

Title: Animal Care: It's Everywhere on the Farm

Grades: K-1

Objectives:

Students will:

- ✓ Identify the needs of beef animals .
- ✓ Compare the needs of beef animals to the needs of humans.
- ✓ Recognize how beef Farmer/Ranchers provide care to meet the needs of their animals.

Vocabulary: beef cattle, Farmer/Rancher, shelter, barn, pasture, nutrition, water trough, automatic waterer, vaccination, veterinarian, ear tag

Materials:

Little Star...Raising Our First Calf by Rebecca Long-Chaney

Star Becomes a Mother by Rebecca Long-Chaney

Animal Care Matching Cards

Animal Care Worksheet

Beef and Dairy Product Sorting Cards

Anticipatory Set:

1. Ask students, "What do you think of when you think of a farm?" Lead students to plants and animals.
2. Explain to students that they are going to learn about cows. Ask students, "What do we call a baby cow?" Lead students to calf.
3. Show students the covers of *Little Star...Raising our First Calf* and *Star Becomes a Mother* and explain they are going to hear 2 stories about cows and calves on a farm.

Procedures:

1. Read the book titles and ask students, "What do you think a calf might need?" "Do you think these animals need similar things to what we need to live?" Collect student predictions.
2. Read *Little Star...Raising our First Calf* and *Star Becomes a Mother* to students.
3. After reading, ask students, "Were the things these animals needed similar to what we need to live?" Explain to students that animals need the same basic things we need to stay healthy and be productive.
4. Ask students, "What were some of the things the calves in these stories needed?" As students respond, teach students the different things each animal needs, how it compares to what humans need, and how the Farmer/Rancher meets each of these needs for the animal:
 - ❖ **Shelter** (*structure or building that provides cover from weather and/or protection against danger*)
 - **Humans:** We have homes to keep us safe, dry, and warm.
 - **Beef Cattle:** Farmer/Ranchers have barns to keep animals warm and dry and fenced pasture (enclosed area of land covered with plants suitable for feeding animals) to give them fresh air and food while keeping them safe from other animals.

- ❖ ***Food/Nutrition*** (process of being nourished with nutrients from food and using them in the body in order to keep healthy and grow)
 - ***Humans:*** As babies, nutrients are gotten from milk from our mother or from formula in a bottle. As we get older, we need to eat a balanced diet of fruits & vegetables (vitamins & minerals), grains (carbohydrates), dairy (calcium & vitamins), and meats & beans (proteins)
 - ***Beef Cattle:*** For calves, Farmer/Ranchers either allow them to get milk from their mothers or give them bottles of milk replacer with the vitamins and nutrients they need. As they get older, Farmer/Ranchers feed their cattle grains (like corn and wheat) and fresh grass in the pasture or hay (grasses that are cut and dried and used for feed).
 - ❖ ***Water***
 - ***Humans:*** We should consume at least 8 8-oz glasses of water each day
 - ***Beef Cattle:*** The beef Farmer/Rancher provides water for his cattle with a water trough (*a long narrow open container that holds water for animals*) or automatic waterer (*a device from which livestock may drink that provides a continuous supply of water on demand*).
 - ❖ ***Vaccinations*** (a shot/injection of a vaccine in order to protect against a particular disease)
 - ***Humans:*** Babies receive vaccinations to protect them from different diseases. As they get older, we continue to get vaccinations to protect us against different diseases (flu vaccines, chicken pox vaccines, etc..)
 - ***Beef Cattle:*** Farmer/Ranchers will give their calves vaccinations against different diseases. As they get older, the beef Farmer/Rancher decides what his animals are most at risk for and protects them against diseases they can contract from wildlife in the pasture.
 - ❖ ***Medical Care***
 - ***Humans:*** We go to the doctor for yearly physicals/check-ups to make sure we are staying healthy, and also go when we are sick to get medicine to make them better.
 - ***Beef Cattle:*** Farmer/Rancher brings a veterinarian (someone trained and qualified in the medical treatment of animals) to the farm whenever a beef cow gets sick, so they can determine what treatment will make the animal better.
 - ❖ ***Identity***
 - ***Humans:*** Parents identify their children by giving them names.
 - Ask students, “How might Farmer/Ranchers identify their animals so they can track their growth and health?”
 - ***Beef Cattle:*** beef Farmer/Ranchers will identify their cattle with ear tags (identification tag attached to the ear of an animal) The ear tag is given to a calf when it is born and worn its entire life. The ear tag tells the Farmer/Rancher the sire (father) and dam (mother) of the calf, as well as its date of birth and give it its own identity based on the order and year it was born.
5. Ask students, “Who makes sure the animals’ needs are met?” Lead students to the Farmer/Rancher (*person who cares for plants and animals on a farm*)

6. To reinforce how the needs of the beef cow are met, have students cut out the **Animal Care Matching Cards**, then have them play a matching game to match up the needs of the beef calf to how its needs are met.

Evaluation:

Have students complete the **Animal Care Worksheet** to demonstrate their knowledge of how the Farmer/Rancher meets the needs of their animals.

Extension:

Read *Little Milk Maids on the Mooove* by Rebecca Long-Chaney.

- Have students compare and contrast the care of dairy cows to the care of beef cows.
- Discuss with students the products that come from dairy cows and beef cows.
- Have students sort products that come from beef and dairy cows using **Beef and Dairy Product Sorting Cards**. (*cards can be enlarged to use for a class sort*)
- Have students create a collage of products that come from either beef or dairy cows with pictures from catalogs and magazines.