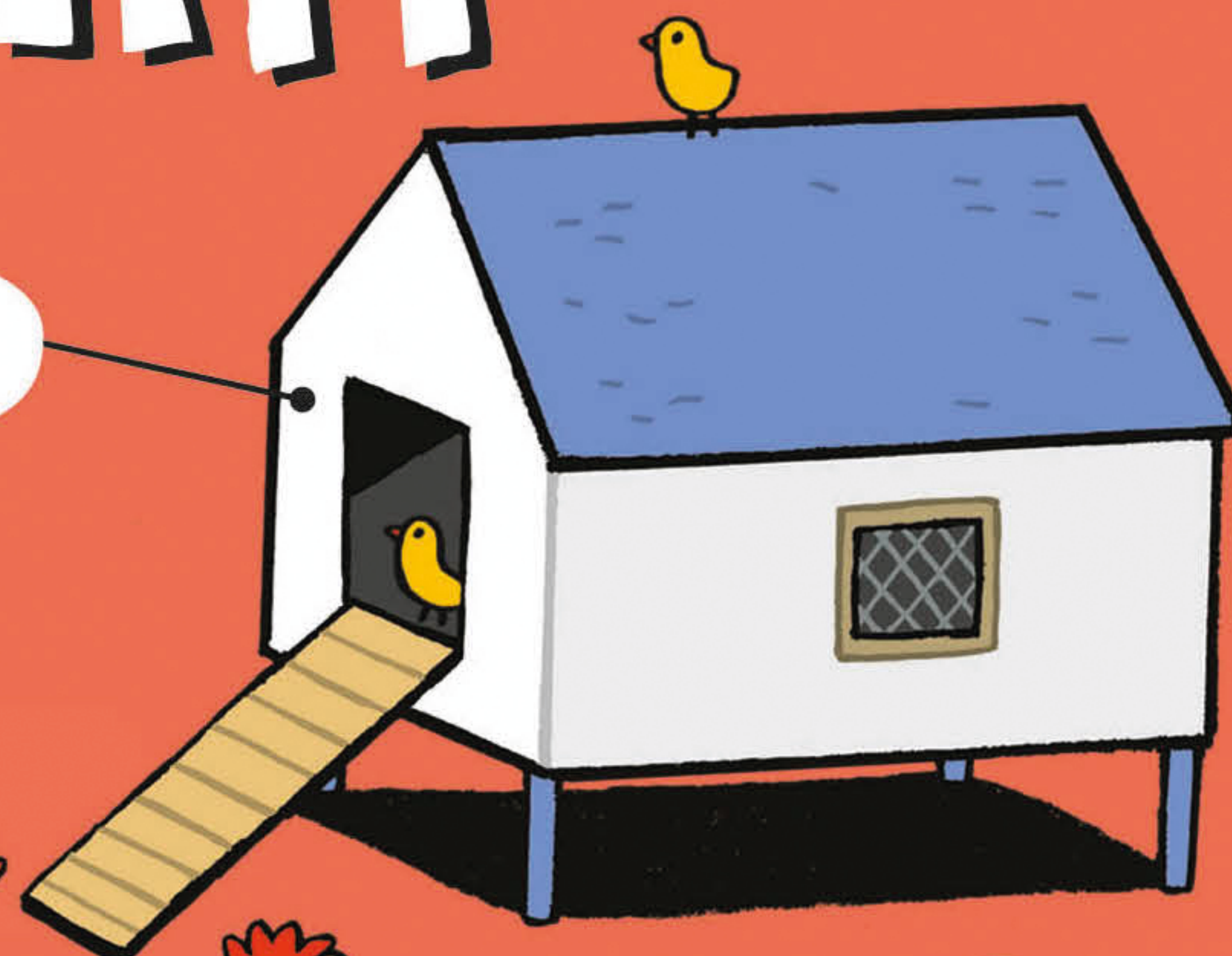


LITTLE EXPLORERS

THE FARM

LIFT THE FLAPS TO EXPLORE THE FARMYARD INSIDE AND OUT!

