A short dairy timeline

From a cowpox inoculation to an official tracing system.

Each line has a date and a source used on dairy-cows.farmyard.im. Official United Kingdom figures for 2025 and official England figures for 1 June 2026 are listed separately, and are not one total.

Year	What happened	Source
1796	Edward Jenner inoculates James Phipps with cowpox material from Sarah Nelmes, and later names the method from *vacca*, the Latin for cow.	Science Museum Group, Jenner's lancets
1848	The Royal Dairy at Frogmore is built under Prince Albert's personal direction, just east of Frogmore House, with a creamery 40 feet by 20.	royal.uk
1853	Smallpox vaccination is made compulsory in England and Wales, thirty years after Jenner's death.	Science Museum Group, Edward Jenner
1871	Jerseys of the Pretty Polly bloodline are given to Queen Victoria as a present, according to royal.uk.	royal.uk
c. 1890	An early Murchland milking unit, with teat cups and air taps, is dated about 1890 in the Science Museum Group catalogue.	Science Museum Group, object 1970-178
1933	A MERL catalogue of Milk Marketing Board films records "1933 Milk Marketing Board set up," by farmers to represent their interests.	MERL, SR MMB PH6
1933–1935	Three golden Guernseys sail with Byrd's second expedition on the SS Jacob Ruppert. A calf, Iceberg, is born just north of the Antarctic Circle.	Byrd Polar, First Milkman in Antarctica
1965	A MERL-catalogued Milk Marketing Board advertising film includes supermarket shots and the line "Drinka Pinta Milka day."	MERL, SR MMB PH6
2025	*Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2025* defines a dairy cow as a female dairy cow over 2 years old with offspring, and gives a 2025 dairy total of 1,849 thousand head.	AUK 2025, Chapter 2
1 June 2026	*Livestock populations in England at 1 June 2026* reports dairy figures from the Cattle Tracing System, including all holdings with cattle.	Defra, England livestock release

ReallyByte — Fun. Educational. Useless. typographic sheet, no photographs. Play the on-site timeline game, and read the longer history, at dairy-cows.farmyard.im. Checked 17 November 2026.