

Safe Farm Futures

Junior

Introduction to Farming

AgriAware
EDUCATE • ADVOCATE • ENGAGE



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

The following slides are an introduction to farming in Ireland. Each enterprise will be explored to give you an overview of the products we get from these farms and types of jobs farmers do.

Farm Facts: Farms are the most dangerous work places in Ireland. If visitors and farmers are not careful, they can get hurt.

What is the farmer's job on the farm?

There are many different jobs on the farm that keep the farmer very busy. There are different jobs for each different type of farm. Let's take a look at the different types of farms.



Sheep Farm



Beef Farm



Dairy Farm



Tillage Farm



Pig Farm

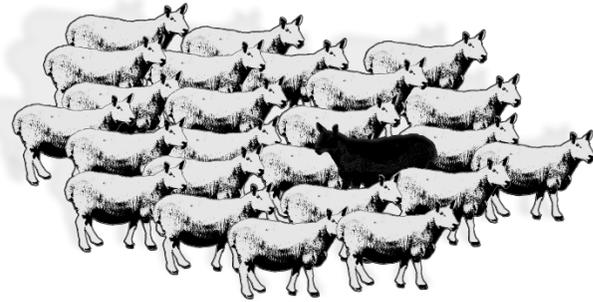


Poultry Farm

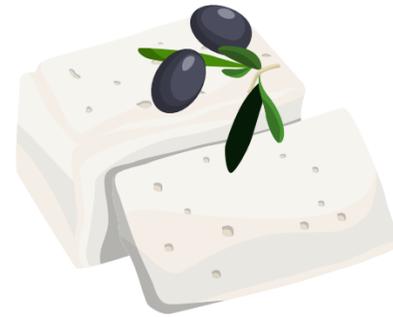
Suggested activity: With your pupils, explore the different types of jobs a farmer might have on the farms displayed above. This can be done independently or in a group.

Over the next few slides, you will learn more about these types of farms and the work the farmer must do to produce food for us.

On sheep farms, sheep live in fields in large groups called **flocks**. They provide us with **wool**, **milk** and **meat**.



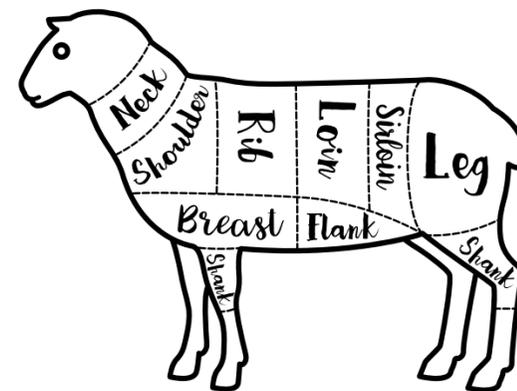
A **flock** of sheep



Feta cheese made from sheep's **milk**

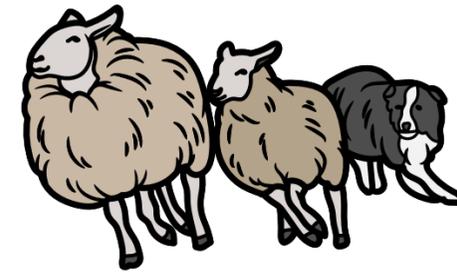


A **wool** jumper



Cuts of **meat** from sheep

The farmer looks after the flock to make sure they are healthy and happy. When outdoors, sheep eat fresh grass. When they are indoors the farmer must feed the sheep silage and meal.



Some farmers use a sheepdog to help them move their sheep



If sheep are in sheds, the farmer feeds them silage and meal



The farmer makes sure that lambs are delivered safely



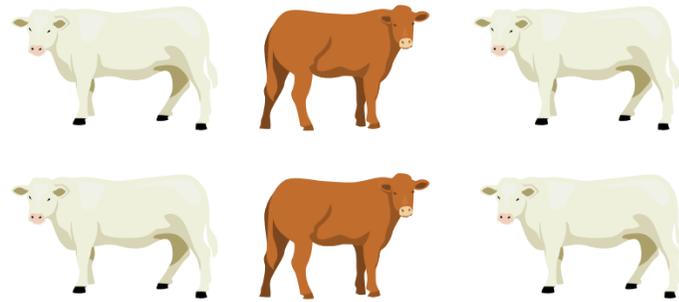
Sheep must be sheared to keep them cool. A farmer or another trained person will shear the sheep once or twice per year.