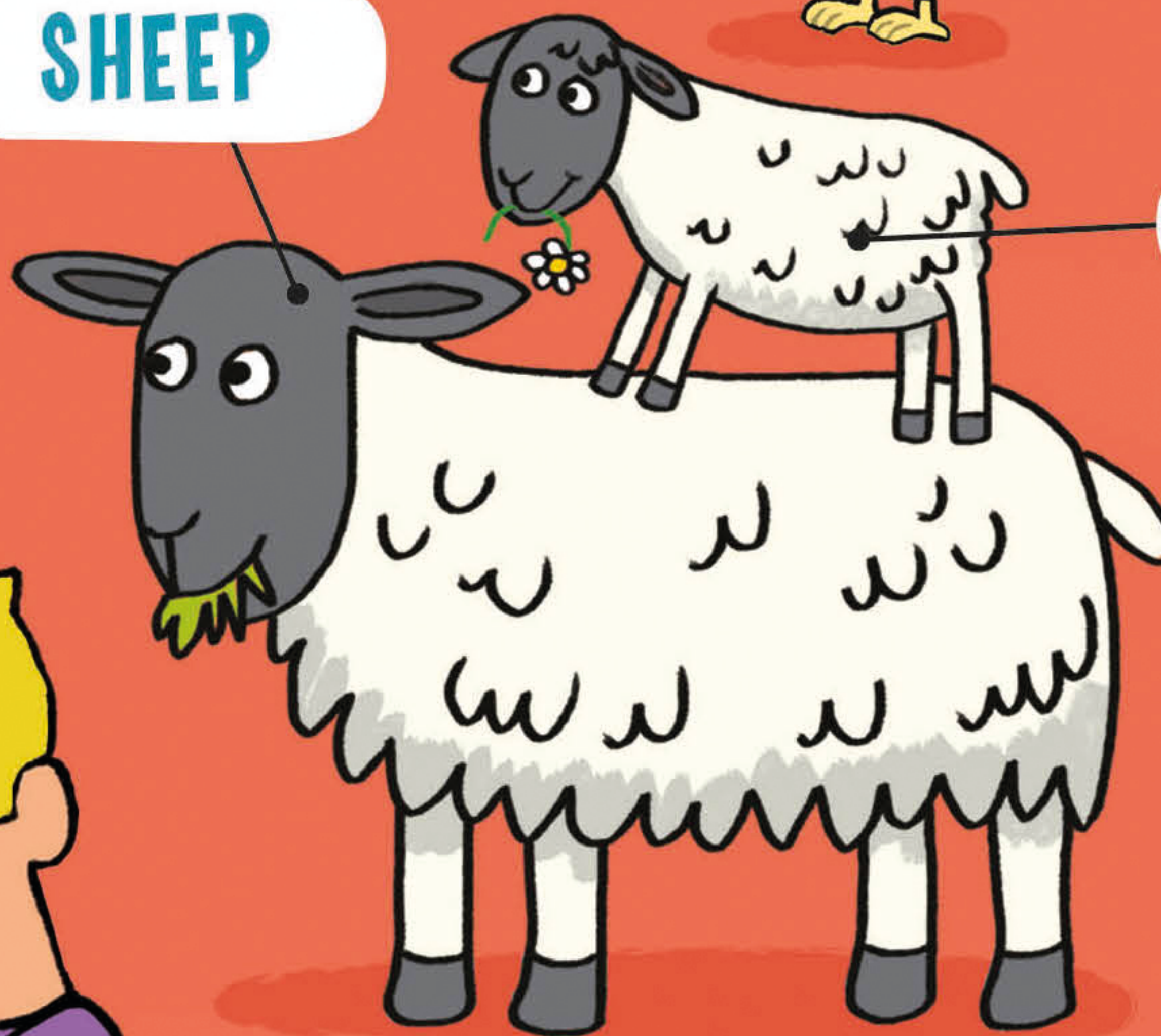
HEN HOUSE



COW



SHEEP



LAMB



MILK

DOG



RABBIT



STRAW



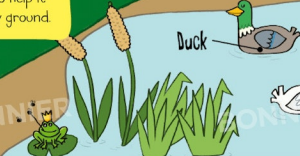
MORE THAN 30 FLAPS!

WELCOME TO THE FARM!

Farms are places where animals are reared and crops, such as wheat, fruit or vegetables, are grown. Some farms only grow crops or only look after animals, but others, like this one, do both. The day is just beginning, so let's explore!

Out in the fields

Many of the animals live out in the fields and eat grass. The farmer only brings them in the yard when the weather is very wet or snowy.



The farmhouse

This farmer and his family live in the farmhouse, next to the farmyard, so they can look after the animals more easily.



