

Information sheet for the activity book “A Day at the Farm”

About the activity book

The activity book has been produced as part of a collaborative project between the Swedish National veterinary institute (SVA) and 4H Sweden regarding hygiene in the farm environment.

Purpose and use

The activity book is designed such that the activities are well-suited for implementation before or after a visit to a farm. The focus lies on maintaining careful hygiene when in contact with animals as well as always handling animals properly.

You can choose if you want to complete the whole activity book, or a few activities that are suited for the age group. Age references to all activities can be found further down in this document.



The front cover of the activity book “A Day at the Farm”

About the activities

The activities in the activity book have a variety of difficulties, and the book comprises eight activities as well as a summary:

- drawing animals
- wordsearch
- maze
- rebus
- picture and letter puzzle
- finding the soap
- crossword
- dot-to-dot
- summary – what was the most fun activity?

The activity book is primarily targeted at the age group of 6–12 years. With a little help, younger children can also take part in the easier activities. For children who can read, the activity book is self-explanatory. Otherwise, they will need the help of someone who can explain what the activities are about, and to solve the activities when letters are involved.

Discussion

Whether the activities are undertaken by individuals or groups is up to you. The important thing is to initiate discussion around why the solutions lead to what they do. Below, you can find things to discuss regarding each respective activity.

Drawing animals

- *Which animals do you think there are at the farm?*
- Discuss.
- *Why are these animals there?*
- Discuss.

Wordsearch

- *Did you draw all the animals from the wordsearch in the activity “Drawing Animals”?*
- Discuss.

Maze

- *Why do you need to go past the soap before you pat the cow?*
- To wash your hands. It is important that we humans don't infect animals with diseases.
- It is equally important to wash your hands after you pet and spend time with animals. Animals can also carry diseases that they can infect us humans with.

Rebus

- *Why do animals need peace and quiet?*
- So that they feel good and live a normal life without stress.

Picture and letter puzzle

- *Why is it important to be nice to all animals?*
- All animals are equally as important and deserve to feel good. If you get an animal, you are responsible for it. Therefore, it is our duty to make sure the animal feels good, isn't stressed and gets the correct food.

Finding the soap

- *Why do you need to wash your hands before you eat food?*
- To wash away any micro-organisms that might be on your hands. On a farm, for example, you might come into contact with manure or something else that may contain infectious agents.

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Crossword

- *Why is the table a good place to eat at?*
 - On farms where visit activities take place, tables are placed outside of the animals’ paddocks. This is good for several reasons! Partly, it reduces the risk of people getting in the animals’ manure, and the risk of animals getting into our leftover food. The animals’ manure can make us sick, in the same way that our leftover food can makes the animals sick.
 - It is always good to wipe the table before you eat at it; among other reasons, this can wipe away possible bird droppings that can contain bacteria.

Dot-to-dot

- *Why should you throw your rubbish in the rubbish bin?*
 - Rubbish can hurt animals and people. There is a risk that animals will eat the rubbish, which can make them feel bad, and of course we want to avoid that.

Age references

The statistics for “age references” are based on 32 survey responses from children aged 5-12 who were tested at solving the activities in the activity book. The statistic act as an approximate reference for which activities to target to which age group. This can of course differ between groups and individuals.

Table 1: Compiled statistics from 32 children aged 5-12 years.

Difficulty	Puzzle
Easiest	Dot-to-dot
Easier	Finding the soap
Easy	Maze
Medium-easy	Drawing animals
Medium-hard	Rebus
Hard	Picture and letter puzzle
Harder	Wordsearch
Hardest	Crossword

Table 2: Reference for which activity fits best for each age category. The activities in bold are those which are added from the previous age category.

Age reference	Puzzle
5+	Drawing animals, maze, finding the soap, dot-to-dot
7+	Drawing animals, maze, rebus, picture and letter puzzle , finding the soap, dot-to-dot
8+	Drawing animals, wordsearch , maze, rebus, picture and letter puzzle, finding the soap, dot-to-dot
9+	Drawing animals, wordsearch, maze, rebus, picture and letter puzzle, finding the soap, crossword , dot-to-dot

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The activity book “A Day at the Farm” is produced by SVA and 4H, “New communications models to prevent risks for spreading of zoonotic bacteria and antibiotic resistance in activities where children and young people meet animals”.

