

Virginia ABCs

Learning the Agriculture Alphabet

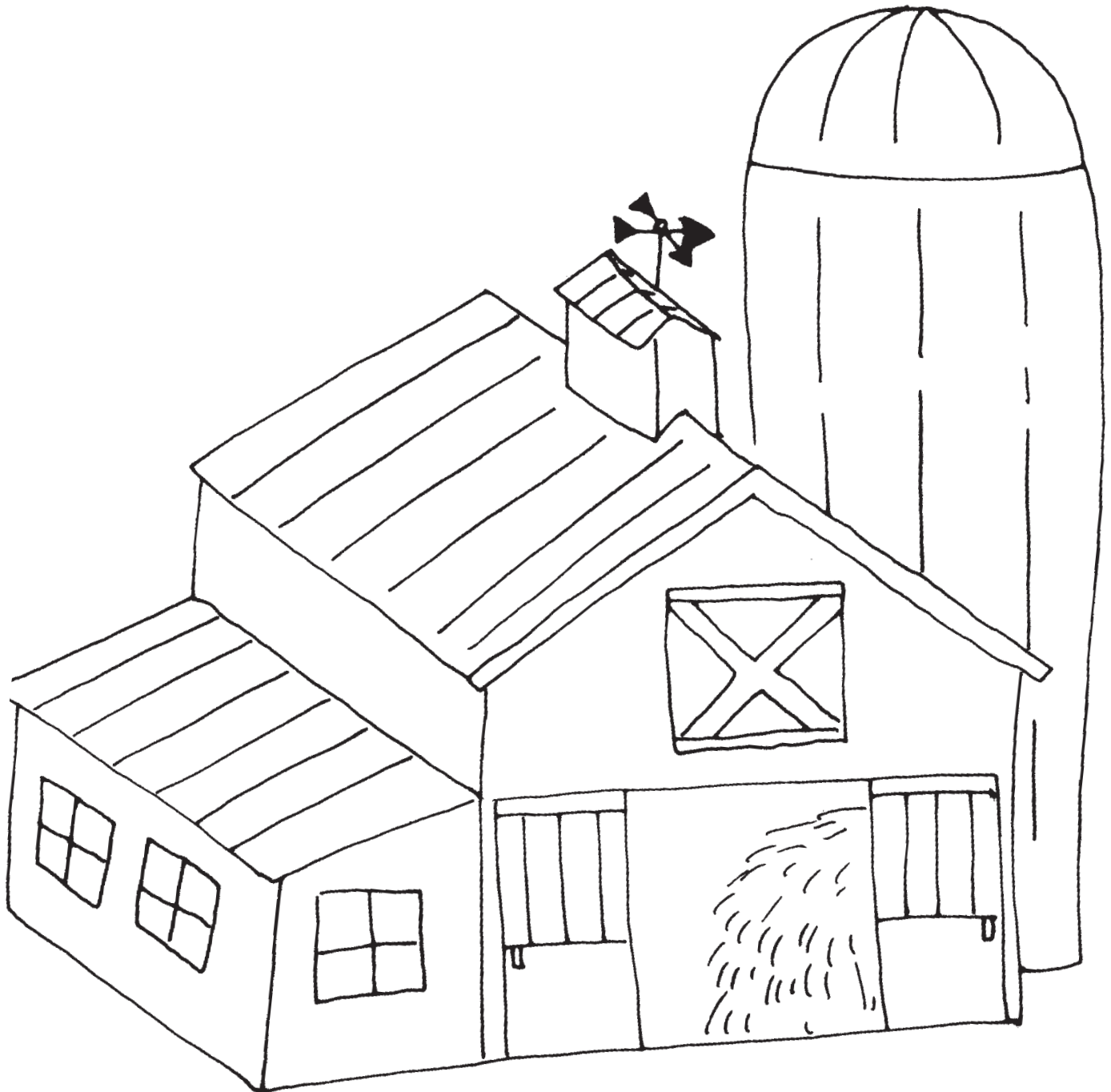


Aa



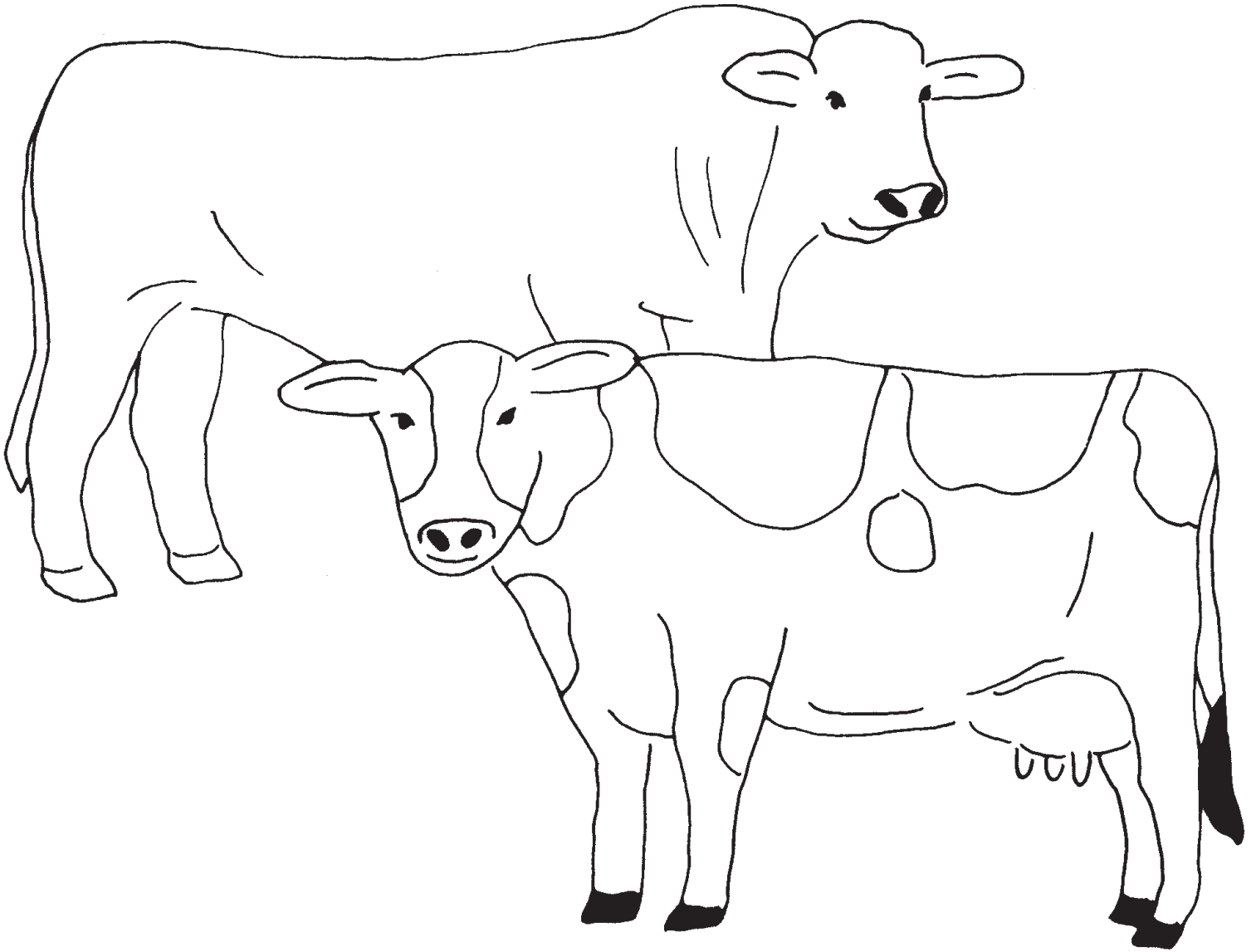
Agriculture is Virginia's and the nation's largest industry. America's food supply is one of the safest and most plentiful in the world. Virginia farmers care about you!