Stables



Vegetable plot



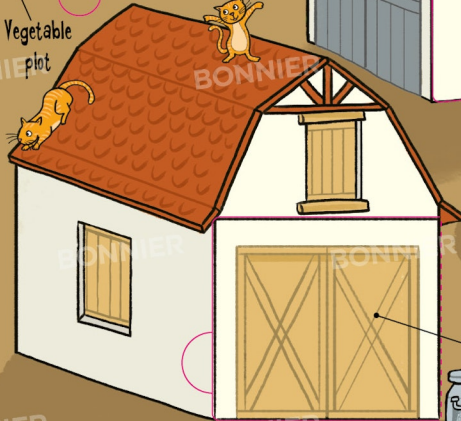
Crop fields

Some fields are used for growing crops to eat, and hay to feed the animals.



The farm shed

The tractors and other machinery used on the farm are kept safe in the farm shed.



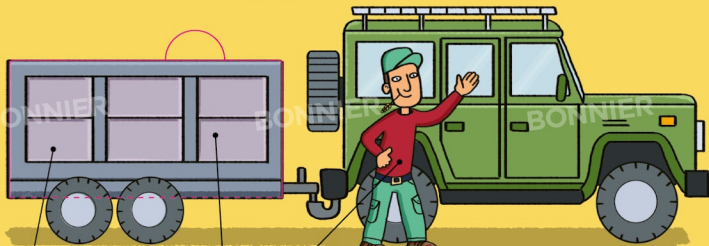
The barn

This is a very big building. It is used to store hay and straw, and to shelter animals, such as cows and sheep.



IN THE FARMYARD

Many of the smaller animals live in the yard, so it can be one of the noisiest places on the farm – especially at feeding time! The farmer takes food to the hungry animals every morning. Let's join him on his rounds!



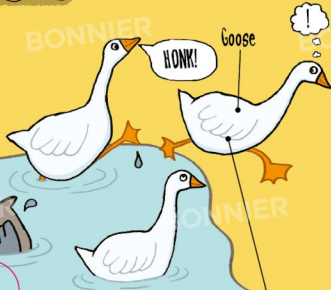
Hungry animals

The farmer loads up the feed in his trailer and delivers it all over the farm.

Farmer

What's for breakfast?

Each animal has its own special food...

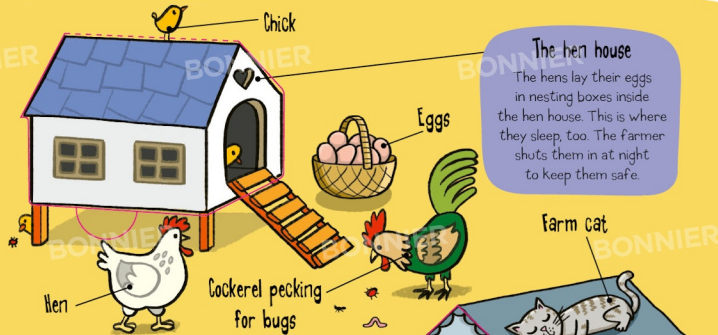


Goose

HONK!

Noisy geese

Geese are very loud birds. They lay large eggs and have soft feathers that are used to fill pillows and duvets.



Chick

The hen house

The hens lay their eggs in nesting boxes inside the hen house. This is where they sleep, too. The farmer shuts them in at night to keep them safe.

Eggs

Hen

Cockerel pecking for bugs

Farm cat

Dog kennel

Dogs that work on the farm usually live in kennels outside. Farm cats live outside too, and sleep in the barn.



Farm dog

Pig sty

Pigs usually live in shelters in the fields called sties, but if they have young piglets, the farmer moves them to the yard so he can take care of them.



Yum!





Mucking out
The stalls are mucked out every day. The dirty straw and horse muck is taken away and fresh straw is put down.

Hungry horses
Horses need clean water, hay and pony nuts (dried food) – and the odd treat too, like a crunchy carrot!

The stalls
The stables have warm, dry stalls for the horses, with straw on the floor. The top half of the door opens to let in fresh air.

Tack room
The kit for riding, such as bridles, saddles, boots and hard hats, is kept safe in the tack room.

THE STABLE YARD
The horses live in the stable. They need exercising, feeding and cleaning out every day, so the stable yard is a busy place. Let's take a look around – but put your boots on first. It's a mucky place, too!

The farrier
Sometimes the horses need new shoes. The farrier fits the metal shoes on their hooves with a hammer and nails – but it doesn't hurt them.

Grooming
Horses are groomed with special brushes. This makes their coats glossy and smooth, and helps them to stay healthy by keeping their skin clean.

