

My Family's Turkey Farm

Grade Level(s)

1st grade

Estimated Time

30 minutes

Purpose

Students will learn about the domestication and lifecycle of the turkey, recognize how turkeys are raised on farms, and identify turkey products.

Materials

▪Links:

-Website with downloadable activities and videos: www.linncoag.com -2020/21 virtual learning drop down tab-November

-Intro video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6TAAQhYAQg&t=26s>

-Book: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/133PUy-OZKOIVKlfz0hnMAjT2PET7DZny?usp=sharing>

-Prerecorded turkey FarmChat® link (young turkey):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBzu0BzDN08&list=PL6fqYHxqQAn1tohm6nIKuE6g6173TPywO&index=9>

-Prerecorded turkey FarmChat® link (adult turkey):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdTrTYm2A8s&t=8s>

-Flat Aggie Adventures: Turkey Edition <https://www.linncoag.com/flat-aggie-adventures>: a six month newsletter series where we will release one new issue a month, beginning in November.

▪Worksheets available in our kit or on our website:

- Lifecycle of a turkey book
- Matching game
- Parts of a turkey

▪Other:

- Feed sample of corn and soybeans
- Crayons
- Stapler

Vocabulary

Barn: a building that keeps animals warm and safe

Farmer: someone who takes care of plants and animals

Flock: group of turkeys

Hen: female turkey

Tom: male turkey

Poult: baby turkey

Snood: the red skin on top of a turkey's beak

Wattle: the colored skin on the neck of a turkey

Interest Approach – Engagement

Ask the students if they have ever eaten turkey. If so, when? Was it on a sandwich, or cooked like at Thanksgiving? Ask students what they know about turkeys.

Background - Agricultural Connections

Many turkey farmers raise turkeys on a contract, meaning turkeys will arrive to their farm and they will be paid to raise the turkeys until they are ready to be harvested. This is like many pig and chicken farms. Turkeys are often raised indoors to help keep them comfortable and safe. Turkeys are not raised in cages; they have a large barn to run in. In photos, the buildings can look crowded, but this is largely because turkeys are social and curious creatures. They like to bunch together and come towards people. Most of the time, there is plenty of unused space elsewhere in the barn. Turkeys raised for meat usually have white feathers, not brown. The pigment on the brown feathers leaves little specks on the skin. It makes no difference as far as quality, but consumers prefer not to see that during Thanksgiving time. White breeds also have more breast meat, which consumers enjoy. Like many animals, turkeys eat corn and soybeans. These two crops are grown a lot in Iowa, making it relatively cheap to feed animals here.

Procedures

1. Read or listen to the book *My Family's Turkey Farm* as a class.
 - Pause throughout the reading to ask questions. Help students understand what they are reading about and check for comprehension.
 - Ask the students to pay close attention to the lifecycle stage and how farmers care for the turkey.
2. Watch the instructional Intro video on website (only for those who have opt out of zoom presentation).
 - I will review the lifecycle stages of turkey and what turkeys eat.
3. Distribute lifecycle book
 - Ask the students to color the pictures in their lifecycle book. Remind the students to color realistically.
 - Ask the students to put the lifecycle in order from egg to adult turkey
 - Staple the student's book once you have double checked the stages.
 - Review lifecycle as a class.
4. Optional activities:
 - Parts of a turkey
 - Turkey matching game
 - Flat Aggie Adventures newsletter series

5. Review with one of the turkey FarmChat® links above. Ask the students to now brainstorm what they know about turkey farming.

Organization Affiliation

Lesson modified by Morgan Hibbs from Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation lesson “Turkeys: Farm to Fork” and National Ag in the Classroom lesson “Rafter of Turkey.”

Agriculture Literacy Outcomes

T2.k-2.a. Explain how farmers and ranchers work with the lifecycle of plants and animals to harvest a crop.

T1.k-2.c Identify natural resources.

T1.K-2.a Describe how farmers and ranchers use land to grow crops and support livestock.

Iowa/ Common Core Standards

1-LS3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

1-LS1-1. Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.

2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.