

Theme 9: Animal Health

HEALTH SIGNALS (Level 1)

Topic	Training & information Content
9.1	Introduction to Animal health (Prevention vs curative health care)
9.2	Health signals
9.3	Biosecurity of dairy farms
9.4	Tick born diseases (Prevention and treatment)
9.5	Worm infections (Prevention and treatment)
9.6	Vaccination schedule and planning
9.7	Mastitis prevention and treatment
9.8	California Mastitis Test
9.9	Usage and storage of veterinary medicines on dairy farms
9.10	Administering of medicines to dairy cows
9.11	Instruction use of injectors into teat canal
9.12	Key performance indicators (KPIs) for monitoring health status of dairy herd



1. You will learn about (learning objectives):

- Simple ways of distinguishing healthy cows from unhealthy cows
- Normal range (Values) for different several health traits
- Relationship between different health traits

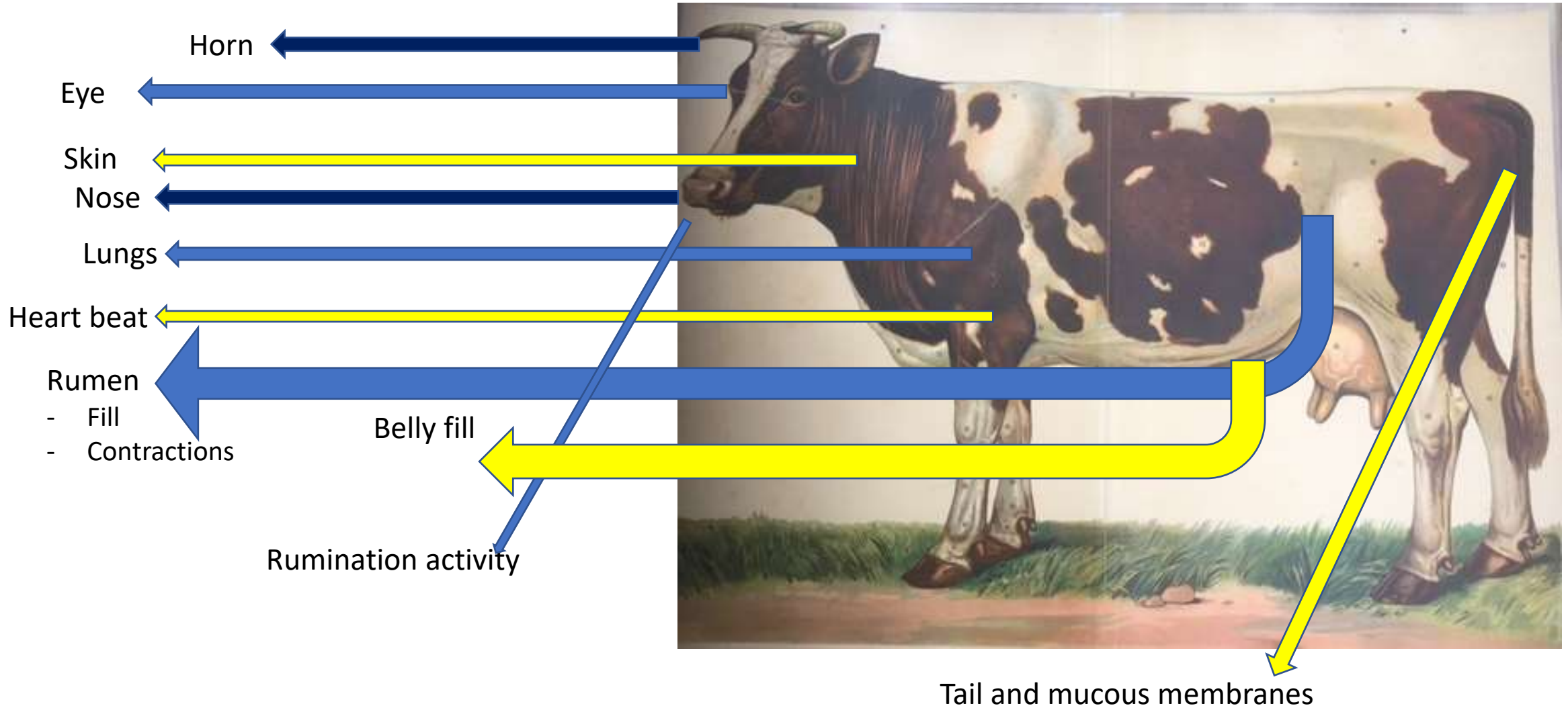


2. Background

- A healthy cow is a happy cow
- A cow becomes sick very slowly
- Keen observations skills are required to get them treated before your cow becomes really/very sick
- Your eyes, ears, nose, brains are needed in helping your cow to remain healthy.