Suggested Activities

- Carry out a taste test. Try some sheep products such as sheep's milk or sheep's milk yogurt. Compare these to cow's milk products.
- Draw a sheep and label their body parts - include their fleece, udder, hooves, tail and the parts of their face.
- Watch Agri Aware's Fun Friday's episode on Sheep. Click the button to the right to access the recording.

[Fun Friday's
Sheep](#)

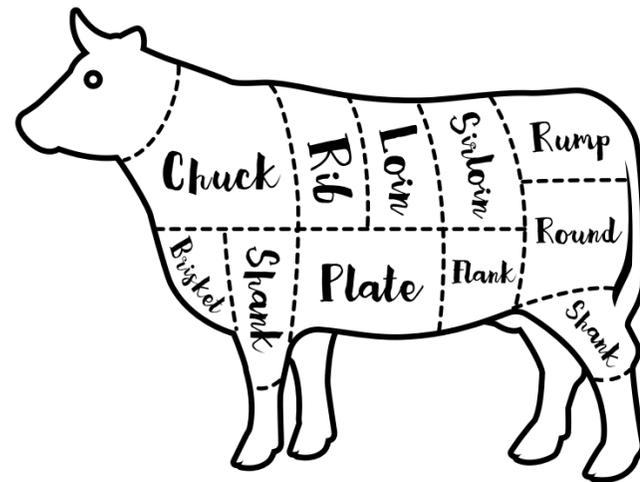
On beef farms, cattle live in fields in large groups called **herds**. They provide us with **leather** and **beef**.



A **herd** of cattle



Leather boots

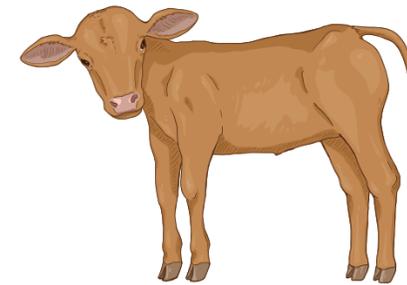


Cuts of **beef** from cattle

The farmer looks after the herd to make sure they are healthy and happy. When outdoors, cattle eat fresh grass. When they are indoors the farmer must feed the cattle silage and meal.



If the cattle are outside on pasture, the farmer must make sure they have enough grass to eat. When the grass in the field is finished, the farmer must move the cattle to a new field.



At calving time, the farmer makes sure the calves are delivered safely.



If cattle are in sheds, the farmer feeds them silage and meal

Suggested Activities

- As a group, name all of the products that we get from leather.
- Different cuts of meat are used for different types of food. Research which cuts are used for steak, roasts and stews.
- Watch Agri Aware's Fun Friday's episode on Beef Cattle. Click the button to the right to access the recording.

[Fun Friday's](#)
Beef

On dairy farms, cows live in fields in large groups called **herds**. They provide us with **milk**.



A **herd** of cows

Dairy products made from **milk** include yoghurt, cheese and many more



The farmer looks after the herd to make sure they are healthy and happy. On dairy farms, farmers will keep cows. We use the term cow for a female bovine animal.



On dairy farms, cows are usually milked twice per day. This milk is then sent to the co-operative to be pasteurised.



At calving time, the farmer makes sure the calves are delivered safely.



If cows are in sheds, the farmer feeds them meal and silage

Suggested Activities

- Learn more about the pasteurisation process and why it is important. Find the word 'pasteurisation' on the milk carton.
- Watch Agri Aware's 'The Story of Milk' video. Click the button to the right to access the recording.
- As a group, come up with a smoothie recipe using milk as your liquid.

