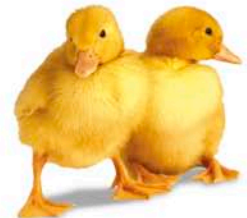




First Facts



Farm



Start a lifetime of learning

First Facts

Farm





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Written by Penelope Arlon
Designed by Victoria Harvey

Design development manager Helen Senior
Publishing manager Bridget Giles
Category publisher Sue Leonard
Production Rita Sinha
Production editor Marc Staples
US editor Shannon Beatty

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First Facts Farm



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crops

Some farms grow plants, or crops, that can be turned into all sorts of food.

The farm



People have been farming for thousands of years. **Farms** are very **important** because they produce food for people to **eat**.



animals

Some farms raise animals, such as cows, pigs, or sheep.

horses

Before there were tractors, horses pulled farm machines like this plow. Animals are still used in some countries.



farmer

The farmer takes care of the whole farm. He sometimes pays people to help him at busy times of the year.





A dairy farm



Cows are farmed for their meat or their **milk**. Cows that are used for milk are called **dairy** cows.

They eat **grass** in the summer and hay in the **winter**.



Cow family...

A male cow is called a bull—he has big horns. A female cow is just called a cow. A baby cow is a calf.



...baby cows...

Newborn calves stand up very quickly after they're born. They immediately drink milk from their mother. When they're bigger, they eat grass.



...a nice drink...

Milk from cows is collected for us to drink. Milk is very good for us—it keeps our bones strong.



...milking cows...

A cow is milked twice a day. A machine is attached to her udder and the milk flows through tubes into a big tank.





...pig family

A male pig is called a boar, a female pig is called a sow, and baby pigs are piglets.

Pig farm

Farmers keep pigs for their meat.

We use their **meat** to make sausages,

ham, and bacon. Some **pigs** are pink, but others are **black** or **white**—or both.



piglets

Most sows have about 10 piglets at one time. A mother pig has to lie down to feed all of her babies.



pig food

Pigs are like us—they eat meat and vegetables. The farmer feeds them both to keep them healthy.



pigsty

Some pigs live in fields, where they can wander around freely. Each one has its own shelter, called a sty.



Sheep farm

Sheep live outside all year round.
They don't mind the **cold** because they
have thick **woolly** coats that keep
them nice and warm.

...Sheep family...
A male sheep
is called a ram.
A female sheep is
called a ewe, and
a baby sheep
is a lamb.





Collecting wool.....

In spring the sheep's fur, the fleece, is shaved, or sheared. The fleece is then turned into wool that we use to knit into socks or sweaters.

Spring babies.....

In the spring the lambs are born. Sheep often give birth to twins. Young lambs are very playful.



.....sheepdogs.....

To guide lots of sheep from place to place, the farmer has a sheepdog. He talks to his dog using whistles.





Egg farm

Chickens are raised for their meat or their **eggs**. Some chickens run around outside, but **sleep** in a **hen house** at night to keep them safe from **wild** animals.



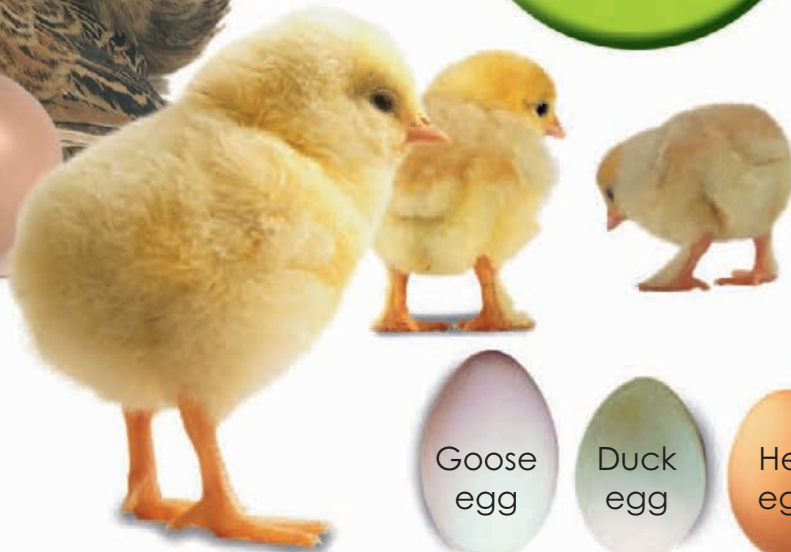
Chicken family

A male chicken is called a rooster—he shouts “cock-a-doodle-doo”! A female is called a hen, and babies are chicks.



chicks.....

A mother hen can lay up to 10 eggs. She sits on them to keep them warm until they hatch.



eggs for breakfast.....

The eggs we eat don't grow into chicks. The farmer puts them into boxes, and we gobble them up for breakfast!

