

The Dutch Rare Breed Survival Trust has made a folder with assignments for classes who visit a city farm.



Summary Folder with assignments 'from Dutch Belted to Booted Bentam'

The folder is divided in five sections/parts.

After an introduction (why and how the material can be used) the first section describes the method, the sequence of a lesson, how the folder can be used at school and during excursions. The last chapter of this section a brief description of cows, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, chicken, gees, ducks and pigeons.

In the second section there are 10 lessons for children 4-6; in the third one for children age 7-9; and the fourth sections has lessons for children 10-12 (14). The fifth section we have collected cards with photo's of rare breeds. The pupils use them to recognize a breed or to recognize a beef cow or a diary cow and so on.

Part I

This folder (the Dutch name means 'from Whitehead to Breda Fowl') is educational material to be used at City Farms. It refers to the brochure 'It takes all sorts to make a world', educational material at school. This folder is especially made for city farms.

A City farm is one of the few places where children can meet farm animals. They can see, smell, touch and hear them. They can discover the differences between the breeds and, in the end, discover the special qualities of the traditional breeds, our living heritage.

The traditional breeds tell the story of our farming methods. Why did we choose those breeds. They tell us what was important for us and why. They tell who we were and who we are.

Method

Small children (4-6 years): can observe the animals; they smell, hear, see and feel the differences

The teacher or parent reads the questions and the assignments that are written on cards in the folder. The children observe and can give the goat a brush or collect an egg or feed the ducks.

Children (age 7-9) discover the differences between species and breeds: 'Look for the differences' Children (age 10-12, 13,14) observe the different purposes of keeping breeds.

The difference between dairy cows/beef cows/and dual purpose cows; a riding horse and a draught horse; dairy sheep, meat sheep, wool sheep and heath sheep etc.
(The children 7-14 can make sketches or write down the answers on a form).

Lesson

The group starts together. Introduction: why are farm animals domestic animals? The small children talk about who care for the animal, who feeds it? We tell something of the history of domestication to the older children.

Assignments: small groups of 4/5 pupils and a teacher/parent make 4 different assignments (each of them lasts 20 minutes); the small groups take turns: group A starts observing the cows, group B start observing fowl group C goats etc. . Next twenty minutes group A observes fowl, B goats etc.

So only one group is visiting a species at the time.

Each assignment is written on a card. On the other side of the card is some information (and the answers of the questions!) for the teacher or parent.

Finishing the lesson: ask the pupils what they have observed and explain things they did not understand; in the end they can do a game of cards (Memory or collecting quartets of different breeds of one species - 'which animals belong together?')

At school

- Pupils can make models of animals, put them in a shoebox, cover the box with yellow thin paper (like sunshine) and make a peephole.
- Make a collage; a lecture, a piece about rare breeds.

Excursions

- Pay a visit to a local museum (with an exhibition of traditional farming , paintings of cattle etc): do they recognize the breeds?
- Pay a visit to a breeding centre or a working farm with rare breeds

The folder contains also cards 'select the breed' (goats and sheep)

Example of lessons

1.Comparing Cows – part II (4-6 year)

Spots and colors

Do all cows look alike?

Do they have the same spots? Color?

Horns

Do all the cows have horns?

Do they have the same shape?

Coat

Stroke the cow and feel the coat of a cow. Is the hair soft or rough? Etc.

Calf

Are there any baby cows? A baby cow is called a

Which calf do you like? Try to make up a name for it.

6. sheep, wool and color part III (7-9)

Do all sheep have the same color? What is the name of the coat of a sheep?

Do the sheep have a short tail or a long tail?

Do these sheep have wool on their head?

Do the head of the sheep and the wool have the same color?

Do you recognize the breed? (they can find the breed of the sheep by looking at the sheep and the photo's on the card 'select a breed- and answering a sequence of questions.

Example; Does the sheep have horns? Yes it is aNo, continue with question 2; 2. Does the sheep have a white blaze? Yes, it is a...(name breed) no continue with question 3 and so on)

7 Horses and ponies part III (7-9)

Does the horse have any spot? Which color has the horse? Make a sketch of the horse.

Sketch also the white spots on the head or legs of the horse.

Horses come in different sizes. A small horse is called a pony. Are the horses at this farm ponies? Etc.

1 The farm (part IV) (10-12 Or 14)

Try to find out about this farm as much as possible. Who feeds the animals? Who looks after them? Who takes care of them when they are ill? Etc.

Try to find out which species are at this farm. Why does the farmer keep those particular species?

Because they are nice to children? Because they have a high milk yield? Because the farmer likes eggs? Etc.

Try to find out which breeds are at the farm. Why does the farmer keep those breeds?

Because they are part of our living heritage? Or because they used to be kept in this region?

Because...

2. Selecting cows (part IV)

Some cows are diary cows and others beef cows. You can tell the difference by looking at them.

Which part of the cow does the milk come from? Do diary cows have a big udder or a small one?

Beef cows are kept for the beef. They look like bodybuilders. Rump steak is a part of the rump of the cow. Has the cow a big rump? Is it round or flat?

Sometimes farmers have dual purpose cows? They keep cows for the milk and the for the beef. Most Dutch traditional breeds are dual purpose breeds. Those cows are often kept at City farms. Take a look at these cows. What can you tell about the udder? Is the cow a real bodybuilder or a skinny one? Compare three cows at this farm. Fill in the form (we made a form with different possibilities: small udder/big udder; flat rump, round rump; etc.).

Sometimes cows (for instance the Dutch Belted) are kept because they look good on an estate.

Does this farm have a Dutch Belted?

If you have any questions about the folder please contact Ank Zegwaard, rkgvb@acm.org