

# Farm Animals in the Classroom!

Children will love learning about various barnyard animals and farm life in general with the following activities and patterns.

## ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Contact your local Farm Bureau, 4-H Club or Future Farmers of America. You should be able to locate a volunteer that will bring a few farm animals to your classroom for the children to pet and observe. Baby chicks, rabbits or perhaps a piglet will delight your youngsters.

You may also want to have your class visit a local farm or dairy. Ask parent volunteers to help organize the children for the trip. Take photos of the visit and arrange them, along with student drawings and writings, to make a display of farm activities.

## PIGGY POEMS

Write this favorite childhood poem on the class board.

This little piggy went to the market.  
This little piggy stayed home.  
This little piggy had roast beef.  
This little piggy had none.  
This little piggy went wee-wee-wee  
All the way home!

Ask children to revise the poem. They may want to use a different farm animal besides a pig. An example might be:

This little duck ate ice cream.  
This little duck ate pie.  
This little duck ate pizza.  
This little duck asked why.  
This little duck went quack-quack-quack  
All the way to the pond!

## FARM TASK CARDS

Here are a few ideas for creative writing assignments or simple task activities:

Make a list of adult farm animals and their youngsters.

"Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Write about your ideas.

Write a letter to a local farmer.

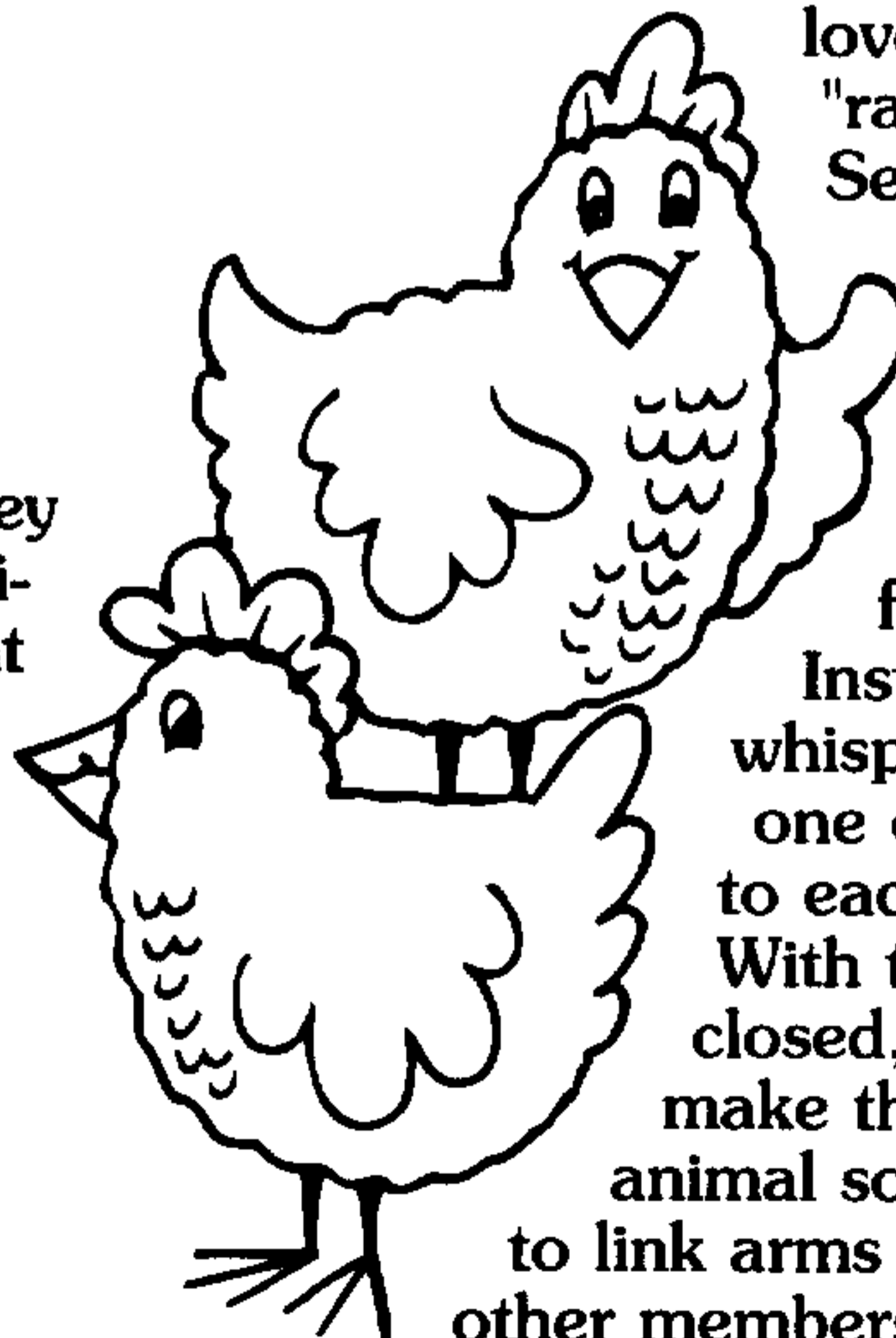
List the various jobs that are required on a farm.

Write a story about: "How the duck got his quack!" "How the cow got her moo!" "How the chicken got her cluck!"

## FARMYARD MATCH

Young children will love playing this "rainy day" game. Select one student to be the "farmer" and ask him/her to think of three different farm animals.

Instruct him/her to whisper the name of one of the animals to each child in class. With their eyes closed, tell students to make the appropriate animal sounds. Ask them to link arms when they find other members of their group.



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## MAKING BUTTER

Before beginning this tasty experiment, discuss with your children the differences between solids and liquids. You should also explain that milk comes from cows and that cream and ultimately butter comes from milk.

With the children seated in a circle, pour 1/2 pint of heavy whipping cream (not super pasteurized) and a dash of salt into a clear, plastic container with a tight fitting lid. Pass the container around the circle and have each child shake it a few times. When everyone has had a turn, open the container, if necessary, and have the students observe any changes to the liquid. (Are there bubbles in the liquid? Does it appear thicker? What color is it?)

Keep passing the container around the circle with each child taking a turn at shaking. Keep opening the container periodically, noting any changes. Soon the cream will turn to whipped cream and then finally to butter. It will also go from a white liquid to a yellowish solid. Give each student a small amount served on a cracker or small piece of bread.

## ANIMAL SAYINGS

Ask your students to write their own creative meanings of these common animal sayings.

"Got Your Goat"	"Whole Hog"
"Hold Your Horses"	"Horse Sense"
"Don't Chicken Out"	"Hog Heaven"
"Chicken Hearted"	"Dog Tired"
"Don't Horse Around"	"Talk Turkey"
"Mule Headed"	"Bull Headed"
"Hog Wash"	
"From the Horse's Mouth"	

## FARM ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Enlarge the farm animal illustrations in this chapter and display them on the class board. After a class discussion regarding farm animals and the products they provide, write those products on colored paper and pin them above the animals. Students can match each animal to the products they provide with a length of yarn. Here are some products to include:

cow	milk, cheese, butter
pig	ham, bacon
chicken	eggs, feathers, meat
goat	milk, cheese
sheep	wool, meat
duck	eggs, feathers

## PIG PEN

Turn a corner of your classroom into an intriguing "Pig Pen!" Section the area off with a cardboard fence or a small picket garden fence (found in your local hardware store). Add a few throw pillows and a cardboard box trough. Fill the trough with a selection of "piggy" literature books. Kids will love "pigging out" during silent reading time!

