

Kid's KOrner

Farm Animals We Need Them And They Need Us

Animals and humans have helped each other for centuries. Animals provide us with milk, eggs, meat, fiber, power, recreation, and many other things. They give us companionship and help us enjoy a better standard of living. In return, humans provide animals with food and water, attention, health care, and shelter to protect them from harsh weather and predators.

Meat, milk, eggs, and other foods from animals provide us with Vitamin B12, a vitamin humans need and cannot get from plants. Animal products provide calcium, phosphorous, iron, and other vitamins and minerals.

Farm animals eat hearty meals from plant parts that have little value to humans. When we process

grains, vegetables, and oil seeds for making human food, we end up with many by-products that become a big part of animal diets. Animals eat things like soybean meal, beet pulp, citrus pulp, corn stalks, pea vines, canning wastes, and brewer's grains. Without animals to eat these things, they'd become waste — and that's a big disposal problem.

Only about one-fifth of the land in the U.S. is suitable for growing crops. Much of the remainder receives too little rain or it's rocky and rough. Forests cover millions of acres. Livestock make good use of some of this land. They can graze on grassland and some forestland. That means we get animal products without using cropland needed to grow food for people.

Farm animals provide jobs and income for many people, both on and off the farm. Animals such as cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, chickens, and turkeys raised for human use are called livestock. In 1990, the state of Pennsylvania produced more than 4,970,000 tons of milk, more than 22 million chickens, and 8.4 million turkeys. That same year, Pennsylvania ranked in the top ten nationally in milk, chicken, turkey, and cattle production.

An animal grown for food goes through many steps between the farm and your table. How many types of jobs can you list that depend on farm animals? Here are a few to get you started — farmer, meat store manager, school cook, veterinarian....

By-products: From Trash To Treasure

What happens to all the parts of an agricultural product that can't be used as food? They go from the trash to treasure as by-products — something of value produced in making the main product.

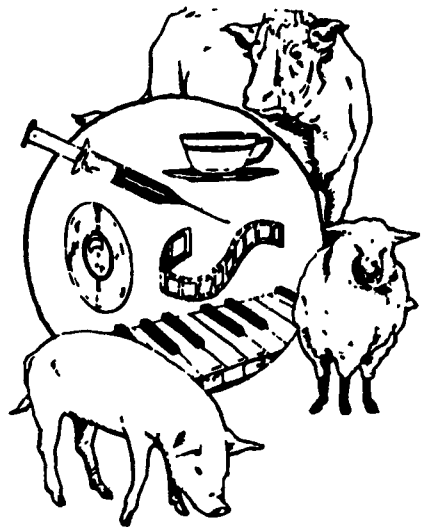
For example, pig is not all chops, ham, and bacon. By using every part except the squeal, lower prices can be charged for the meat from pigs. The parts of a pig not sold at the meat counter are important in our lives. Did you know insulin from a pig pancreas is used in treating diabetes in humans? In addition, pig heart valves are used to replace damaged heart valves and skin from pigs is used to treat victims of serious burns. You may



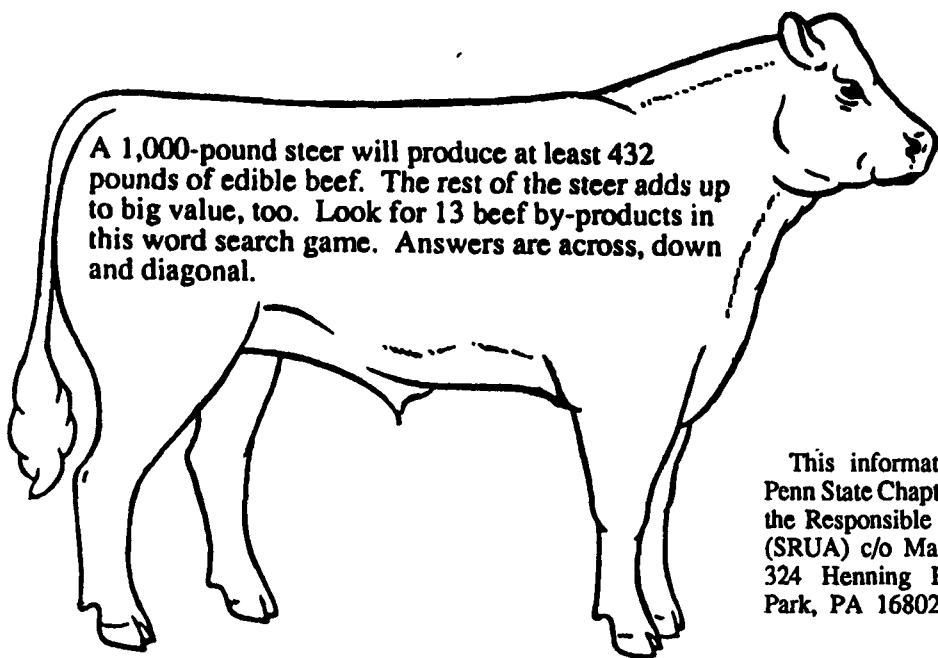
enjoy other hog by-products each time you brush your hair, pass a football, beat a drum or speed down the sidewalk on your skateboard.

CAN YOU MAKE MATCHES BELOW?

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. BLOOD | A. Ball bearings, chewing gum, lard, paints, candles, cellophane, weedkillers, crayons, putty |
| 2. BONES, HORNS HOOFS | B. Animal feed, adhesives, plastics, fabric inks and dyes, leather finishes |
| 3. HAIR | C. Gelatin, combs, umbrella handles, bone china, glue |
| 4. HIDE | D. Air filters, bristle brushes, felt, padding, upholstery |
| 5. FATS, OILS, GLYCEROL | E. Drum heads, footballs, wallets, harnesses, fertilizer, shoes, luggage, gloves |

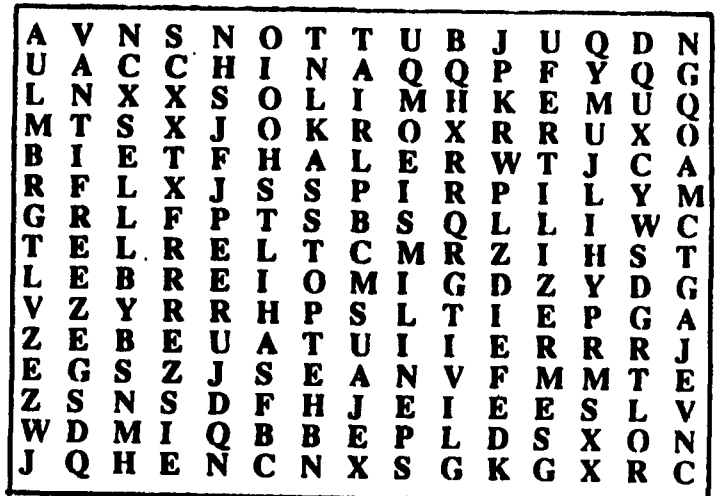


Everything but the moo!



A 1,000-pound steer will produce at least 432 pounds of edible beef. The rest of the steer adds up to big value, too. Look for 13 beef by-products in this word search game. Answers are across, down and diagonal.

This information is from the Penn State Chapter of Students for the Responsible Use Of Animals (SRUA) c/o Mary Beth Bennett, 324 Henning Bldg. University Park, PA 16802.



The following words are hidden in the puzzle

ANTIFREEZE
BRUSHES
BUTTONS
CHINA
COSMETICS
EXPLOSIVES
FERTILIZER

FILM
GLUE
LEATHER
SOAPS
TIRES
UPHOLSTERY

