

Grades 3–5

Farm to Fork: Where Food Comes From

All in Order

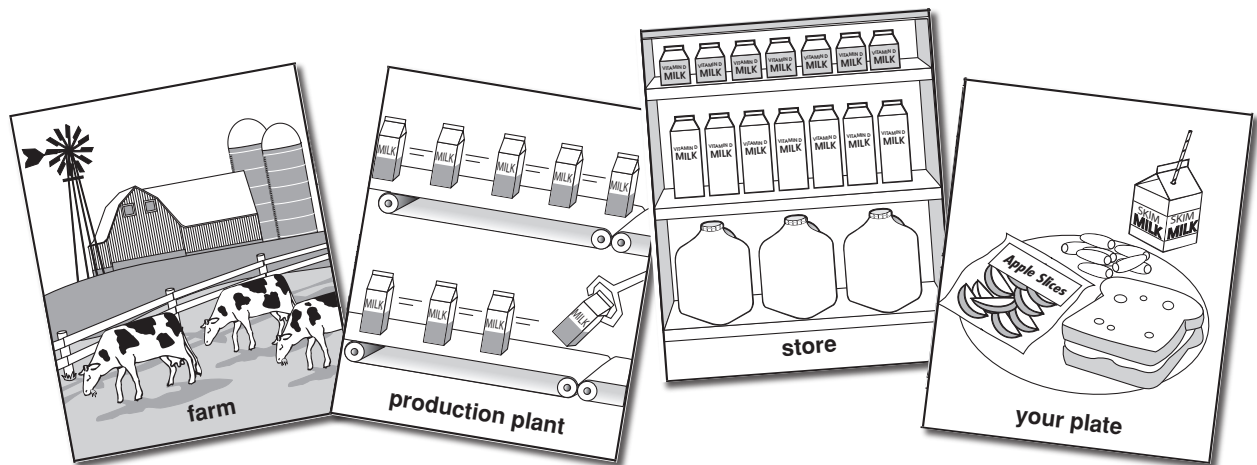
Sequencing the food production system

Begin by asking students to write a list of foods they like to eat. Then lead a discussion about how they think that those foods made it to their plates. Next, have each child accordion-fold a sheet of paper into four same-size sections. Direct him to cut out a copy of the “farm to fork” cards and glue the cards in order to show the sequence of the food production system. For each card, have him select one of the foods from his list and use it as an example to explain that step. Encourage pairs of students to share their completed sequences with each other.

Extend the learning: Provide index cards to students. Challenge students to revisit their food lists and illustrate some of the foods on the cards. Then have them create additional cards showing where those foods come from—eggs come from chickens, hamburgers come from cows, apples come from trees, and milk comes from cows. Have students exchange cards and match the products and their sources. Finally, have students decorate an envelope to store their cards in. Title it “What Comes From the Farm? Everything!”

Teaching tip:

Most students will understand that meat comes from animals, but some students may not. At this age, students need to understand the source of their foods and of other products they use, so be prepared to share this information as necessary.