[The Story of Milk](#)

On tillage farms, farmers sow, maintain and **harvest** cereal crops. There are lots of different types of cereal crops including **barley, oats, rye and wheat**. When the crops are ready to be harvested, they will be a golden yellow colour.

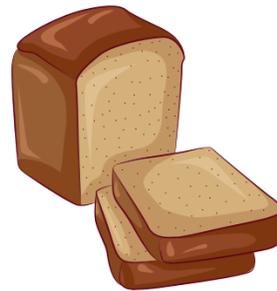
A machine called a combine harvester is used to collect all the grain from the cereal crop.



Barley malt
syrup



Porridge made
from **oats**

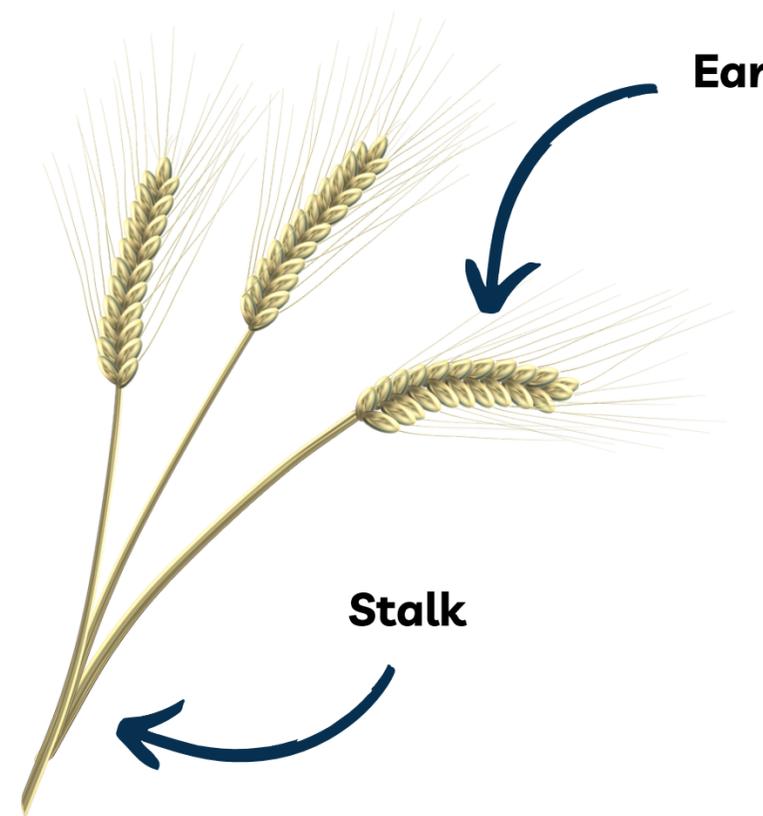


Rye bread



Flour made
from **wheat**

On the tillage farm, the farmer looks after the crops to make sure they grow to produce **grain**. The **ear** of barley is harvested for grain and made into food for people and for animals. The **stalk** is used to make **straw** for animal bedding.



Grain



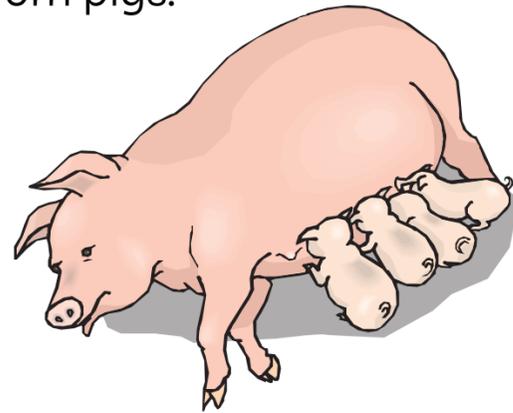
Straw

Suggested Activities

- Make a list of all the foods made from cereals.
- Watch Agri Aware's 'The Story of Flour' video. Click the button to the right to access the recording.
- Make a group poster showing the process of making flour from the farm to the bag.