3. Important (health check) parts in a cow



4. Body temperature

- Take temperature via rectum

Tips:

- Never less than 38° Celsius
- Always between 38° and 39.5°
- Never more than 39.5° Celsius



4.1 Body temperature Cont'd...

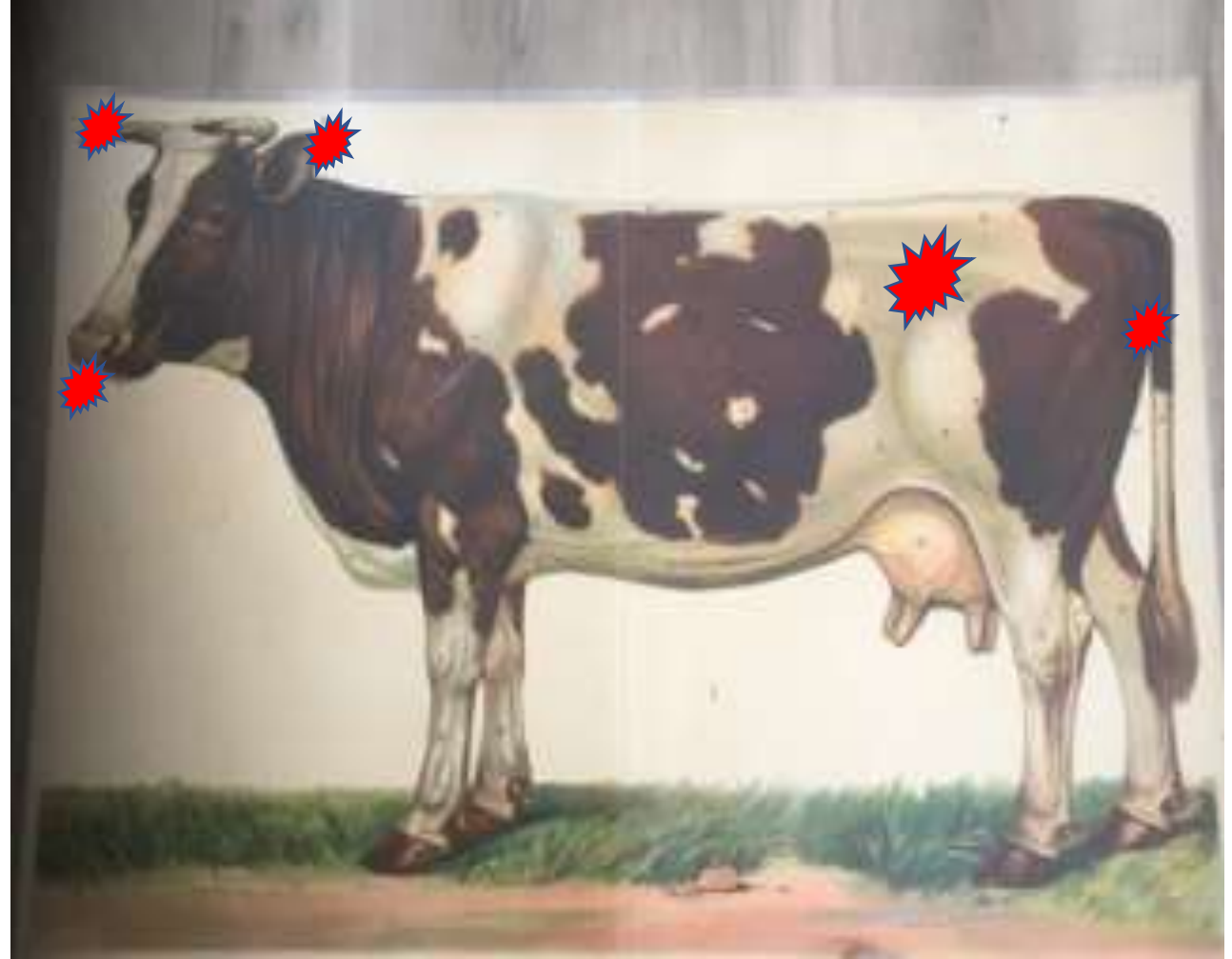
- No Thermometer?