Bb



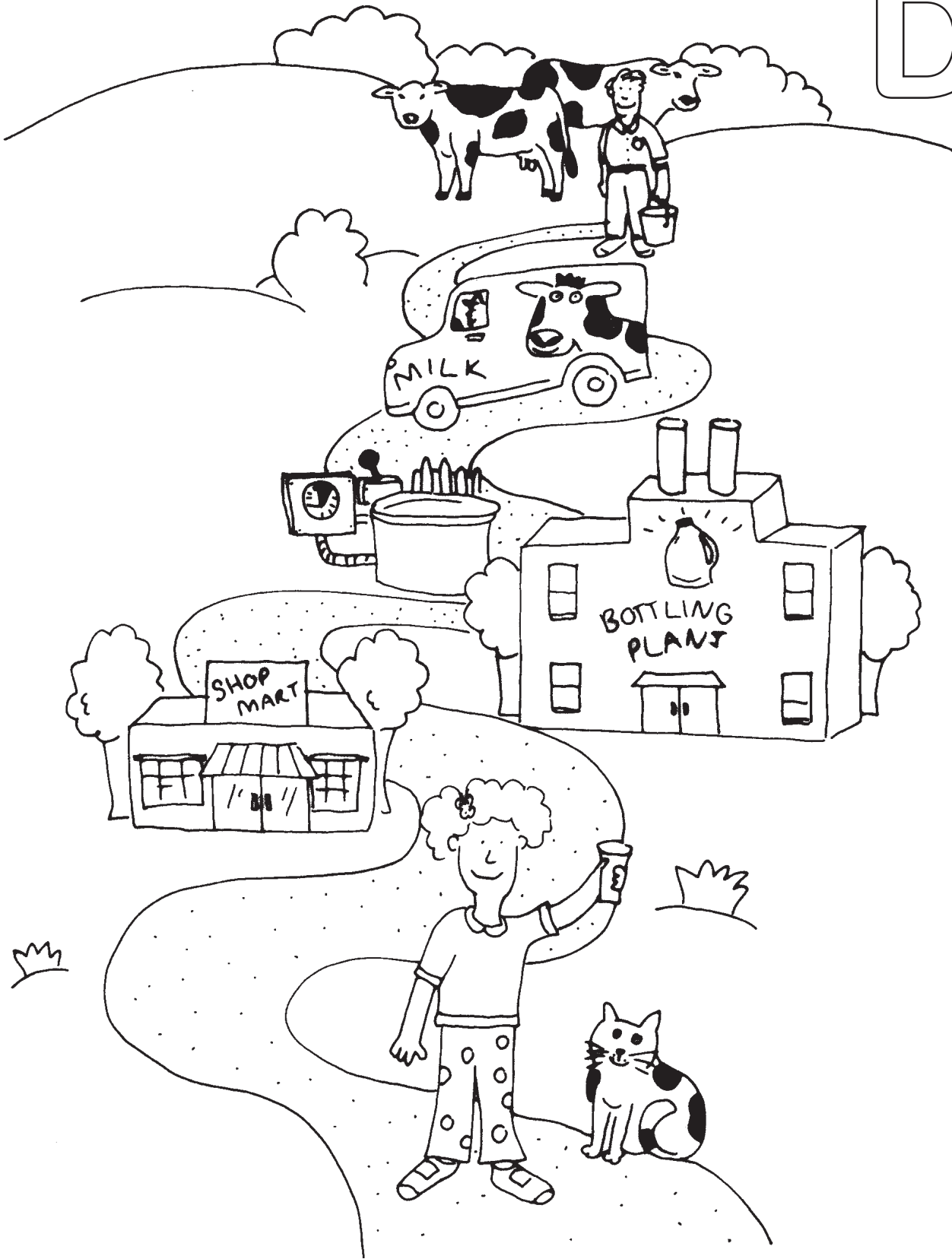
Barns are used to store hay and equipment or house animals. Barns come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

Cc



Cattle can be beef or dairy. Female cattle may be cows or heifers. Male cattle are bulls and steers. Eating lean meats, like beef, provides essential nutrients.

Dd



Dairy farmers milk the cows. Next, the milk is pasteurized. Then, it is bottled and finally taken to the store for you to buy. Low-fat and skim milk products are an important part of eating healthy each day.

