



Taking Care of the Farm in Winter

Everyone has chores or jobs that they need to do. Is it your job to take out the trash each week? Or maybe you have to put dishes in the dishwasher? Many people have pets or family that they care for each day. Do you have a dog or cat or goldfish that you need to feed? Does your dad or mom make sure everyone in your family has supper and is tucked in at night? Taking good care of your family and things is called being responsible. Have you ever thought about all the

things that farming families have to be responsible for? In 2019, our museum is exploring the ways farmers in the past and present need to be responsible caretakers of their land. Farmers care for their farm land, the plants and animals that grow there, the houses, barns and sheds on the farm, tools, and, of course, their family! Farmers also grow food for people all over the world. It's a lot of responsibility, especially when it's very cold! During the winter, our museum farmers, for example, keep our farm warm and safe for the people who visit and the animals who live there.



Most of our farm animals spend the winter at the 1900 era horse-powered farm. Big animals like horses and cows grow thick, shaggy hair during the winter. This hair traps air against their bodies and keeps them warm outside. When the wind is very strong, even these big animals need a space to get out of the cold. Our farmers make sure there are sheds and barns where these animals can go. Sometimes this means moving snow out of the way and fixing gates and fences to give animals a path to the barn. Pigs and chickens have their own houses for the winter. Our farmers give these animals plenty of straw to build nests and burrow in when it's very cold. The straw needs to be changed when it gets too dirty so the animals have clean places to sleep. Manure has to be shoveled out of barn stalls so that cows and horses have clean places to stand. Every winter day our farmers make sure all the animals have extra food. In cold weather, farm animals use more energy to keep warm and need more to eat than in summer. One cow can eat 25 to 30 pounds of hay every day! Farmers give animals fresh hay, corn, and oats and even soybeans to eat. The animals also need water. In the winter, water tanks can freeze into ice. Farm hands have to break the ice up so animals can drink the water underneath. The tanks have to be checked several times each day to make sure animals have water.

Farm hands also take care of human guests to our museum in the winter. Many of those guests come to learn how to cook or have dinner at the farm house. Our farmers make sure the house is warm and dry for visitors. They keep the walks and porches clear of snow and make sure there is wood for the wood-burning stoves inside. Hot cider and coffee are always ready for supper

guests and the parlor is kept clean, bright and cozy for them to relax.



This all sounds like a lot of things to take care of! But our museum farmers are just glad that they have many modern inventions to help with these chores. In 2019, the museum can use tractors to move bales of hay and electric heaters to keep water tanks from freezing. Farmers in the past didn't have these tools. A pioneer farmer used a hand-held pitchfork to move hay. Instead of a plow, a farmer who lived one-hundred years ago would need to move all the snow around the farmyard with a hand shovel. But even without modern tools, these chores had to be done. This month, think of the chores that you are responsible for at your house. What things are your job and who do you need to care for? What happens if you forget to do your chores? For our farmers, it would mean barn yard of hungry cows and horses!

Upcoming Events

Don't miss our upcoming LHF Kids' Club Activities! These are hands-on activities for LHF Kids Club members at Living History Farms sites.

March 19, National Ag Day: Celebrate farmers and farming with a visit to Living History Farms! Take a ride in a modern John Deere tractor during our afternoon open house.



April 20, Family Easter: Visit the live chicks and other animals, hunt for eggs, play traditional games, and take a photo with the Easter Bunny!

History Detectives



Clue 1



Clue 2



Clue 3

Good detectives pay attention. They look around and use their eyes to explore every detail. In this newsletter, we've talked about ways a farmer needs to care for the farm and its animals in winter. A responsible farmer pays attention to small things. They look around and use their eyes to be aware of every detail. Here are some photographs of small parts of bigger things. Can you guess which big animal is eating their favorite winter food in these small photos? Who is the animal and what are they eating?

Try This: Weather Journal, Winter Chores

Keep a weather journal:

Farmers in the past spent a lot of their time outside and bad or good weather could make their job easier or much harder. Farmers often wrote the temperature and weather in their diaries. For a week, draw a picture of what the weather is like in your town. Have an adult help you find out the temperature each day and write it in your journal. Farmers could use their weather diaries to help them predict what the weather might be like the next year at the same time. Magazines called Almanacs also predicted the weather for a farmer. With an adult's permission, you can find out what the 2019 almanac says about your weather for the next few months, online [here](#).



Chore lists:

Winter cold and snow can make the chores farmers do take longer. It also gives them new chores like clearing snow from the barnyard and breaking up ice in water tanks. Make a list or draw a picture of the chores you do the most at your house. Are any of these chores harder or not as much fun to do when it is cold and snowy? Winter can be fun. Farmers in the 19th century enjoyed hitching their horses to a sleigh and going for a sleigh ride. What are your favorite fun things to do in winter?

Recipe to Try:

A great way to care for someone is to bake them their favorite recipe. Spice cookies were a favorite kind of "comfort" cookies for the 19th century, rather than today's chocolate chip or peanut butter varieties. With the help of an adult, try mixing up these cookies on a cold winter afternoon!

Crinkly Molasses Cookies

3/4 cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
2 cups flour
1 egg
4 Tbsp. molasses
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ginger
1/2 tsp. cloves



Cream butter; add sugar, egg, and molasses. Sift dry ingredients together and add to butter mixture. Drop onto greased cookie sheet and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 350 degrees. Keep in airtight canister for crisp cookies, cookie jar for soft cookies.

Word Search

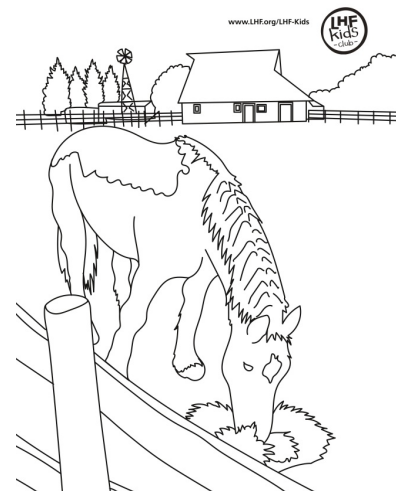
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ICE
WATER TANK
FREEZE
FIREWOOD
SHEEP
SHOVEL
COWS
OATS
WOOL

Coloring Sheet

Check out this month's printable coloring sheet. Download the PDF with the link below, print the page, and start coloring!

[Download your coloring sheet](#)



Join the LHF Kids Club

