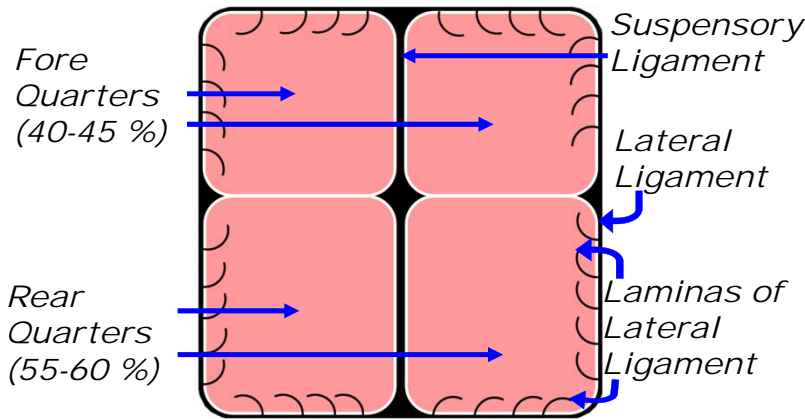


THE UDDER OF THE COW

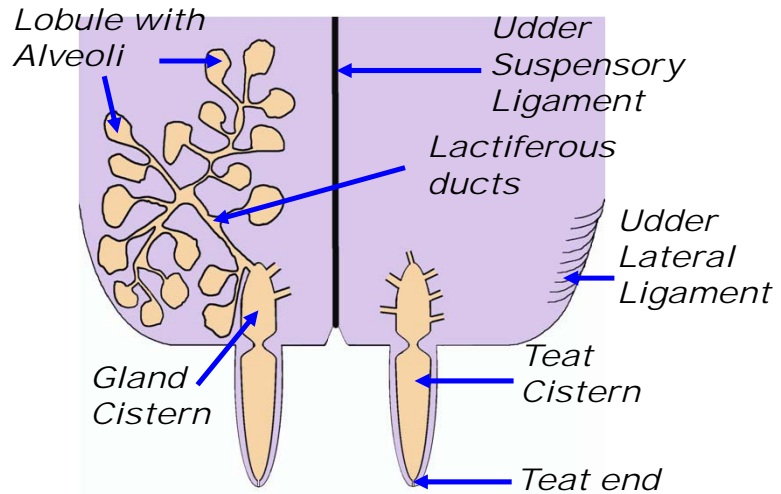
Fact sheet originally created by Humberto Riverea, revised by:
Heather Schlessler and Sandy Stuttgen, UW - Madison Division of Extension

INSIDE THE UDDER



Humberto Rivera, 2004©

DORSAL VIEW OF THE UDDER



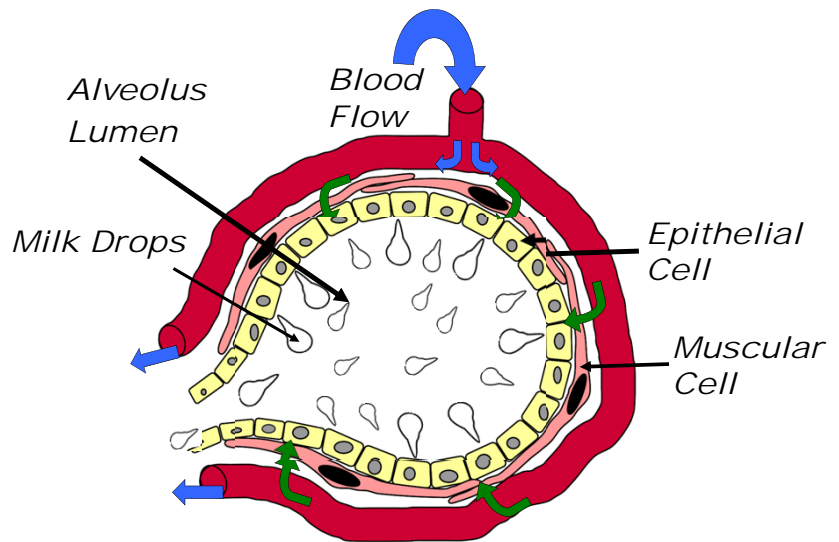
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POSTERIOR VIEW OF REAR QUARTERS

It comprises four independent glands, with one teat and one exit duct each. Right and left halves are totally separated.

HOW IS MILK PRODUCED?

1. Blood stream delivers nutrients to alveolus epithelial cells
2. Using these nutrients, epithelial cells produce milk, which is then released inside the alveolus lumen.
3. During milking, oxytocin is released in the blood stream, and induces contraction of the muscular cells covering the alveolus.
4. This contraction on the alveolus, leads to milk ejection (milk let down), forcing the milk out to lactiferous ducts and the gland cistern.



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MAMMARY ALVEOLUS