Ee



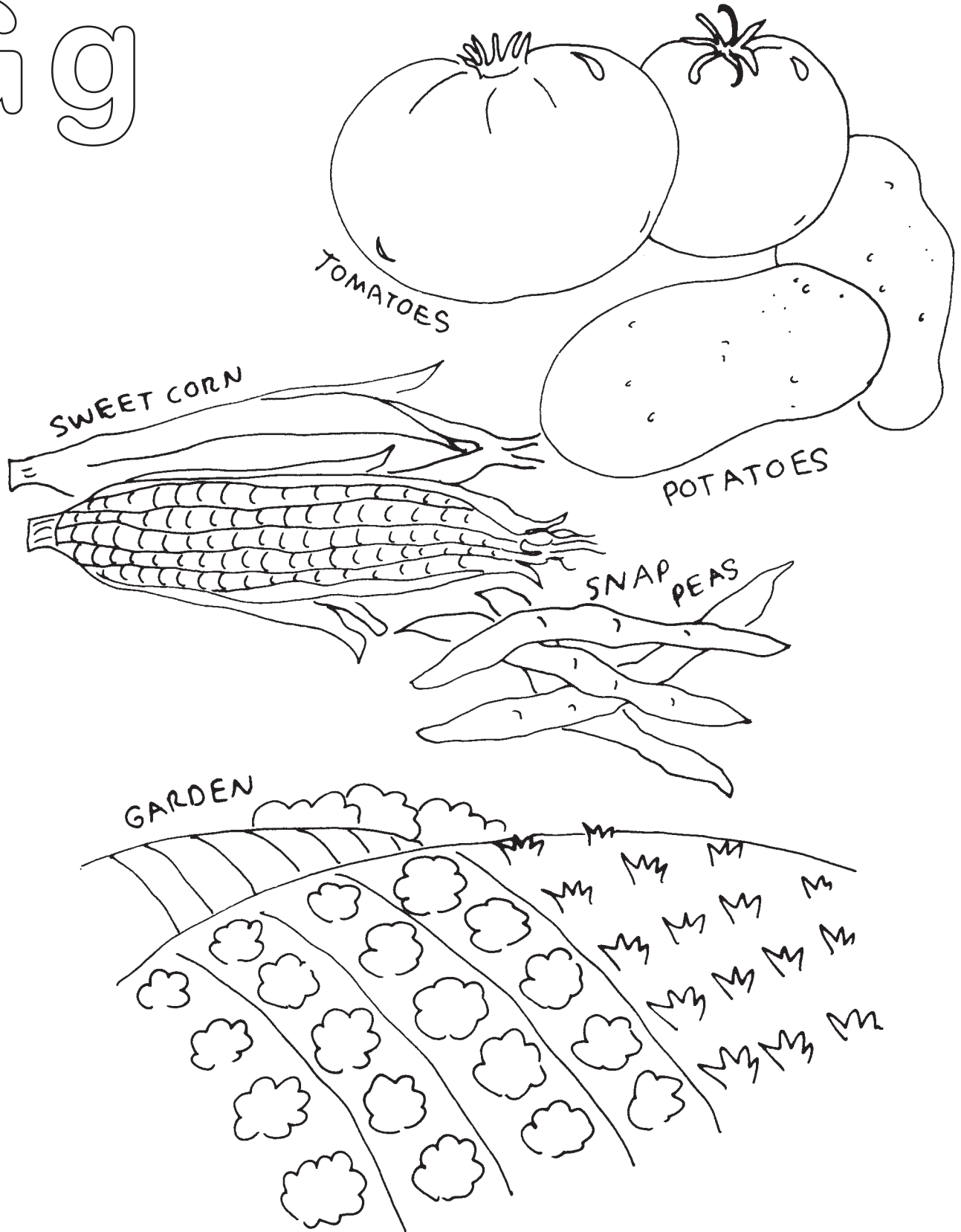
Farmers work hard to protect the **Environment** by planting trees and grass along stream banks to protect rivers and streams. Farms also provide open spaces for animals, including wildlife.

