

Big Red Barn

- Written by Margaret Wise Brown
- Illustrated by Felicia Bond
- HarperCollins, 1991

This rhyming book tells the story of a day at the farm for all the animals that live in the big red barn. As they sleep, play, and raise their young, children are introduced to many common farm animals and where they live. Both adult and baby animals fill the pages, guiding children toward a discussion on living things and how they grow.

Vocabulary

- squeal: to make a high-pitched noise

Go Sleep in Your Own Bed!

- Written by Candace Fleming
- Illustrated by Lori Nichols
- Schwartz & Wade, 2017

This tale of grumpy farm animals who all seem to find themselves in the wrong bed at night introduces children to the various structures and buildings in which different animals live on a farm. Animal sounds and illustrations give children clues as to what animal they will meet next, allowing them to practice making predictions.

Vocabulary

- bellowed: said in a very loud voice
- stumbled: tripped while walking

Polly and Her Duck Costume

- Written by Leanne Lauricella
- Illustrated by Jill Howarth
- Quarto Publishing Group, 2017

This book expands on the notion of farm life by introducing children to rescue farms. This tale tells the true story of Polly, a blind goat, who experiences anxiety and finds comfort in wearing a duck costume. Children explore their personal connections as Polly finds a friend and learns that she doesn't need the duck costume after all.

Vocabulary

- nestled: snuggled or cuddled
- adored: loved a whole lot

Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?

- Written by Susan A. Shea
- Illustrated by Tom Slaughter
- Blue Apple Books, 2011

The interactive book encourages children to practice producing rhymes and making predictions as they respond to the repeating question, "Do you know which ones will grow?" Children are encouraged to draw connections between their own growth and that of other living things.

Vocabulary

- rig: a big truck
- calf: a baby cow

Señor Pancho Had a Rancho

- Written by René Colato Laínez
- Illustrated by Elwood Smith
- Holiday House, 2013

This bilingual version of the classic children's song "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" introduces children to the Spanish words for both farm animals and the sounds that they make. Children will enjoy singing along as they explore another language and sound words.

Out and About at the Dairy Farm

- Written by Andy Murphy
- Illustrated by Anne McMullen
- Picture Window Books, 2003

Children go on a pretend field trip to a dairy farm! This informational text, including fact-filled captions, teaches children how cows are raised to produce milk. In addition, children discuss the farmers' integral role in taking good care of the cows that live on their farm.

Vocabulary

- dairy: milk and foods made from milk

Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook

- Written and illustrated by Anne Vittur Kennedy
- Candlewick Press, 2015

Meet Ragweed, a farm dog who knows all the rules—he's just not very good at following them! As he meets other animals at the farm, always in search of a biscuit, children learn each farm animal's job. This funny glimpse into a farm's routine facilitates new conversations around responsibility and community.

Vocabulary

- advice: someone else's ideas for what to do

G Is for Goat

- Written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco
- Puffin Books, 2006

This alphabet book takes a close look at one farm animal, the mischievous, ever-hungry, milk-producing goat. In this rhyming book, readers learn a variety of facts about goats, such as how they climb, what they eat, and the names for male, female, and young goats. This is a great book for teaching letter sounds and showing daily life on a farm.

Vocabulary

- nibble: eat in little bites

Hey, Hey, Hay!

- Written by Christy Mihaly
- Illustrated by Joe Cepeda
- Holiday House, 2018

In this "tale of bales," children learn how farmers prepare hay for the animals that live on their farm. Through playful rhyming text, this book shows the sequential steps for making hay, and the vehicles and machines that help farmers do this work. Children relate to the characters by noticing how they take care of each other while taking care of their farm.

Vocabulary

- mower: a machine that cuts grass
- bale: a bundle or pile of hay