Lesson 4: Moo, Oink, Cluck

Overview: Students will learn about the unique traits of farm animals and build an appreciation for them by understanding their natural behaviors and their close relationships with people.

Procedure:

Introduction
1. Introduce students to farm animals. Ask them what animals they think of when they think of farm animals and let them know that you will be focusing on cows, pigs, and chickens.
2. Ask what sound cows make. Have students “moo” at the same time.
3. Ask what sound pigs make. Have students “oink” at the same time.
4. Ask what sound chickens make. Have students “cluck” at the same time.
5. Tell students that farm animals have feelings, just like dogs and cats, and that today they are going to learn some amazing facts about cows, pigs, and chickens.

“Who Am I” and “Fascinating Facts”
1. Make three columns on the board entitled Cows, Pigs, and Chickens.
2. Read the first “Who am I?” card and ask students to use the clues to determine which farm animal you are talking about. Then ask them what they learned about the animal and write that down under the corresponding column.
3. Read the “Fascinating Facts” card about the same animal. Then ask the students what else they learned about the animal and write the information in the corresponding column.
4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 with the additional cards.

Wrap Up:
1. Ask students to share their pictures.
2. Ask students how they think farm animals should be treated.

Objectives
Students will be able to...
- Identify some unique traits of cows, pigs, and chickens.
- Describe natural behaviors of cows, pigs and chickens.

Time Needed
45–60 minutes
1 class period

Materials
- “Who Am I” cards
- “Fascinating Facts” cards
- Paper
- Markers / crayons

Insider Tips
- If you are able to gather pictures to represent each farm animal and some or all of the fascinating facts, you should show them to the class as they learn about each animal.
- If time permits, look up stories about individual animals at farm animal sanctuary sites and share stories about real animals.
- Consider taking the class on a field trip to a farm animal sanctuary.
- This activity aligns to Common Core Literacy Standard 1 and Speaking and Listening Standard 2.

Classroom Teachers
- If the classroom does not have a chalkboard or dry erase board for you to use, bring your own chart paper for the note taking about cows, pigs, and chickens.

Outside Humane Educators
- In case the classroom does not have a chalk board or dry erase board for you to use, bring your own chart paper for the note taking about cows, pigs, and chickens.

Resource Links
Farm Sanctuary
http://www.farmsanctuary.org/learn/someone-not-something/110-2/
“Who Am I?” Cards
(front)

Some people say that I am really smart. I love my family and my mother will raise me for at least 4 months teaching me everything that I need to know. I really love to eat. When it is hot I like to bathe in the mud because it helps to keep me cool and protects my sensitive skin from sunburn. I really love belly rubs, and if you treat me nicely I’ll come when I am called. Who am I?

I really like to investigate my surroundings. For fun, I like to bathe in the sun and explore. To feel safe I like to perch in high places, sometimes even trees, even though most people do not know that about me. To clean myself I dig up and bathe in dust since it helps to remove any mites (or small bugs) from my feathers. My mother really cares about me and will protect me and my brothers and sisters by stretching her wings over us to hide us from danger. When I feel close to someone, I like being held. Who am I?

I love hanging out in the fields, grazing on grass. Even though I am a very large animal, I am very gentle, and enjoy being pet. My mother nurses me when I am young and is very loving. I have hooves that help me to walk through deep mud. On average, I drink about 30 gallons of water a day. In the wild I can live up to about 25 years. I have a long tongue, and if we are friends, I’ll lick your face, just like a dog. Who am I?
“Who Am I?” Cards
(back)

Pig

Chicken

Cow
“Fascinating Facts” Cards

Pigs

Pigs are much happier when they can spend time with other pigs they know. They like to play fight, run and chase, and play in water. They enjoy physical contact and like to sleep next to each other.

Pigs love their friends and say hello enthusiastically when they see each other by grunting and rubbing noses affectionately.

Pigs are very sensitive and they get nervous when they are mistreated. When they are stressed out it is more difficult for them to follow commands.

Based on information from Amy Hatkoff’s book The Inner World of Farm Animals.

Chickens

Chickens are very social and form friendships. They prefer to hang out with chickens they know and avoid chickens they don’t know.

Chickens can tell people apart and remember how they have been treated. They will turn away from people who are mean to them. If they have been given a treat for doing a certain behavior, they will peep for another treat if they do the same behavior again. This shows they have memories and they develop expectations based on their past experiences.

Hens take good care of their chicks. They will peep to their chicks while they are still in the egg and the baby chicks will peep back. Chicks can recognize the sound of their mothers.

Based on information from Amy Hatkoff’s book The Inner World of Farm Animals.
Cows

Cows are close to their mothers and they enjoy being with cows their own age. They play together, share food, and groom each other.

Cows can be sad when a loved one passes away. If a friend dies they will sometimes voice their sadness, skip meals, and remain at the last place they saw their friend or where s/he was buried.

Cows enjoy solving problems. A study was done to see if cows could learn how to unlatch a gate to get food. The cows were excited when they succeeded and some actually jumped up and down to express their joy.

Based on information from Amy Hatkoff’s book The Inner World of Farm Animals.