

VOCABULARY

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

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.

barrow: a neutered male pig.

beef cattle: breeds of cattle suitable for meat production.

boar: a male pig, any age.

bovine: pertaining to cattle.

brand: an owner's identification mark applied to a specific area of an animal's body.

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.

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

calf: the offspring of a cow.

calving: to give birth to a calf.

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

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.

dairy cows: breeds of cows suitable for milk production.

dairy processing plant: where raw milk is taken to be processed and put into containers or made into cheese, butter or ice cream.

digestive tract: a part of the digestive system, where food is converted into energy.

domesticated: adapting to life in association with and to the use of humans.

down: very fine soft feathers.

embryo: a fertilized egg.

ewe: a female sheep of any age.

farrowing: to give birth to piglets.

felting: the process of making a type of cloth from wool by using agitation (matting and pressing the fibers) in combination with moisture. Heat can also be used to speed up this process.

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.

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.

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

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

hen: a mature female chicken or turkey.

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.

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.



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lambing: to give birth to a lamb or lambs.

lanolin: an oil extracted from sheep's wool and used in cosmetics and lubricants.

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. (Cats and dogs also have litters.)

livestock: domestic farm animals raised for production. Examples include dairy, beef, sheep, goats, swine and poultry.

milk: a liquid produced by female mammals after they give birth; used to feed their young or as food for humans.

milk replacer: a substance which resembles the nutritional make-up of milk and is used to supplement young animals' diets.

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).

needle-punched wool: an unwoven product that results from mechanically pushing barbed needles through a wool batting; the fibers interlock until a fabric structure is attained, similar to felting.

offspring: the young of an animal.

ovine: pertaining to sheep.

parturition: the act or process of giving birth.

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

piglet: a young pig.

porcine: pertaining to swine.

poult: a young turkey.

poultry: chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and other domesticated birds raised for eggs or meat.

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.

roaster: a young meat bird, 10 to 12 weeks old weighing eight to nine 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.

shepherd: a person who takes care of sheep (also called a sheepherder).

silage: an entire plant (stalk, leaves and grain), coarsely chopped, stored and fermented, and used for livestock feed. Moisture content is approximately 65%. Three pounds of silage is nutritionally equivalent to one pound of hay.

silos: 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.

tom: a male turkey.

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

weaving: a process in which yarn is interlaced to make fabric.

wether: a neutered male sheep.