SPRINGTIME

In springtime, many of the farm animals have babies. The farmer visits them in the fields every day, to make sure they are healthy and have enough to eat. Let's see if there are any new arrivals on the farm today...

Cow

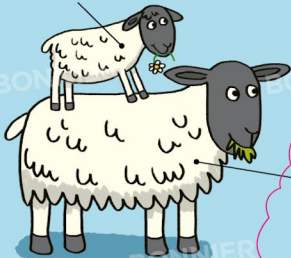
Cows usually have one baby at a time, but sometimes they have twins or triplets. Baby cows are called calves. They drink their mother's milk until they are old enough to eat grass.



Bird

Calf

Lamb



BAAA!

Sheep

Baby sheep are called lambs. They stay with their mother and drink her milk until they are about six weeks old. Then they are ready to munch on grass.



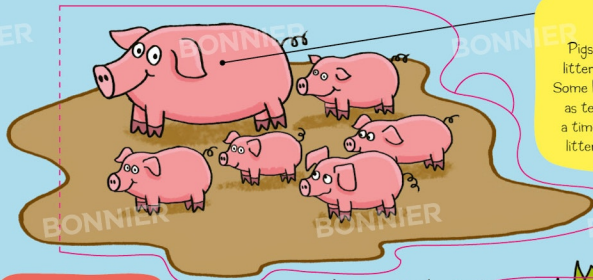
Sniff, sniff!

Sheepdog

The sheepdog helps the farmer to keep the flock of sheep together. She sniffs out lost lambs and rounds them up.

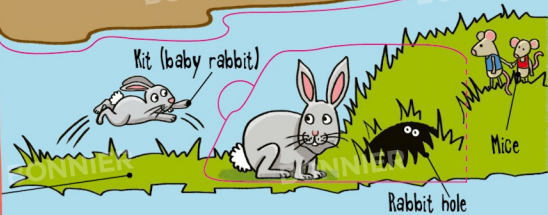
Pig

Pigs have large litters of piglets. Some have as many as ten piglets at a time, and three litters in a year.



Don't forget the wildlife!

It's not only farm animals that live in the fields. There are lots of wild creatures too, such as rabbits, squirrels, mice and birds.



Kit (baby rabbit)

Rabbit hole

Mice

Alpaca

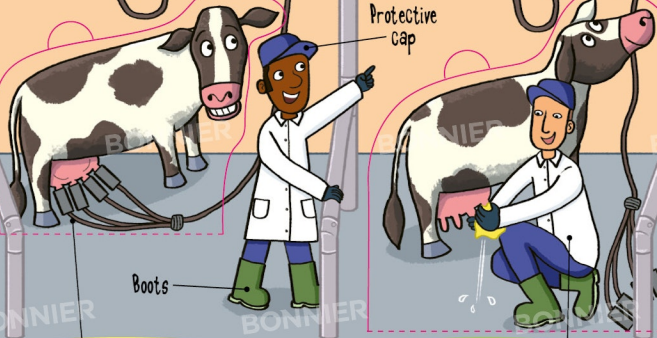
Some farms rear unusual animals, such as alpacas from South America. Alpacas have one baby at a time, called crias.



Cria

THE MILKING PARLOUR

Every morning and evening the farmer and sheepdog move the cows from the fields to the milking parlour to be milked. Let's take a look at what happens there.



How it works

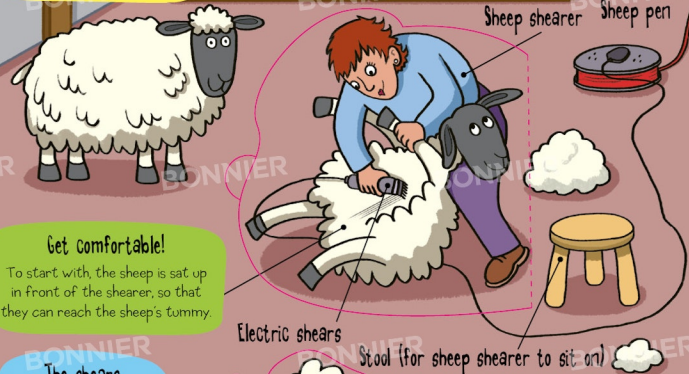
The cows stand in stalls. Then the farmer fits rubber cups to their udders. The cups are connected to pipes. These lead to jars where the milk is collected.

Keep it clean!

