CIWF Trust Resources and Activities

Primary Schools and Young Children's Groups

A new primary resources pack is currently under development. Meanwhile, we can offer the following resources and activities:

- *Let's Ask the Animals* video (produced by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour). This is an excellent empathy-developing video which teaches life processes with some wonderful farm animal stories. Children will be enraptured for 22 minutes!
- Animal welfare posters (3 A3 posters on hens, turkeys and pigs from our previous KS2 pack *Farm Animal Focus*). Use for literacy exercises and discussion.
- *Needs of Animals* Activity (small group discussion exercise).
- *If you're happy and you know it lay an egg* (drama exercise developed from RSPCA activity).
- *Farm Animals & Us* video. Discusses welfare of farm animals and our responsibility for them. Suitable for children aged 10+.

Possible Lesson Outline (with KS2 opportunities highlighted):

1. Posters. Discuss posters with groups, encouraging them to read, looking for literacy opportunities (English, Reading 5b - persuasive text). Discuss rights and wrongs of farming methods (PSHE & Citizenship 5g – considering moral dilemmas – more opportunity for this later on).
2. *If you're happy and you know it lay an egg* exercise (needs plenty of space – a good activity for a school hall)
3. *Let's Ask the Animals* video (Science Sc2 part 2 - Humans and other animals).
4. *Needs of Animals* activity (Science Sc2 part 2 - Humans and other animals).

Please note that all CIWF Trust educational resources can be photocopied for educational purposes. For more details of our educational work, please contact:

Notes on activities:

Let's Ask the Animals video (produced by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour). This is aimed at 8-11 year olds who will watch enraptured by descriptions of life processes using farm animal stories. Chickens learn from watching TV, sheep recognise the sound of the farmer's landrover, pigs show their remarkable sense of smell and outsmart computer feeding systems! Parts of the video can be used with younger children.

Scientific issues covered include:

- Need for food and other life processes including growth, movement, growth and reproduction
- Growth
- Importance of strong skeletons
- Reproductive needs of animals (especially maternal)
- Importance of exercise for health

Most important, you can count on a good lesson with this video. The children will love it. Combine with *Needs of Animals* activity. Could lead in to a piece of written work or a poster.

***Needs of Animals* activity**:

You need posters or pictures of a series of farm animals (this exercise also works with pets and other animals). You need copies of the 2 *Needs of Animals* worksheets cut up into cards.

Each group chooses an animal poster and decides through discussion which of the needs on the cards applies to their animal. Follow up with general discussion. Could lead in to a piece of written work or a poster.

Photocopies of the cards could be cut up and used to make posters or collages, as can the farm animal posters.

If you would like extra colour copies of the *Needs of Animals* cards, please phone CIWF Trust's Education department on 01730 268070.

Farm Animal Posters:

The 3 A3 posters compare free-range and intensive systems for keeping hens, turkeys and pigs. This can be used to develop an understanding of persuasive text in English. Pupils can discuss how to balance the needs of people with the needs of animals. Ties in well with the activities designed to discuss the needs of animals.

***Farm Animals & Us* video**:

Aimed at pupils aged 10-16, this video discusses the welfare implications of intensive farming compared with free-range. Introduction includes some remarkable animal stories including:

- a hen completing an assault course so she can lay her egg in a nest (taken from *Let's Ask the Animals*
- a pig playing a computer game
- a great pig escape and a life-saving pig (a moving reconstruction based on a true story)
- Salford teenagers role-playing the lives of broiler chickens.

Year 6 students will enjoy and be moved by this video. Expect a lively discussion! Good for teaching PSHE & Citizenship 5g – considering moral dilemmas in everyday life.

*If you're happy and you know it lay an egg:**

Drama activity – ideally needs plenty of space for pupils to move around.

1. Start the first verse of *If you're happy and you know it clap your hands*.
2. But you're a hen! What do hens do? Collect suggestions, but explain (and demonstrate!):

• Lay an egg • Make a nest • Eat some food	• Scratch for worms • Bathe in dust • Flap their wings	• Run around • Fly about • Perch in a tree

3. Some hens live free-range, some in cages. Which can they do? (free-range hens can do all; battery hens can only eat food, have a drink, lay an egg from the list above)

4. Class divides (or some of them divide) into free-range and battery hens, the latter bunched into groups. Explain that free-range hens can act out the song, but that battery hens can only do some things – get them to make a frustrated hen sound (whirr-pe-pe?) with a suitable hen movement where they can't do something!

5. Sing several verses of the song, with the children acting out as they go along.

6. Stop the song. Ask the free-range hens if they are happy. Ask the battery hens if they are happy. Whatever the answer, explain that the hens have now stopped laying so many eggs now they are old (70 weeks of laying) and their commercial life is over. You can ask what could happen to them (chicken soup or being set free?). Ask the battery hens what they would like. Ask the rest of the class what they think should happen. Whatever the answer, set them free! Try a few more verses. Ideally try "If you're happy and you know it run around / fly around" if you have space for the children to let off steam. Finish with "If you're happy and you know it go to sleep / dream sweet dreams" to calm them down ready for the next activity (video?).

7. You can explain that the battery cage is to be banned throughout Europe in the year 2012. Meanwhile, however, most eggs come from battery hens but you can buy free-range or barn eggs if you want to.

* This activity is developed from an idea from the RSPCA. They publish a simpler version, aimed at KS1, in their excellent *Animal Focus* Issue 1 (May 2001) entitled Farm Animals. It contains a range of activities, photocopiable worksheets, farm animal photos and an A2 poster aimed at KS1 and KS2. This can be obtained from RSPCA Education, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 7WN;
Tel 0870 010 1181; Website www.rspca.org.uk.

Printed and published by Compassion in World Farming, River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1EZ; Tel 01483 521950; Fax 01483 861639; Email compassion@ciwf.org.uk;
Website www.ciwf.org