- Warm ears
- Warm horns
- Wet Nose
- Warm tail
- Warm rump



- No Thermometer?

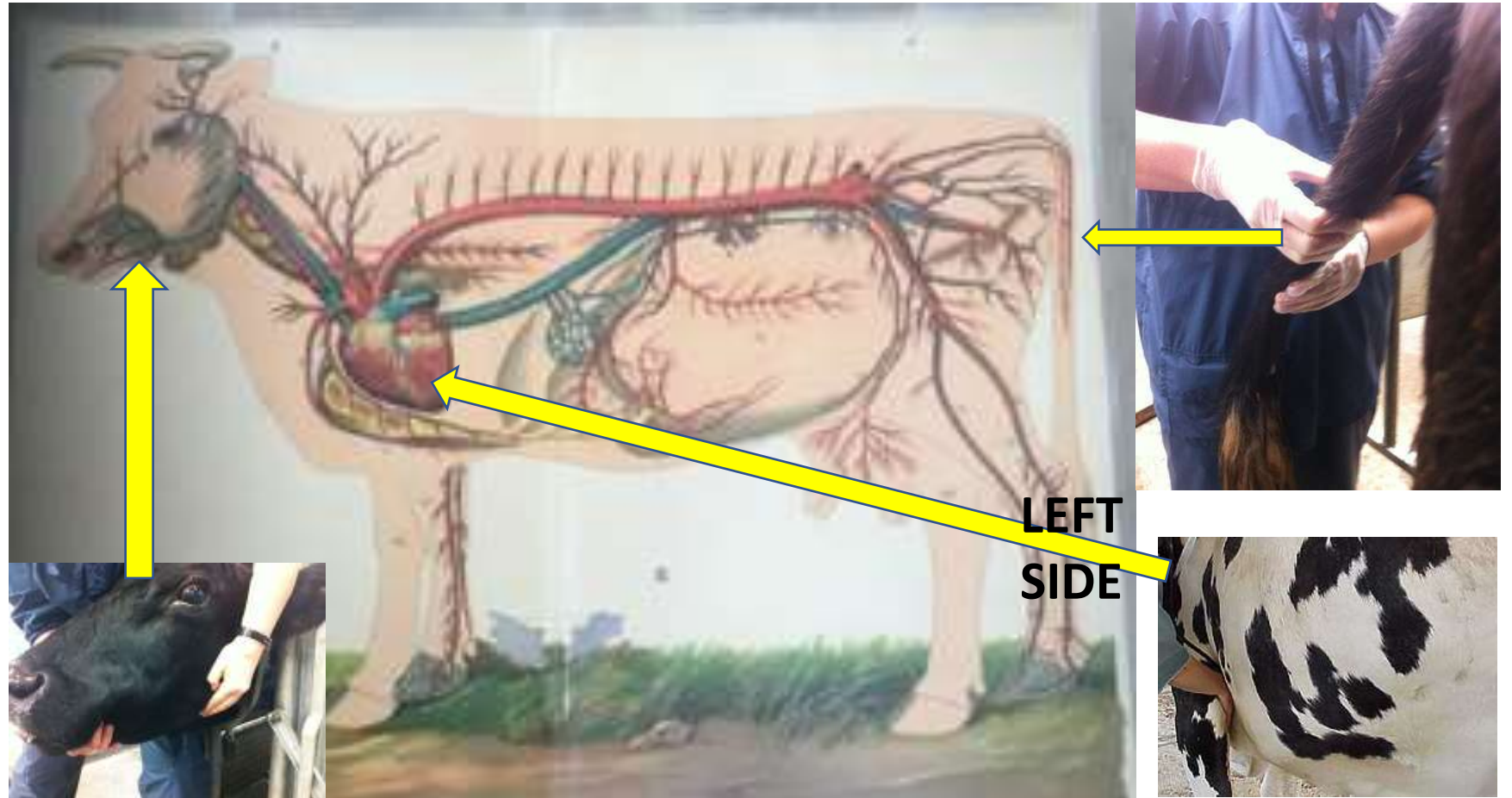
- Cold ears
- Cold horns
- Dry Nose
- Cold tail
- Cold rump



5. Pulse rate

- Listen to the cow's pulse:
<http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/projects/fieldservice/Dairy/cowcases/case1/ccs1-2.html>

