

VOCABULARY

acre: a measure of land equal to area a team of oxen could plow in one day: 660 feet x 66 feet, 160 square rods, 4,840 square yards or 43,560 square feet; about the size of a football field.

alfalfa: a legume (plant) used for forage or hay in livestock feeding.

annual: completion of life cycle in one year, such as in a plant (from seed to seed in a single season).

antibodies: a protein produced by an animal which destroys or inhibits the growth or action of another microorganism.

avian: pertaining to poultry and/or fowl.

beef cattle: breeds of cattle suitable for meat production.

boar: a male pig, any age.

bovine: pertaining to cattle.

breed: a group of animals with common ancestry, possessing certain inherited characteristics which distinguish them from other groups of animals.

breeding: the pairing of a male and a female of the same species to produce offspring.

broiler: a chicken of either sex about seven weeks of age.

bull: a male bovine of any age.

bushel: a volume measurement of 1.25 cubic feet.

by-product: a substance produced during the making of another product.

calf: the offspring of a cow.

calving: to give birth to a calf.

cereal grain: an edible seed of a grass such as wheat, oats or corn.

clear-cutting: removal of all the trees in a stand of timber.

colostrum: the first milk produced by a female mammal after giving birth. It contains high levels of antibodies, protein and energy.

crop rotation: the sequence of crops over a period of consecutive years on the same land.

combine: a machine which cuts the standing crop, threshes and separates seed from other plant tissue while moving across the field. Combine types include those pulled by a tractor and those that are self-propelled.

cow: a mature female bovine that has produced an offspring.

crossbred: an animal which is the combination of the best traits of two or more animal breeds.

cud: food that is brought up from the first compartment of the stomach to the mouth of a ruminant to be re-chewed.

cultivation: to loosen or till soil around growing plants.

dairy cows: breeds of cows suitable for milk production.

embryo: a fertilized egg.

ewe: a female sheep of any age.

farrowing: to give birth to piglets.

fertile: the ability to reproduce.

fleece: the outer covering of wool from a sheep.

flock: a group of animals that live, travel or feed together.

forages: plants used for feed by animals (e.g., alfalfa, hay, corn silage or other hay crops).

freshening: the ability of cows to give milk after calving.

germination: resumption of growth of the embryo after wetting the seed.

gestation period: period of pregnancy: in beef and dairy cows, the average period is 281 days; in sheep, the average is 147 days; in swine the average is 114 days.

greenhouse: a glass/plastic enclosed structure used for the cultivation or protection of tender plants.

gilt: a female hog that has not borne a litter of piglets.

hay: forage stored as dried plant material, used as livestock feed.

heifer: a young female of the cattle species that has not borne a calf.

hen: a mature female chicken or turkey.

herbaceous plant: a non-woody plant that dies back to the soil surface at the end of the growing season.

homogenized: the process during which the particles of fat in the milk are broken up so that the cream (fat) does not separate and rise to the top.



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horticulture: the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers or ornamental plants.

hybrid: the first generation progeny (offspring) of genetically diverse parents; cross of different species, races, varieties.

incubation: the process of keeping eggs under controlled conditions of heat and moisture to permit the fertile eggs to hatch. Chicks require 21 days and turkeys 28 days to hatch.

lactation period: the length of time a female gives milk following the birth of an offspring; usually with reference to dairy cows and milk goats.

lambling: to give birth to a lamb or lambs.

layer: a female chicken producing eggs regularly.

legume: a plant, such as the soybean, that has the ability to use soil bacteria to pull nitrogen from the air and use it for its growth.

litter: a number of offspring born at the same time from one sow.

“manoomin”: Native American name for wild rice.

milling: the process or business of grinding grain into flour or meal.

molting: the shedding of feathers by chickens, accompanied by a reduction or ceasing of egg production for a short period of time.

monogastric: having only one stomach or stomach compartment (like humans and swine).

nodule: a swelling on the roots of legumes that contains nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

nursery: an area where plants are grown for transplanting, for use as stock for budding and grafting, or for sale.

offspring: the young of an animal.

panicle: a loosely branched flower structure of a grass (e.g. oats and wild rice).

pasteurized: a process of heating milk to kill disease-producing bacteria; this helps to prevent spoiling without destroying the vitamins or changing the taste.

perennial: a plant having a life span of more than two years.

photosynthesis: the process of converting light energy in the presence of chlorophyll, water and carbon dioxide and releasing sugar and oxygen.

piglet: a young pig.

pollen: the fine powder-like material provided by the anthers of flowering plants and functioning as the

male element in fertilization (pollination).

poult: a young turkey.

pullet: a female chicken up to six months of age.

ram: a male sheep of any age.

ration: the amount of food supplied to an animal for a specific period, usually for a day.

regeneration: renewal or restoration of a biological system (forest) after injury or normal process; re-growth of new tissues, organs by an organism.

roaster: a young meat bird, 10 to 12 weeks old weighing 8 to 9 pounds, used for pan roasting.

rooster: a male chicken of any age.

roughage: feeds high in fiber and low in total digestible nutrients such as hay and silage.

ruminant: an animal having a stomach with four compartments. Its digestive process is more complex than that of animals having a true (or monogastric) stomach.

shearing: removal of the wool from a sheep.

sheep: an ovine species that produces both meat and wool.

seedling: a young plant that develops from a germinating seed.

silage: a fermented high moisture forage which may be kept for long periods of time when properly harvested, chopped and stored (anaerobically) in an airtight structure.

silo: a pit or a tall, airtight, cylindrical structure in which silage is stored.

sire: the male parent of an animal.

sow: a mature female hog.

species: a group of animals closely related with similar form and function.

steer: a neutered male of the cattle species.

swine: another name for hogs.

tap root: a primary root that grows vertically downward with smaller lateral roots; typical of dicots.

tuber: a shortened, thick, fleshy underground stem (e.g. white potato).

tom: a male turkey.

wean: to remove a young animal that has been nursing from its mother.

wether: a neutered male sheep.

yield: to bear or bring forth as a natural product; amount of seed, fruit or forage per area of land.