Ff



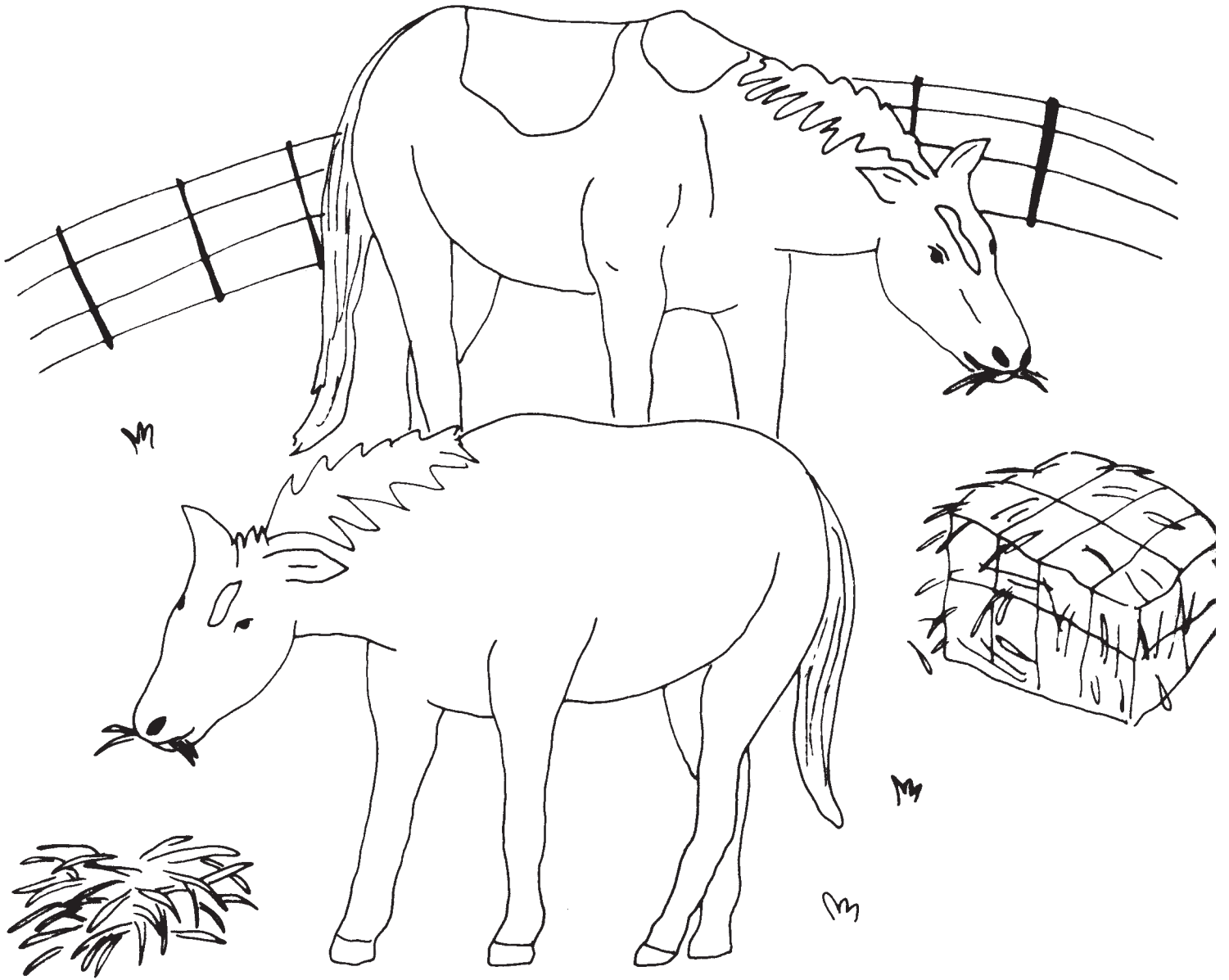
Farmers are the men and women who tend the animals and grow the food and fiber we need. Today, less than 2% of the United States population are farmers.

Gg



Do you have a **Garden** at home? Many farmers have gardens on their farms to produce a variety of fresh, healthy vegetables for their families. We should eat 3 to 5 servings of vegetables each day.

