

# Farm Babies

## Objective

Students will name baby farm animals and their parents using correct terms. Students will form correct plural nouns orally. Students will count to tell the number of objects and write the correct numeral to show their answer.

## Background

One sign of spring in rural Oklahoma is all the baby animals you see out in the fields with their moms. Spring is the time of year when most farm animals are born.

Beef, dairy, and bison females are all called cows after giving birth to their first calf, usually at two years of age. Cows usually have a calf each year. A mother pig is called a sow. She has litters of pigs, usually four-fourteen pigs, often called piglets, are in a litter. The female pig is pregnant for 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days. A hen lays her eggs and it takes 21 days for the eggs to hatch. A mother sheep is called a ewe, and she will give birth to one, two, or even three lambs at a time.

Other animals are born on the farm, too. Cats are among the best mothers in the animal kingdom. The mother cat will take care of all the needs of her kittens. Farmers often keep cats in their barns to keep away mice.

## Science

1. Copy the flash cards included in this lesson with the corresponding information on the back. Cut them out.
  - Lead a discussion about parent and baby animals, using the chart provided.
  - Show students the flash cards, and share the information about the animals on the back of each card. Students will practice saying the proper name for each baby and its parents.
2. Use the “Farm Babies” chart to reinforce students’ knowledge of animal names.
3. Write the names of mother and father animals on strips of paper in one color and the names of baby animals on strips of paper in another color.
  - Divide the class in half.
  - Distribute papers with the mother/father names to half the students, and baby names to the other half.
  - Designate a place in the classroom to be the barn, and have all the “mothers” and “fathers” gather there.
  - Explain that when you call out “The barn is open,” all the babies should scatter to various spots in the room.

## Oklahoma Academic Standards

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Number & Operations: 1.1;  
2.1,2,4

### KINDERGARTEN

Life Science: 1-1,2  
Number & Operations: 1.1

### GRADE 1

Life Science: 1-2; 3-1  
Geography: 3-1

**Materials**  
strips of paper in two different  
colors

- To get back to the barn safely, the baby animals must correctly say the names of their mothers and fathers. The baby must then find its mother/father in the barn.
4. Hand out copies of the “Farm Babies” worksheet. Students will draw lines to connect the mothers and fathers in the outer columns with the babies in the center column.
  5. Contact your county Extension office for information about hatching chickens in your classroom through the 4-H Embryology Project.  
<http://countyext2.okstate.edu>
  6. Visit a barnyard or the animal barn at your county fair. A county Extension agent or your high school’s agricultural education instructor can help make arrangements.
  7. Ask the Extension agent, ag-ed instructor, or a local farmer to visit with your class and talk to your class about how farmers in the community make an impact on your student’s lives.

## Social Studies

1. Discuss where the farm babies live. Define and compare the physical features of the farm where they live and the town where your school is located.

## Math

1. Hand out worksheet “Count the Farm Animals” for students to complete.

## Extra Reading

Arnosky, Jim, *All About Turkeys*, Scholastic, 2008.

Arnosky, Jim, *I’m a Turkey!*, Scholastic, 2009.

Gibbons, Gail, *Horses*, Holiday House, 2003.

Gibbons, Gail, *Pigs*, Holiday House, 2003.

McCully, Emily, *Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World’s Smartest Horse*, Henry Holt & Co., 2010.

Murphy, Andy, *Out and About at the Dairy Farm*, Picture Window, 2004.

Peterson, Cris, *Clarabelle: Making Milk and So Much More*, Boyds Mills, 2007.

Schindel, John, *Busy Barnyard*, Tricycle, 2006.

Van Fleet, Matthew, *Moo*, Simon and Schuster, 2011.