The milking parlour is kept spotlessly clean. When the cows arrive their udders are wiped clean before work begins. The farmer and his helper wear protective clothing and boots, too.

SHEEP SHEARING

Once every year, adult sheep have their woolly coats cut off. This is called shearing. If there are a lot of sheep on the farm, the farmer often employs an expert sheep shearer to help him. Alpacas are also sheared for their wool.



Get comfortable!

To start with, the sheep is sat up in front of the shearer, so that they can reach the sheep's tummy.

The shears

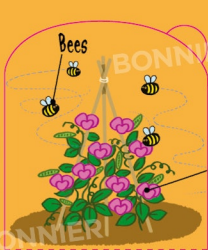
Special electric shears are used to shave off the sheep's woolly coat. Experts can cut off the coat in one whole piece. Shearing doesn't hurt the sheep - it's just like having your hair cut.

The fleece

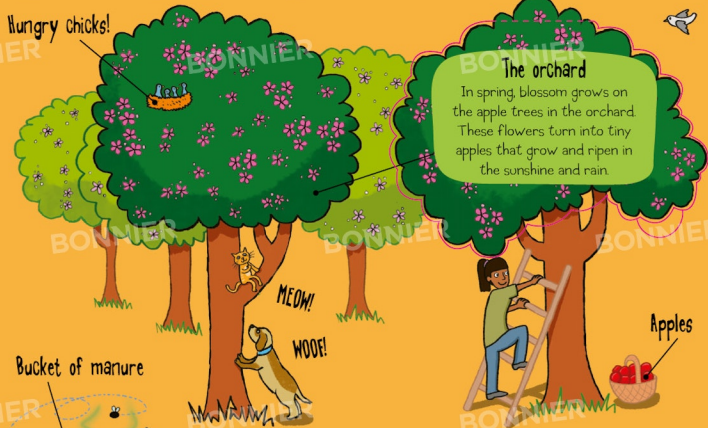
The woolly coat, called a fleece, is washed, dried and then spun into wool.

GROW YOUR OWN

The farmer grows lots of fresh vegetables and fruit on the farm. There is something to pick and eat almost all year round – even in winter! Let's visit the vegetable plot and orchard to discover what's growing there now...



Busy bee
When bees visit the flowers to drink their nectar, they collect pollen on their feet. Then the pollen brushes off inside the next flower they visit. This is called pollination. Now the flowers can develop and grow into fruit or vegetables.



The orchard
In spring, blossom grows on the apple trees in the orchard. These flowers turn into tiny apples that grow and ripen in the sunshine and rain.

Scarecrow

The scarecrow frightens away hungry birds who try to steal the newly planted seeds or ripening fruit and vegetables.



The vegetable plot

The farmer digs the soil in spring to break it up, then plants the seeds in rows. First tiny shoots appear. With the right care, the shoots develop into strong healthy plants. Next, flowers and then tiny vegetables or fruit, begin to appear.



Lettuces

Peas

YUM!

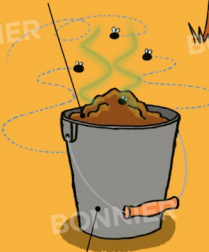
Vegetables underground

Some vegetables grow on stems and roots under the ground. What's growing underground here?

Pod picking

Pea and bean plants grow up tall poles. The flowers turn into delicious pea and bean pods.

Bucket of manure



Watering can



Strawberry patch

Strawberries ripen in the warmth of the summer sun. When they turn deep red, they are ready to pick – and delicious!



Look after your plants!

The farmer spreads horse manure on the soil to feed the plants. This helps them to grow and to produce lots of fruit and vegetables. The plants need watering regularly too, especially when it is hot.



HARVEST TIME

In summer and autumn, the crops that were planted in the spring are ripe and ready to harvest. It's important to do this job when the weather is good and the fields are dry, or the crops will get soggy and spoil. Let's join the farmer as he cuts the wheat on a sunny day...

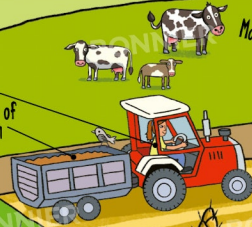
Extra help

The harvest must be done quickly, before the weather changes, so the farmer employs extra staff to help him.

Corn

Trailer of grain

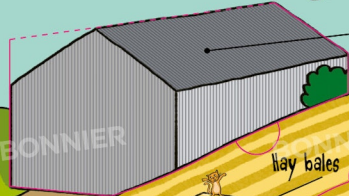
Moo!



