



The health and welfare of farm animals are ultimately the responsibility of the farmer.

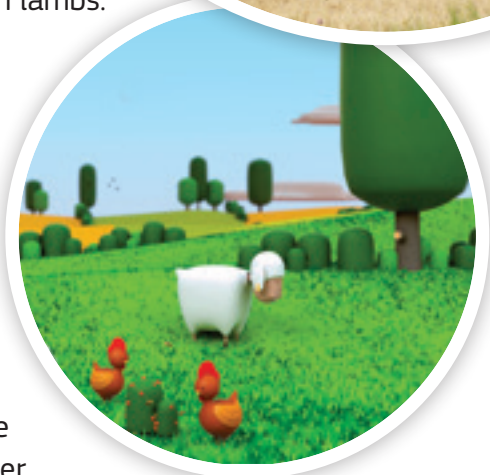


Part 1

In Part 1 of this project you'll **prepare for a visit to a livestock farm with sheep** (to take place at a later date and which is the subject of Part 2) by exploring how to take care of newborn lambs.

Has anyone in the class or school ever visited a sheep farm? If so invite them to share their know-how. In groups of three, using books or the internet, research one of the following areas: milk, feed and nutrition; pasture and fencing; prevention, control and treatment of injuries, illnesses and disease.

After everyone has conducted their research, the class should pool their findings and work together on a slideshow presentation or presentation page called 'The health and welfare of lambs'.





Part 2

Using the knowledge you acquired about the care and management of a herd animal, like sheep, **organise a visit to a livestock farm**. Brainstorm questions to ask and on the day remember to bring a camera and journal to note what you discover on your farm visit.

Question headings might include: type of farming (e.g. dairy, beef, mixed, family farm, organic, conventional); breeds and general care in relation to feeds and disease prevention; and daily management of the herd (free-range or housed, grass- or feed-fed).

Think about EU herd identification and traceability systems. There are standards and rules to identify and control cattle movement to help prevent the spread of disease. They also tackle animal housing and handling facilities. You might also ask about the types of machinery used and the cost of transporting animals.

After preparing for the visit, remember to ask the farmer about the challenges and the rewards of a farming life. You could also take note of the various agri-related jobs — for example, think back to the animated clip and the jobs created by the family's cheese-making business or the guest rooms in the barn — that are linked to this farm. Select volunteers to ask the questions during your visit.

On returning to class after the farm visit, each group of three students can draw a plan of the layout of the farm on an A3 sheet, including the farm buildings (animal houses, machinery sheds and crop- and feed-storage areas) and shelter areas such as hedgerows, trees and water supply. Add photos or other artefacts gathered during the farm visit to your display, noting the health and welfare measures taken by the farmer for the care of the animals.



Arrange an exhibition of your work and invite other classes to view your display.