Hh

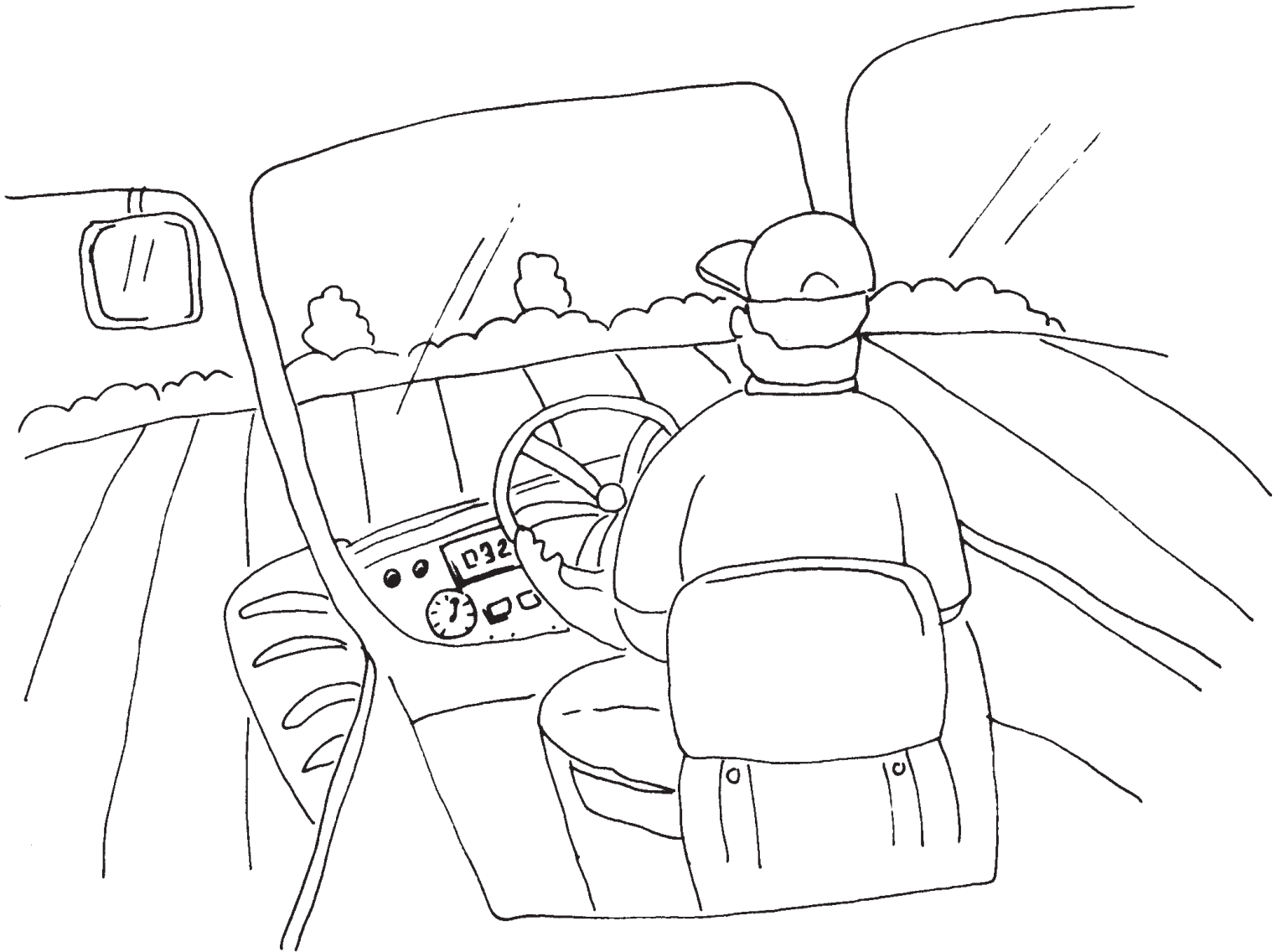


Horses are raised and trained on some farms. They eat hay, just like cattle, goats and sheep.



Insects help farmers by pollinating flowers that will then grow into tasty and healthy fruits and vegetables. Virginia's state insect is a Tiger Swallowtail butterfly.