Hot air balloon

Storing the Crops

The harvested crops are kept in the grain store. This keeps them fresh and dry until they are sold. The hay and straw are stored in the barn, ready to be used for animal feed and bedding.



Hay bales



Cleaned grain

The Combine harvester

As the farmer drives this machine it cuts the wheat, shakes the grain from the stalks, and cleans it by separating it from any dirt and bits.

Wheat

Home sweet home

Many wild creatures, like this tiny mouse, make their home in the fields and surrounding hedgerows, and feed on the growing crops. When the field is harvested, they scurry off to find a new home.



Hedgerow

Is it ready?

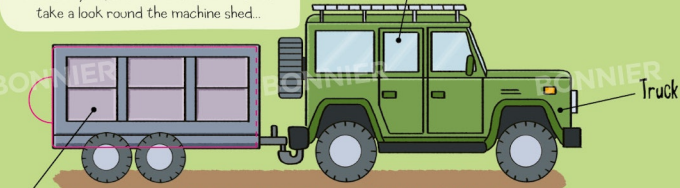
Crops ripen at different times, but the farmer knows exactly when a crop is ready to be cut. Hay is usually harvested in early summer, followed by wheat and corn in late summer.

FARM MACHINERY

The farmer uses lots of different vehicles and machinery to help him do his work. Some, like his tractor and truck, are used every day, but others are used at special times of year, such as harvest time. Let's take a look round the machine shed...

Truck and trailer

Together these are the most useful vehicles on the farm. The farmer uses them to get about, and to transport animals and equipment around the farm.



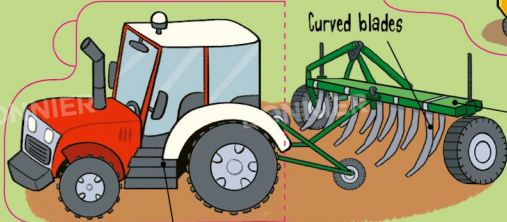
Trailer

Truck

Straw baler

This clever machine collects up the hay or wheat stalks after they have been cut, and turns them into neat packages called bales, ready to store in the barn.

What's inside?



Tractor

Curved blades

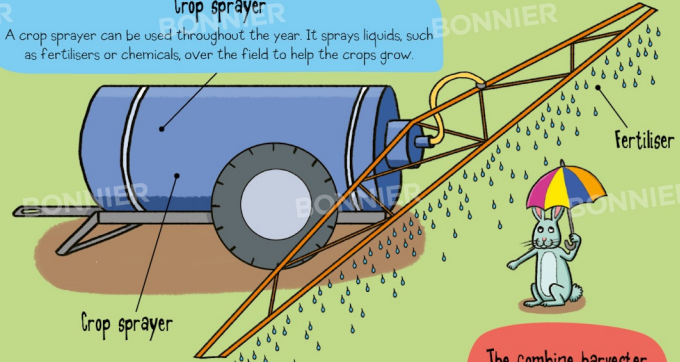
Plough

Ploughs come in many sizes, but they all do the same job. The curved blades turn over the soil, to prepare it for planting seeds in the spring.

The tractor is a big powerful vehicle, used to pull heavy equipment and machines, such as the plough. In the past, horses were used to pull farm machinery.

Crop sprayer

A crop sprayer can be used throughout the year. It sprays liquids, such as fertilisers or chemicals, over the field to help the crops grow.

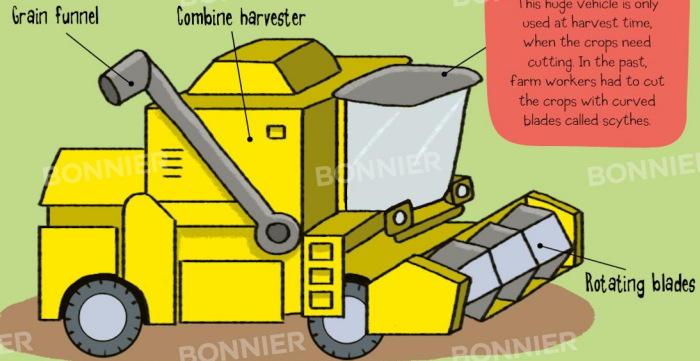


Crop sprayer

Fertiliser

The combine harvester

This huge vehicle is only used at harvest time, when the crops need cutting. In the past, farm workers had to cut the crops with curved blades called scythes.



Grain funnel

Combine harvester

Rotating blades