

# Life on a Farm

by Valeri Tompkins



When you sit down to eat your BREAKFAST, lunch, or dinner, do you ever wonder where your FOOD came from? It probably came from the GROCERY STORE, but before that, it likely came from a FARM. Farming is one of the world's most important jobs because farmers are RESPONSIBLE for feeding the WORLD.

Spell: FOOD Spell: FARM Spell: WORLD

(younger littles) Your food probably came from the grocery \_\_\_\_\_ STORE

Or (older littles) Your food probably came from what kind of store? GROCERY

Name one of the meals you eat during the day. BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

What is your favorite food?

When you hear the song "Old MACDONALD Had a Farm," it might sound like farming is a lot of fun, with happy COWS mooing and HENS CLUCKING all day. In reality, farming is hard WORK, beginning

Question Type Key

KNOWN – SEMI-OPEN – PRIOR KNOWLEDGE – MATH – OPEN – VAKT

when the SUN rises in the morning and not stopping until long after the sun SETS. Farmers must be BRAVE and TOUGH, since even weekends and holidays are spent working in the fields – there are no true VACATIONS for farmers!

Spell: COW Spell: HEN Spell: SUN

Farming is hard work all the way until the sun \_\_\_\_\_ SETS

We said that farming is hard \_\_\_\_\_ WORK

What is one thing we said farmers must be? BRAVE, TOUGH

Besides cows and hens, name another animal you might find on a farm. PIG, HORSE, DUCK, SHEEP

VAKT: Let's stand up and act like chickens. Tuck your thumbs under your arms and then start flapping your elbows. Next, start strutting across the floor while moving your neck back and forth.

A TYPICAL farm might include a combination of CROPS and ANIMALS. Crops such as corn, wheat, and hay may be used to feed the farm animals or may be sold in the local MARKET to feed neighbors or to be TRANSPORTED to distant CITIES. Animals can be raised for their MEAT or they might be used for the products that come from their bodies, like milk from cows and eggs from hens.

Spell: CROPS Spell: ANIMALS Spell: MEAT

Crops can sold in the local \_\_\_\_\_ MARKET

Crops might also be taken to distant \_\_\_\_\_ CITIES

Name one of the crops we mentioned. CORN, WHEAT, HAY

Name one of the products that comes from an animal's body. MILK, EGGS

VAKT: Point to the cow. Point to the chickens.

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No matter what time of year it is, there are important CHORES to be done to RAISE crops. Crops must first be PLANTED, after which they need to be watered, weeded, and FERTILIZED to make sure they are ready to HARVEST when the time is right. The most common time of year to begin harvesting crops is in late SUMMER. Harvesting is a happy time, and many farms hold PARTIES or FESTIVALS to celebrate.

Spell: CHORES Spell: RAISE Spell: HARVEST

What is the first thing we need to do for crops? PLANT

What season is the most common to begin harvesting crops?  
SUMMER

What is one thing many farms hold to celebrate harvests? PARTIES, FESTIVALS

Name another season. FALL, AUTUMN, WINTER, SPRING

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One piece of farm EQUIPMENT a farmer cannot live without is a TRACTOR. Tractors move slowly but are very STRONG. Most tractors have two large back wheels to PULL and two smaller front wheels to STEER. A tractor usually pulls another piece of farm MACHINERY behind it to help plant crops or to TILL and PLOW soil.

Spell: TRACTOR Spell: STRONG Spell: PULL

What do a tractor's front wheels do? STEER

What's one thing a tractor does to soil? TILL, PLOW

What's another word for soil? DIRT

How many tires does a tractor have?  $2 + 2 = 4$

How many tires would two tractors have?  $4 + 4 = 8$  or  $4 \times 2 = 8$

What do you think it would be like to drive a tractor?

VAKT: Watch six-year-old Henry help his father plow their field.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPy1So7WhBA>

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Another close friend of the farmer is the SILO. Silos can be used to store a VARIETY of things, but are usually used to store GRAINS that feed the farm animals. Because they are usually ROUND and very TALL, they save the farmer valuable space on the land. It is important to keep INSECTS out of silos, and most experts recommend keeping the TEMPERATURE inside the silo below 50 DEGREES for that reason.

Spell: SILO Spell: ROUND Spell: TALL

Silos are usually used to store what? GRAINS

What is it important to keep out of silos? INSECTS

Temperatures below what keep insects out? 50 DEGREES

Farming can be a RISKY business. Extreme WEATHER, such as HURRICANES, wildfires, or floods can wipe out an entire crop, leaving the farmer with nothing to harvest, sell, or feed the animals. Weather can also destroy the BARNS where the animals live and even destroy the farmer's home. One of the biggest risks is a DROUGHT, in which there is not enough RAIN in a season to support a crop. Farmers also need to manage the cost of farm equipment and consider the POSSIBILITY of being injured during the course of their farm duties.

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Spell: RISKY Spell: WEATHER Spell: BARN

A drought is when there is not enough what to support a crop? RAIN

What is one type of extreme weather that can wipe out a crop?

HURRICANE, WILDFIRE, FLOOD

If you lived on a farm, what do you think your favorite chore would be?

Creative Writing: Pretend you are a farm animal and write a short letter to your farmer. Tell the farmer what you like and dislike about your life on the farm.

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