

Complete Paragraph

A *paragraph* is a group of sentences that share a common idea. The punctuation and capitalization are missing in the paragraph below. **Correct** the punctuation and capitalization to create a complete paragraph about beef animal nutrition.

Farmers focus on providing their cattle proper nutrition in all stages of beef production. On a cow-calf operation calves drink milk from their mothers. During this time, they are also learning to eat grasses. The calf is ready to get all its nutrients from grasses when it is about 6 months old. Cattle eat grasses for most of their lives. Cattle are ruminants. Ruminant animals can digest grasses humans and other animals can't. Beef farmers provide their cattle with grasses by letting them graze on pastures. The cattle will be moved from pasture to pasture to make sure they have fresh grasses. This also makes sure they don't overgraze an area and kill the grass. In a feedlot, the farmer has to provide all nutrients cattle need to gain weight and be ready for market. Beef farmers often work closely with a livestock nutritionist. The nutritionist puts together a diet that makes sure all the nutritional requirements are met. Cattle are still fed grasses, but instead of fresh grasses it might be hay or silage. Sometimes food by-products can be good sources of energy and nutrients for cattle. A nutritionist might substitute potato peelings left over from a potato chip company for grains their feed ration. Fresh, clean water is important in every stage of beef production. Cattle can drink 9-20 gallons of water a day! Farmers work hard every day to make sure their cattle have all the water and nutrients they need to grow, so we can have nutritious and delicious beef products.