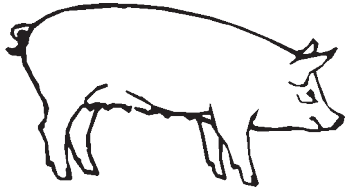
# Farm Babies

	Father's name	Mother's name	Baby's name	Avg. # of babies born at one time	Avg. age at which mother first gives birth
bison	bull	cow	calf	1	2 years
cattle	bull	cow	calf	1	2 years
chicken	rooster	hen	chick	12-18 eggs	6-7 months
goat	billy	nanny	kid	1-3	8 months
goose	gander	goose	gosling	8-10 eggs	2 years
horse	stallion	mare	foal	1	3 years
llama	male	female	cria	1	2 years
rabbit	buck	doe	bunny	6-10	6 months
sheep	ram	ewe	lamb	1-2	1 year
swan	cob	pen	cygnet	2-10 eggs	3 years
swine	boar	sow	pig	4-14	10 mo.-1 year
turkey	tom	hen	poult	2-10 eggs	6-7 months

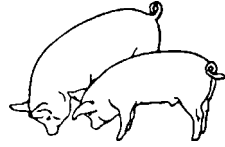


Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

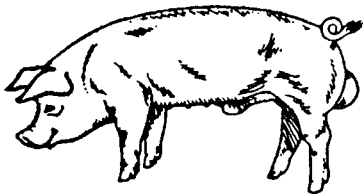
Swine



sow

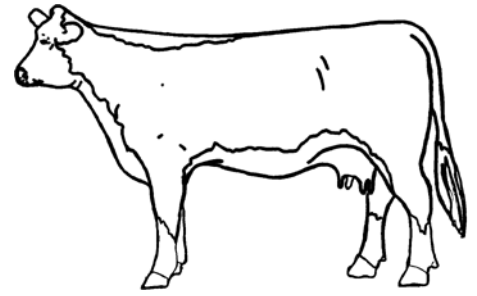


pigs

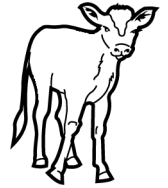


boar

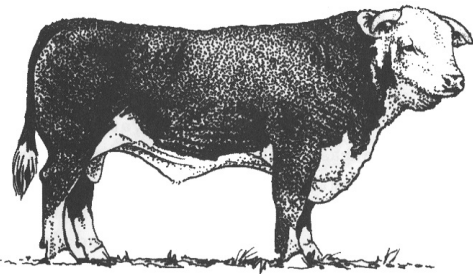
Cattle



cow

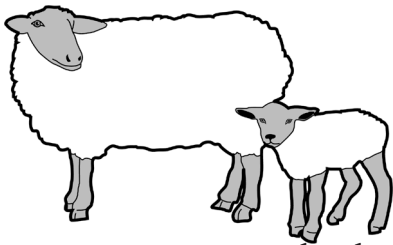


calf



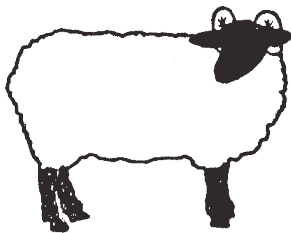
bull

Sheep



ewe

lamb



ram

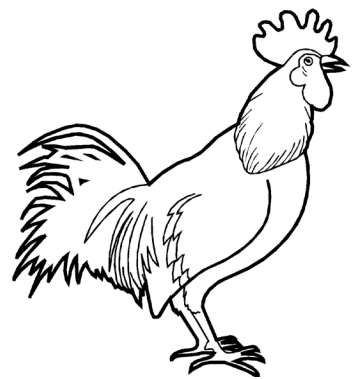
Chickens



hen



chick



rooster

## Cattle

A beef cow usually has her first calf at two years of age. Then she usually has a calf every 12 months. A beef calf gets milk from her mother for about seven months.

A beef cow needs one to two acres of grass to feed her through a year. She will eat on land that we can't use for growing crops.

## Swine

A mother pig is called a sow. A sow can have from four to 14 offspring. To help protect the babies, the mother, or sow, is put in a "farrowing crate." This crate keeps the mother from lying on her new babies and crushing them. It helps keep the baby pigs alive and does not hurt the mother pig.

## Chickens

Chicks hatch from eggs. It takes about three weeks for them to develop and come out of their eggshells. Every chick is born with a small tooth in its beak, which helps it peck its way out of the shell.

