

Animal Care Farm Charm

Content Area

Science: Life Processes

Objective

Children will identify the needs of farm animals.

Materials

- Small, jewelry sized bags
- Yarn or pipe cleaner
- Hole punch
- Blue glitter (you can substitute blue shredded paper)
- Red construction paper
- Brown shredded paper
- Googly eyes
- Cornmeal or grits

Background Knowledge

Farmers who raise animals, such as cows, chickens, turkeys, sheep, or hogs are called livestock producers. It is the farmer's job to make sure that their animals are well taken care of. Animals rely on farmers to provide them with food, water, shelter, and care to keep them healthy. In turn, people rely on farm animals for food and clothing.

All animals share the same basic needs of food and water. Some farm animals may graze on pastureland and might be provided with extra hay or silage. Silage is made when a plant such as corn or grass is cut, finely chopped, and packed tightly to store. The farmer will carefully choose the correct type and combination of grains for their animals in order to give them the best possible nutrition. Additionally, farmers provide their animals with plenty of clean water.

In addition to food and water, farmers provide their animals with shelter to protect them from severe weather and to keep them safe. Lastly, in order to keep their animals healthy, farmers will seek the help of veterinarians. Veterinarians are doctors who take care of animals and make sure they stay healthy. Some veterinarians take care of pets like dogs or cats, while others, called large animal veterinarians, specialize in the care of farm animals.

Procedure

1. Make a list of animal needs – air, food, shelter, water, and space (habitat). Discuss how farmers provide these needs to their animals.
2. Have each student pick their favorite farm animal. Then, give each student a small jewelry bag with a hole punched above the zip. In the bag will be items representing that animal's needs.
3. Have them open the bag and give it a puff of air. This represents the air that the animal needs.
4. Next, place a pinch of blue glitter in the bag. This represents fresh water.
5. Place a pinch of cornmeal or grits in the bag. This represents the ground up grain that most farm animals eat. Also place some brown shredded paper in the bag. This represents cut grass, or hay, that farm animals may eat.
6. Cut a small square from a piece of red or gray construction paper and put in the bag. This represents the barn, or shelter for the animal.



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7. Last, place a googly eye in the bag because farmers keep an eye on their animals' health and well-being.
8. Thread the yarn through the hole at the top for a necklace (or use a pipe cleaner for a bracelet).



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