



Organisation

Farming is a business. Farmers need to plan and organise to make their farm successful.



Farmers don't spend all their time out in the field.

They plan what they grow, how they do it, the money they spend and the people who work with them.



Farmers need to keep records of their farming activities to help them make the right decisions in the future.



All cattle have their own passport and digital record which includes when it was born, its parents and breed.

Did you know?

There are nearly 280,000 farms in the UK!



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Soil

Soil is important for all farming so it is important for farmers to look after it.



Healthy soil is needed to grow healthy crops and grass for the animals.

Farmers add extra goodness to their soil such as compost, man-made fertilisers and manure (which is well-rotted poo!).



The Farmer's Friends

Worms, bugs and beetles help to keep the soil healthy and aerated. The earthworm is one of the most important workers on the farm, breaking down leaves and grass into food for the plants.



Did you know?

Farmers estimate that there can be as many as one million worms at work in the soil of a farm!



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Crops

Farmers work hard to make sure that their crops are healthy and free from diseases and pests.



Looking after crops

Sometimes the crops farmers grow become infected by diseases and are eaten by insects and animals. So they have to check them regularly. If necessary they call the crop doctor – called an *agronomist* – to help with any problems.



Many farmers encourage animals which will help attack pests. Sometimes farmers need to use pesticides which are like medicines for plants.



Did you know?

After grass, wheat is the most common crop in the UK, with 2 million hectares planted every year.



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Recycling

Farmers work hard to look after the environment by reusing and recycling as much as possible.



Farming is no different from other industries in that nearly everything farmers do results in the production of 'by-products' or 'waste'.



Like in your home, farmers try to recycle as much as they can on the farm. They separate waste and reuse it.

Unused crops, leftover food and animal waste are made into compost, which is used as food for the soil.



Did you know?
I love compost! Yum
yum!



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Animals

Farmers aim to make their animals comfortable, healthy and well fed by giving them the right home and the right food.



Food

Like us, farm animals need a balanced diet and plenty of fresh water to drink to stay healthy.



Comfort

Farmers make sure their animals have shelter, a comfortable resting area, plenty of space and the company of other animals.



Health

The vet is a frequent visitor to the farm. They treat the animals when they are sick and protect them against disease to keep them healthy.



What is a cow's favourite TV show?

Dr Moo!



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Energy

Farmers use energy as efficiently as possible on the farm.



Farmers try to use less energy. They also try to produce more from the energy that they use.

Farmers are always looking for new ways to save and create energy.



For example, modern tractors include satellite systems that keep the tractor running in perfect straight lines so that there is less waste when planting, spraying and harvesting crops.



Some farmers produce electricity from wind power or sunlight. Gas from animal poo, known as *biogas*, can even be made into electricity!

Did you know?

A herd of 300 dairy cows produces enough poo to power a village of 200 homes.



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Water

Water is one of the most important resources on the farm. Farmers look after it so that it is not wasted.



Everything farmers grow takes water to produce and process it. Most crops rely on rain water.



Clean water is used for animals to drink, to water some crops and to clean the farmyard, equipment, animals and buildings. Dirty water can be filtered or cleaned so that it can be used again.



Sometimes in the winter there is too much water. Farmers create ponds, ditches and reservoirs to collect water and store it until it is needed.

Did you know?

A cow can drink 90 litres of water per day.



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Nature

Farmers look after the countryside and work hard to create areas for wildlife to live in.



Working with nature

Farmers share their farm with birds, beetles, butterflies and lots of other animals. Some of this wildlife helps farmers control pests, such as aphids.



Many insects pollinate plants. Insects transfer pollen from the flower of one plant to the flower of another, so that plants can produce new seeds.



Hedges, woodland and wild flowers around the edges of fields provide shelter and food for wildlife.

Did you know?

A bee can visit up to 5,000 flowers in a single day and it is thought that bees are responsible for one of every three bites of food you eat!



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Community

Farmers manage over 75% of the land across the UK. They are an important part of the local community.



Farmers provide **jobs** for local people. They produce the **food** that everyone eats. They manage the countryside for **wildlife**.



Farmers look after **footpaths** and tracks so that everyone can walk, cycle, ride and enjoy the countryside.



Farmers also have an important job **telling** people about their work, how they produce our food and care for the countryside.

Did you know?

Each year, two-thirds of British people make at least one visit to the countryside.

Being in the countryside makes us feel good!



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