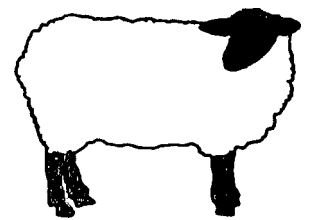
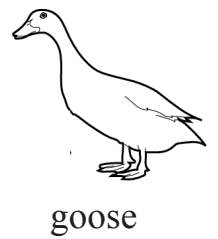
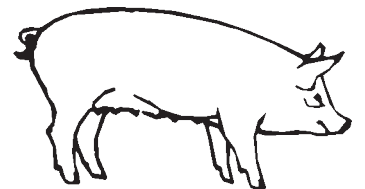
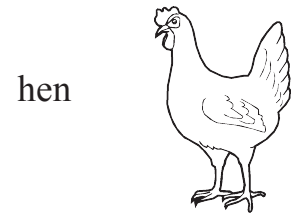
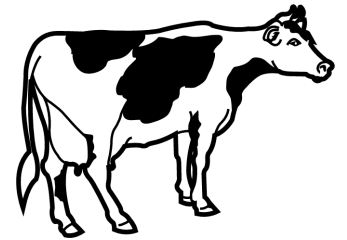
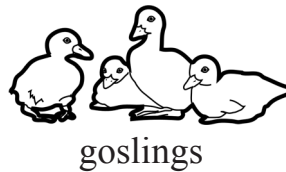
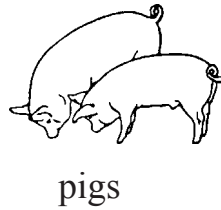
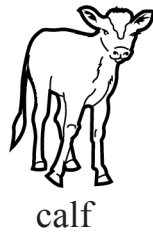
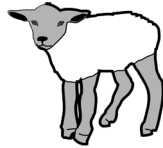
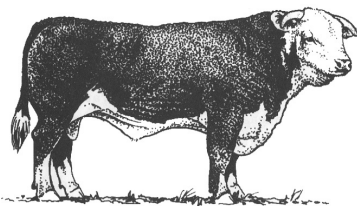
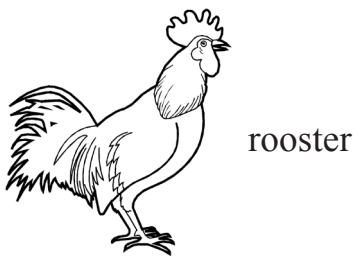
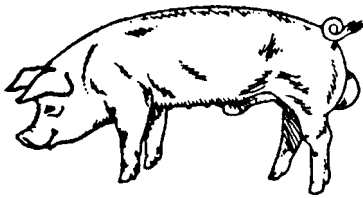
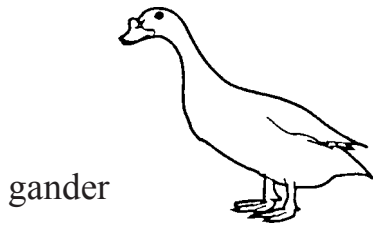
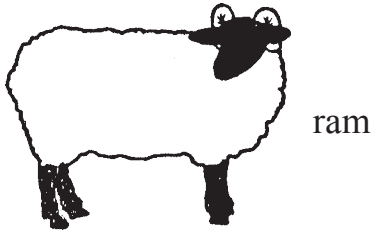
## Sheep

A ewe, or mother sheep, usually gives birth to one, two, or sometimes three lambs at a time. The baby lambs stay with their mother for four to five months and live off their mother's milk. During this time the sheep are sometimes many miles from the safety of the farmer's barn.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Farm Babies

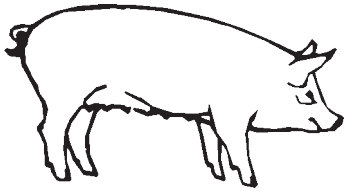
Draw lines to match the fathers, babies and mothers.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Count the Farm Animals

Count the baby farm animals and write the number on the line next to them. How many baby farm animals in all? \_\_\_\_\_



sow

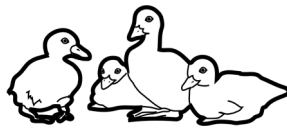


pigs

\_\_\_\_\_



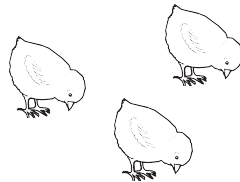
duck



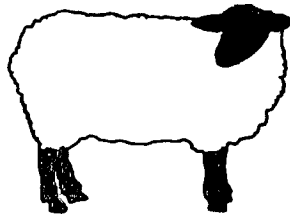
ducklings

\_\_\_\_\_

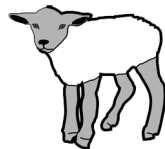
hen



\_\_\_\_\_



ewe



lamb

\_\_\_\_\_