The Story of Flour

On pig farms, the animals are grouped according to their age and size. When **piglets** are first born, they drink milk from their mothers. When they are old enough, they are weaned and fed grain. Pigs give us **pigskin leather** and **pork** meat. We do not drink milk from pigs.



Piglets drinking milk from their mothers teat

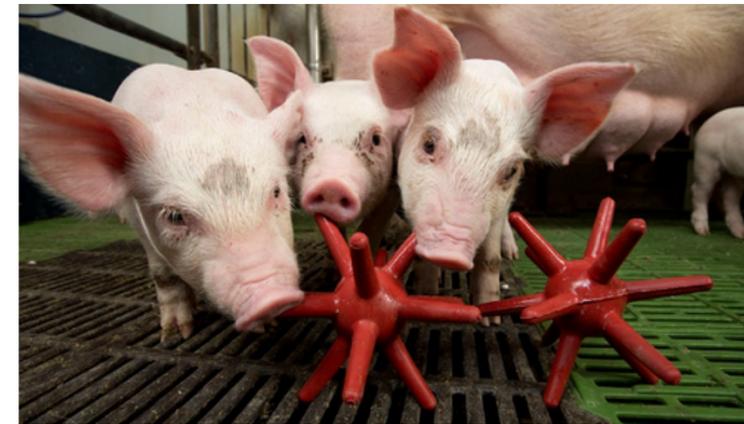


Gloves made from **pigskin leather**



Pigs give us bacon, ham, pudding and other **pork** meats

The farmer looks after the pigs to make sure they are healthy and happy. It is very important to keep pigs active. They are smart animals. They are smarter than horses and dogs. Pigs are often housed indoors. Their houses must be kept clean at all times to ensure the animals are disease free.



Just like our pets at home, pigs can get bored. Farmers give their pigs toys to encourage them to play safely. This stops the pigs from fighting with each other.

Although pigs have a reputation for being messy, they are actually very clean animals. They are happiest in a nice clean environment. A farmer needs to clean out their house once a week, removing dirt and replacing it with clean straw.

Suggested Activities

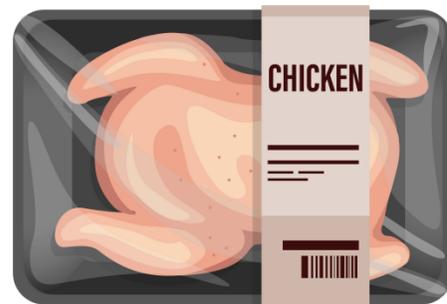
- Investigate the pig family. The babies are called piglets. What are the mothers and fathers called?
- At school or at home, watch the movie 'Babe'. Notice how easily the pig was trained by the farmer.
- Look at pictures of different pig breeds. Discuss their differences.

Fun Friday's Pig
Webinar

There are many different types of poultry such as chickens, ducks, and geese. Chickens live in groups called **flocks**. They are often housed indoors. There are two types of chicken farms. One raises chickens to give us **chicken meat** and the other produces **eggs**.



A **flock** of chickens

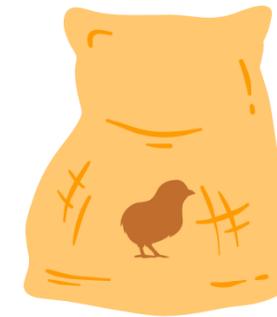


A whole **chicken**
for roasting



Six chicken **eggs**

On a chicken farm, the farmer must feed the chickens all year round. They do not eat grass like other farm animals. **Chicken feed** is made up of grains. Because most chickens are raised indoors, farmers must provide them with **roosting posts** and scrapes. **Heat lamps** are also used to keep chicks warm. Egg collection is another important job on the farm.



Chicken feed



Roosting posts



Heat lamps

Suggested Activities

- Investigate the chicken family. What are the babies, mothers and fathers called?
- Discover all the different types of poultry that are farmed in Ireland. We have given you the first three: chicken, ducks and geese.
- Create an parts of an egg poster. Label the shell, yolk and the white. Discuss the role of each part.