

Animal Appetites

The following narrative was written by Alex, a 5th grader who raises livestock for 4-H.

This morning I woke up early because it was my turn to feed the animals my sister and I are raising for our 4-H projects. It's a lot of hard work, but I really like caring for Daisy, my heifer, and Lucky, my sister's pig.

When I walked up to Daisy's corral, I noticed right away that her trough was empty. She has an impressive appetite. First I cleaned out Daisy's pen and made sure she had fresh, clean water. I gave her a big scoop of food and a handful of hay. I sat back to watch. At first, Daisy ate her food rapidly—it was gone in minutes! But once her food was gone, she continued to chew... and chew... and chew. I watched for 30 minutes, and the whole time Daisy never stopped chewing! I know my jaw would get sore if I chewed as much as Daisy did. I didn't have time to watch Daisy chew all day, so I decided it was time to feed my sister's pig, Lucky.

Lucky was hungry too. I gave him a big scoop of food in his bowl. Lucky, even though he ate last night, wolfed down his food like he was starving. In fact, he hardly chewed at all. It only took him a few minutes to finish his meal. I looked over at Daisy. Guess what she was doing? STILL chewing!

This really got me thinking...

Why do Lucky and Daisy eat different kinds of food?

Why do they eat their food differently?

Who decides what they should eat?

Do you know the answers to any of these questions?

Do you have questions about what animals eat?