

scheduling was introduced for milker operators as early as 1981. The housing problem has basically been solved for the people in agriculture. The local greenhouses yield 46 kilos of greens per square metre. Are there many greenhouses in the south where you can harvest that much?

Even such a brief enumeration of the achievements of arctic agro-industry makes you wonder whether there are some special work methods, or even secrets. However, we must not forget one thing: the Arctic does not stand for sloppy work. Here, for example, you would not see cow-sheds "propped up by the wind and covered by the sky". The cattle just wouldn't survive inside these.

Cattle are bred here on an industrial basis. There is a smooth organization of work, and strict control by the veterinary inspection services. The most important thing here is the very precise animal-husbandary system: in the dairy industry the method of separate feeding is strictly followed, as well as the correct, careful formation of the Kholmogory breed with the aim of changing the herd into Holsteins. There are breeding operations where a cow giving a "mere" 4,000 litres is weeded out right away, so that it will not spoil the breed.

The Murmansk records for milk yields are fairly stable. The Arctic milkmaids joke: "We like cows like this, because then we do not have to work so hard!". Actually, this is true - if, for example, there were not 6,200 kilos of milk per year from a cow, Galina N. Dement'eva's team from the Tuloma State Farm would have to take care of 600 cows instead of 200.