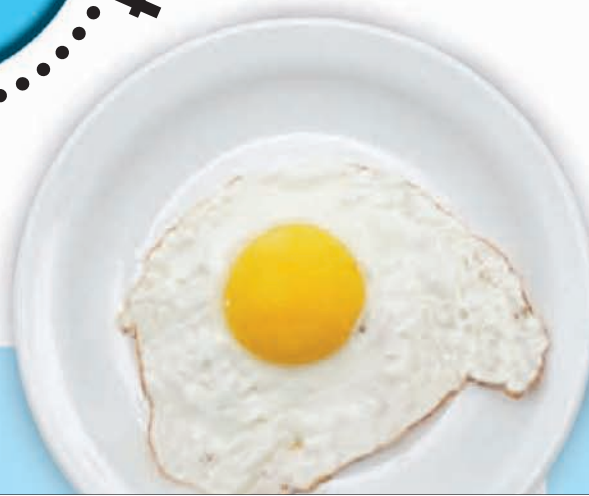
Goose egg

Duck egg

Hen egg

Other eggs.....

Ducks and geese also lay eggs that we can eat. Their eggs are a bit bigger than a hen's egg.



turkeys.....

Turkeys are huge birds that make a strange gobbling sound.



Other farm animals

Some **big** farms raise only one type of **animal**. But smaller **farms** often have lots of different creatures **roaming** around.



alpacas

Some farmers keep alpacas, which come from South America. Their wool can be knitted into clothes.



cats

Cats are often found on farms. Farmers are happy to keep them because they catch pests like mice and rats.



goats

Goats are raised for their milk, which can be turned into delicious cheese.



horses

The farmer sometimes raises horses for him and his family to ride. The horses live in stables.





Busy tractor

The **tractor** is the most important **vehicle** on the **farm**. It can **pull** machines that do lots of **different** jobs. A tractor's large **tires** stop it from getting stuck in the **mud**.



...grass cutter...

Hay is made from grass. The tractor pulls a huge lawn mower through the field to cut the grass for drying.





baling

This tractor is pulling a baler. The baler scoops up dried grain stalks and presses them into bales.



carrying

Tractors can pull long trailers that carry heavy things. This tractor is carrying bales of hay.



Collecting grain

This tractor is driving next to the combine harvester. This catches the grain in the trailer it's pulling.



plowing.....

The farmer uses a plow to break up the soil so he can plant seeds.



Crop farms

Some farms don't have any animals. They only grow plants for **food** for you and me. **Food** plants are called crops.



...seed drill...

A seed drill is pulled along the earth, dropping seeds into the soil through little pipes.

...growing corn...

The corn crop grows until it's ready to harvest, or pick. Then, it's delivered to our stores.





Harvest



When a grain **crop** needs to be cut,
it's time for the combine **harvester**
to start its **engine!**

cutting.

The harvester's
huge blades turn
around and cut
the stalk of
the grain.



threshing

Inside the harvester is a big drum. It beats the crop to loosen the seeds from the top of the stalk.

unloading

The seeds are sent up a spout and poured into the back of a tractor to be taken away.

technology

Most combine harvesters have a computer on board to keep track of how much land has been cut.



wheat field

The seed is planted and grows into wheat. It's cut by a combine harvester.

From wheat to bread

When **wheat** has been harvested in the **combine harvester**, and the **seeds** are prepared, it can begin its journey to become **bread**.

wheat seed

The wheat is taken by tractor to a mill, where it's ground into flour.

flour



Sometimes the seeds are rolled around with stones to separate them from their skin. Then, they're ground into flour.

baker

The flour is taken to a baker, who mixes it with yeast and water to make into bread.



wheat foods

Wheat flour is also used to make tortillas, pasta, and breakfast cereal.





fruit farms.....

When apples are ripe (ready for eating), lots of people gather together to pick the crop by hand.

Other

farm crops

.....Cotton picking.....

As well as food, farms can grow other materials like cotton. Cotton plants produce balls of fluffy fiber, which are spun into thread, then woven into fabric.





...rice farms...

Rice is a delicious food grown in watery fields on rice farms. The rice is the seed—white rice is the seed with the outer skin taken off.



...animal bedding...

After a cereal crop like wheat is harvested, the rest of the plant is cut and left to dry, so it turns into straw. Then, it's shaped into bales. Many farm animals sleep on soft straw beds.

Underground crops

Foods that grow **underground**,
like **potatoes** and carrots, need
a special **harvester**
to pick them.

...harvester...
The harvester
cuts off the green
parts of the plant above
ground. Then it digs
under the soil to grab
the roots, which are
good food.





carrots.....

The orange root of the carrot plant is the part that stores all the goodness to help the plant grow.



potatoes.....

The potato that we eat lies underground, and the stem and leaves grow above the ground.



onions.....

The onion stores the plant's goodness through winter, so it can grow again in the spring.



Glossary



bale

A large bundle, gathered and wrapped before it's stored or moved.

crop

A plant that's grown and harvested in large quantities, then sold.

hatch

To come out of an egg, like chicks do.

harvest

To collect or gather a crop when it's ready.

spin

To twist plant fibers like those on a cotton plant into thread or yarn to make cloth.

trailer

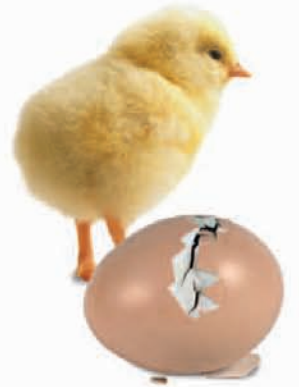
A big, wheeled container that's towed behind a vehicle.

udder

The large, bag-like part of a cow that holds milk for her calves.

vehicle

A machine with wheels and an engine that's used to carry people or things.





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