Important: A steady pulse rate is between 60-80 beats/minute

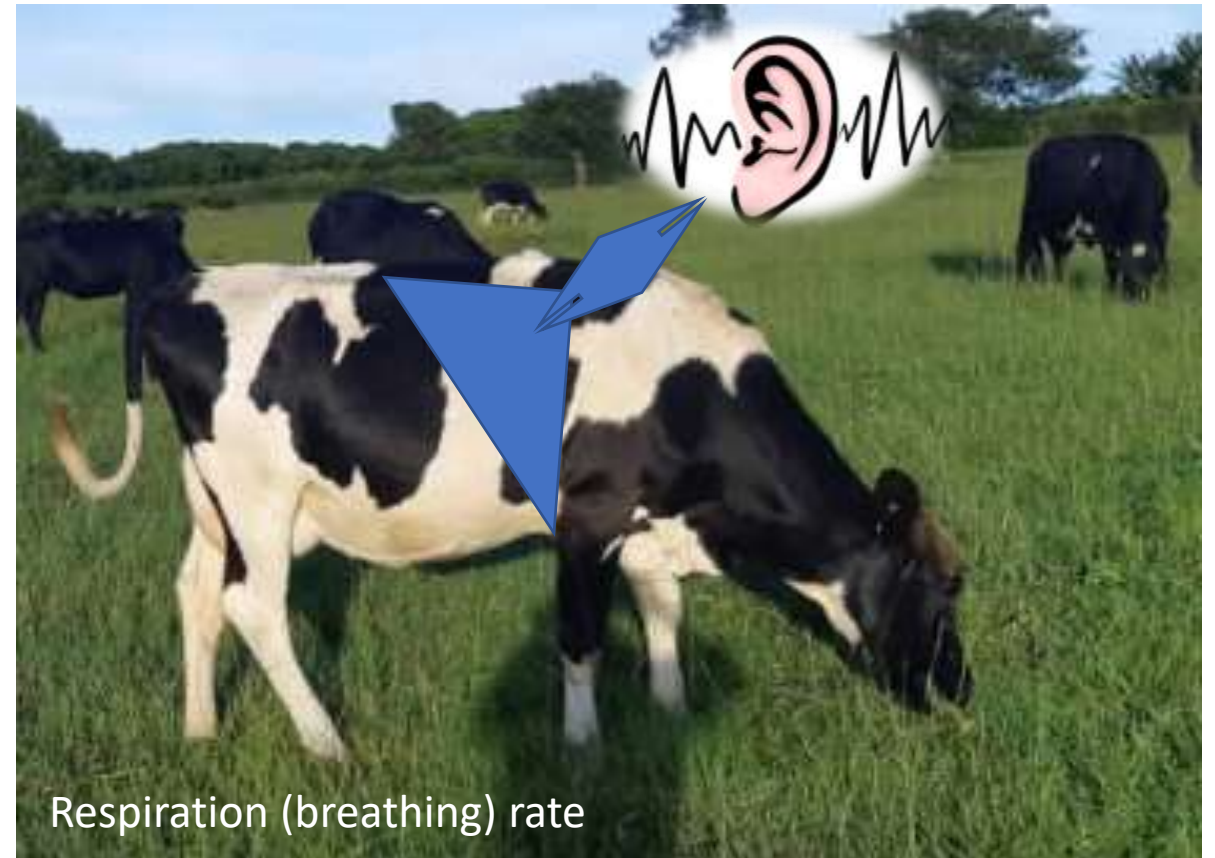
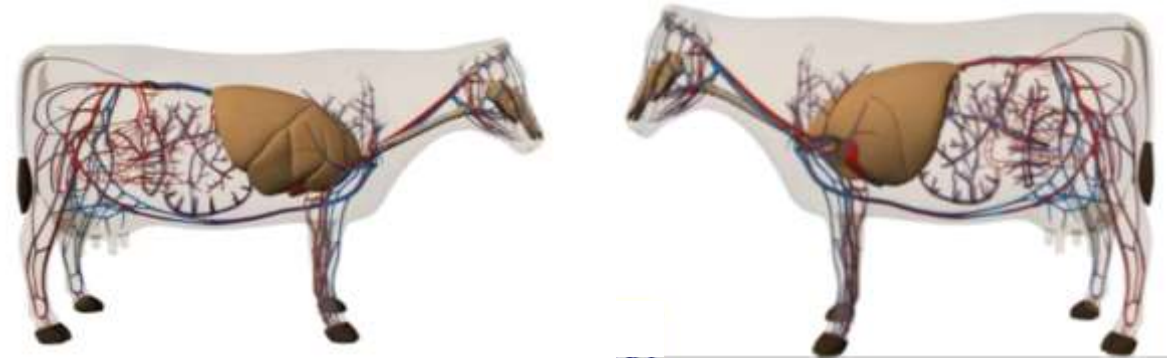