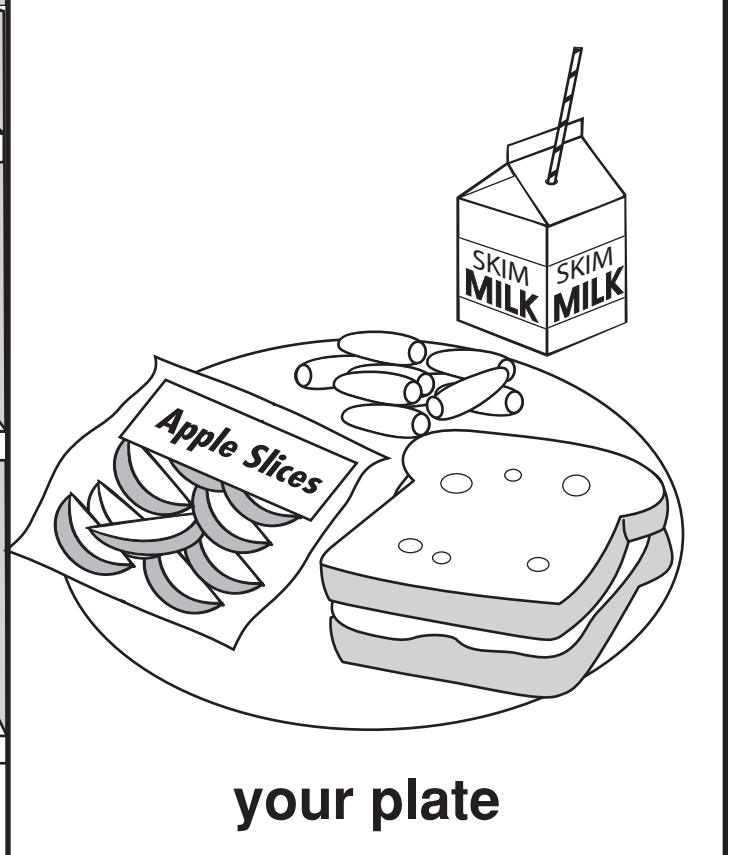
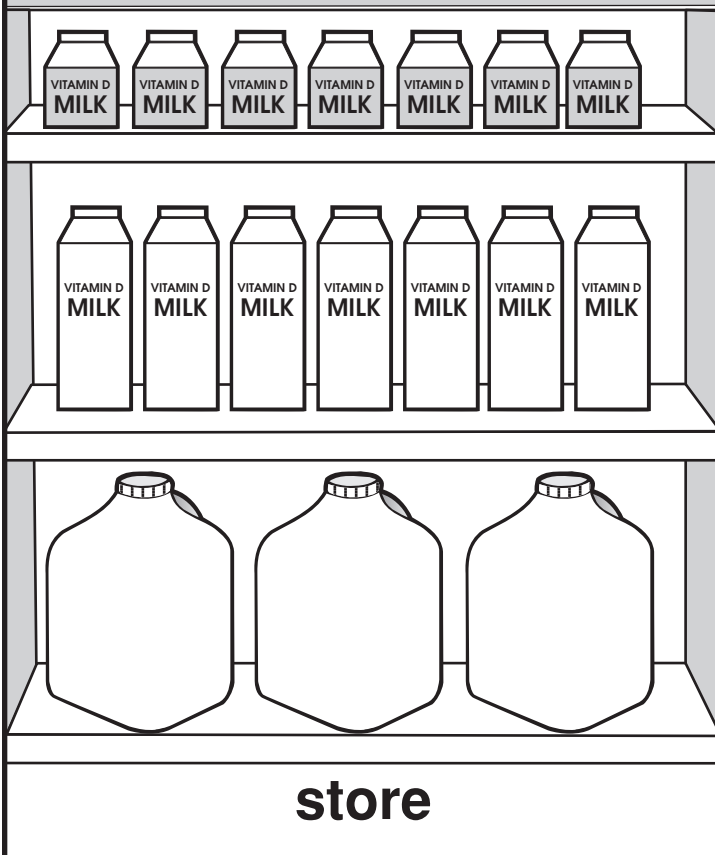
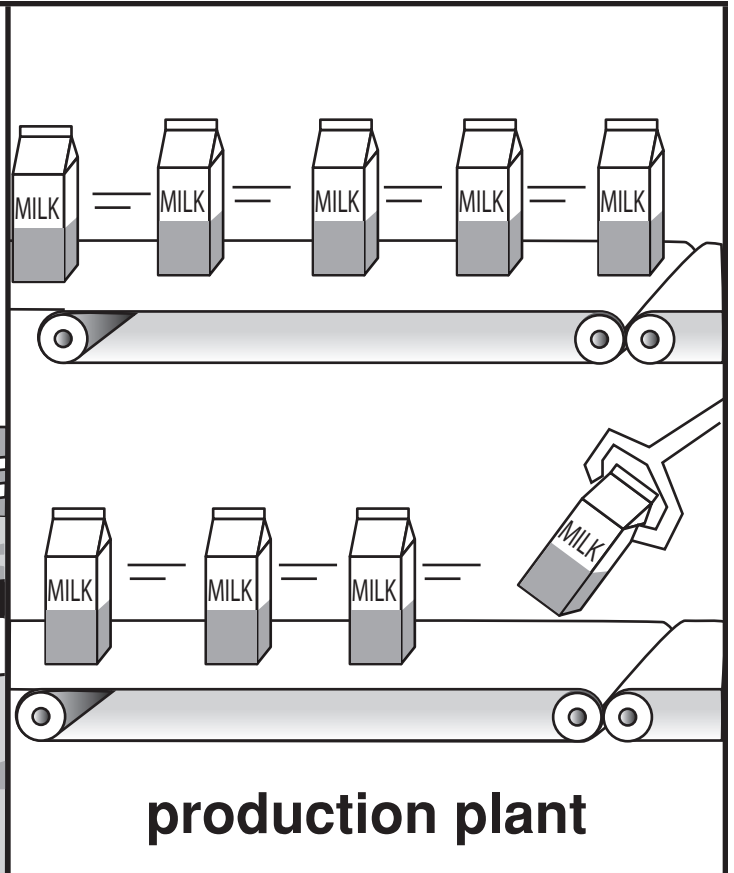
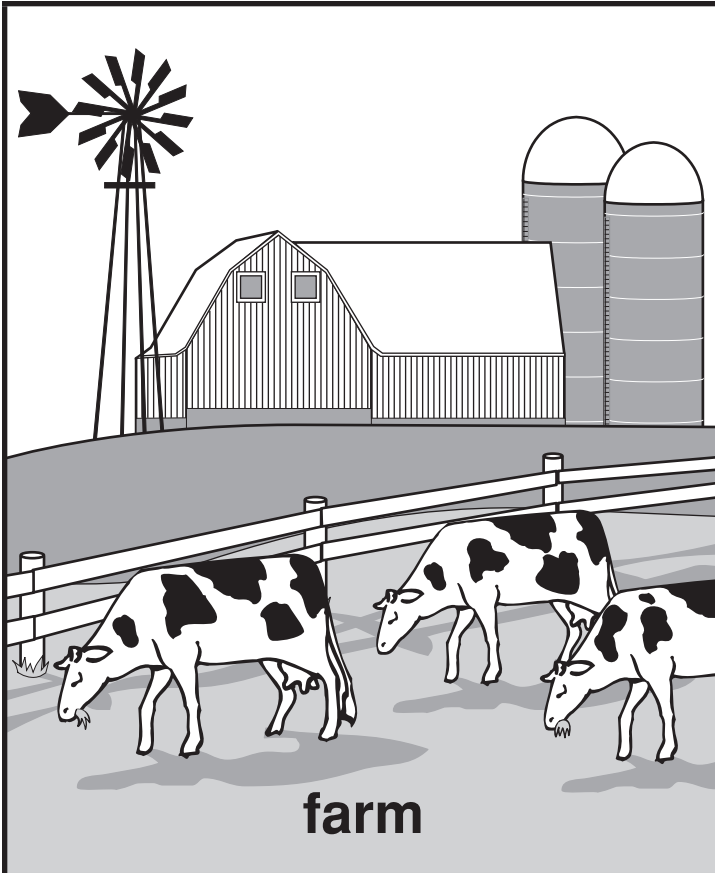


