth with frequent stretch breaks

Supervision

14-15 yrs	Constant supervision progressing to intermittent
16+ yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic

Hazards



Slippery/ uneven surface | Animal contact | Zoonotic disease | Electricity | Repetitive motion

Protective Strategies



Steel-toed non-skid shoes | Eye protection (splash proof) | Gloves (nitrile) | Hearing protection | Handwashing



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