6. Respiration/breathing rate

Observe;

- Breathing (nose) – air in or out
- Flanks - if moving inwards/outwards

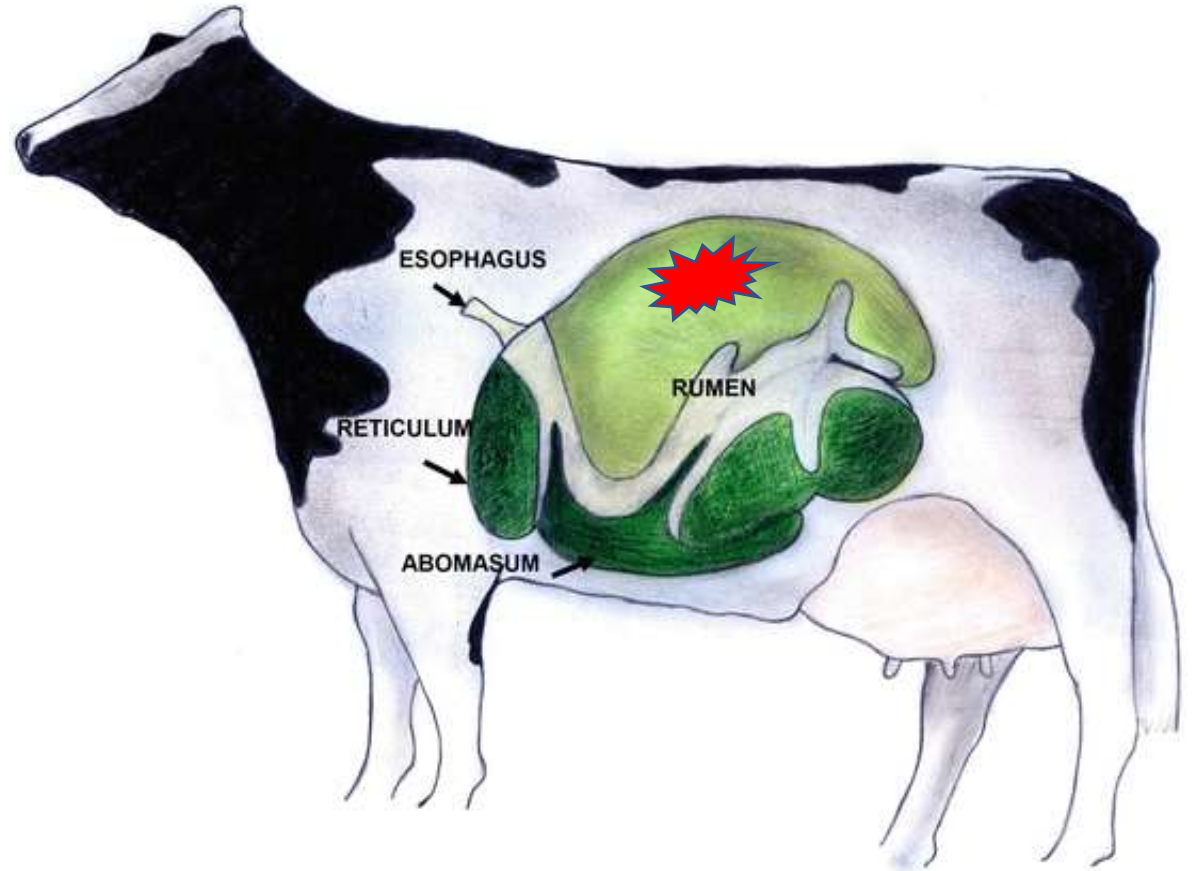
Important: Normal respiration rate is between 15-35 beats/minute



7. Rumen health/activity

- Rumen capacity is between 150-200 Liters
- Rumen is active 24/7
- Two (2) contractions occurs per minute

A sick rumen is a sick cow!



8. Summary/Take home

Summary;		
Health Trait	Right place	Value
1. Body Temperature	Rectum	38-39.5° Celsius
2. Pulse Rate	Left Shoulder, Tail, Jaw	60-80/minute
3. Respiration Rate	Flank, Nose	15-35/minute
4. Rumen contractions	Dangerous Triangle	10-12/5 minutes

Healthy cows, Happy cows, Happy Farmers!