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FARM CREDIT
Lending support to rural America

Farm to Fork Cards



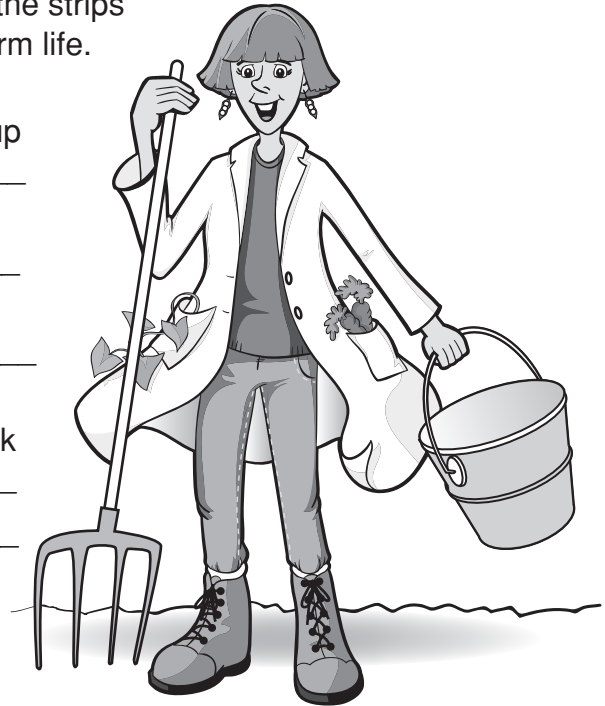
WHAT DOES A FARMER DO BEFORE BREAKFAST?

Farmers juggle lots of tasks to bring food to our tables! Cut out the strips and arrange them in order. Then answer the questions about farm life.

Questions

1. How much time elapsed between when the farmer woke up and when he or she fed the calves? _____
2. How much time elapsed between when the milk tanker arrived and when the farmer fed the cows? _____
3. How much time elapsed between when the farmer fed the calves and when the farmer ate breakfast? _____
4. Did more time elapse between when the farmer woke up and when the milk tanker arrived or between when the milk tanker arrived and when the farmer ate breakfast? _____

5. Did more time elapse between when the farmer milked the cows and when the milk tanker arrived or between when the milk tanker arrived and when the farmer fed the cows? _____



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4:58 a.m.

The farmer wakes up.

5:17 a.m.

It's time to milk the cows. Cows typically are milked twice a day. The farmer oversees the milking process. Many of today's farmers have high-tech milking systems. Cows wear computer devices that measure how much milk each cow gives and how long it took. The devices can even test the milk to make sure the cow is producing safe, nutritious milk.

6:37 a.m.

Here comes a milk tanker truck to pick up the fresh milk. The trucks have shiny metal tanks designed to keep the milk cold. Each batch of milk is tested for safety before it leaves the farm. Once the milk arrives at the processing plant, it will be pasteurized and homogenized. Pasteurization is the process of heating the milk to kill microorganisms. Homogenization keeps the fat and water in the milk from separating. It also involves mixing milk from different herds to create a consistent flavor.

7:03 a.m.

Now it's time to feed the calves. Calves drink milk just like human babies do.

7:59 a.m.

Once the calves are fed, the cows need to eat. Cows can eat over 100 pounds of feed every day and drink 30-50 gallons of water every day.

8:42 a.m.

Finally, it's the farmer's turn for breakfast. He or she will need a good breakfast to fuel up for the busy day of work ahead. Depending on the time of year, the farmer could be cleaning equipment, ordering feed, or consulting with experts about new farming technologies.

Answer Key

- 1.** 2 hours, 5 minutes
- 2.** 1 hour, 22 minutes
- 3.** 1 hour, 39 minutes
- 4.** Between when the milk tanker arrived and when the farmer ate breakfast.
- 5.** Between when the milk tanker arrived and when the farmer fed the cows.