Jj

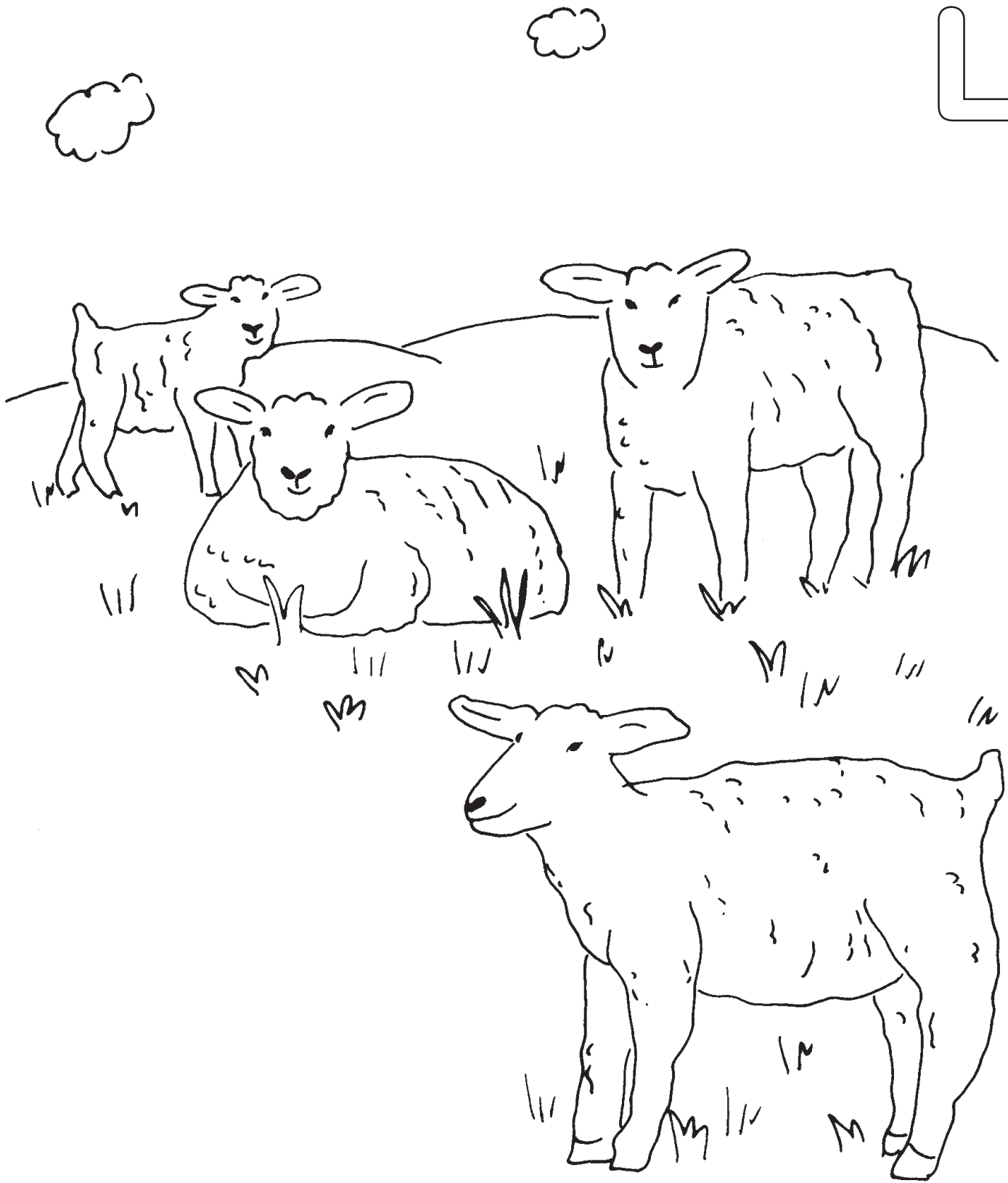


Farmers have many **Jobs** on the farm. They must know how to be mechanics, scientists, weather forecasters, forest rangers, veterinarians, business managers and much more!

Kk



Kids live on the farm and do chores too, but they only do things that are safe for their age. Did you know that a young goat is also called a “kid”?



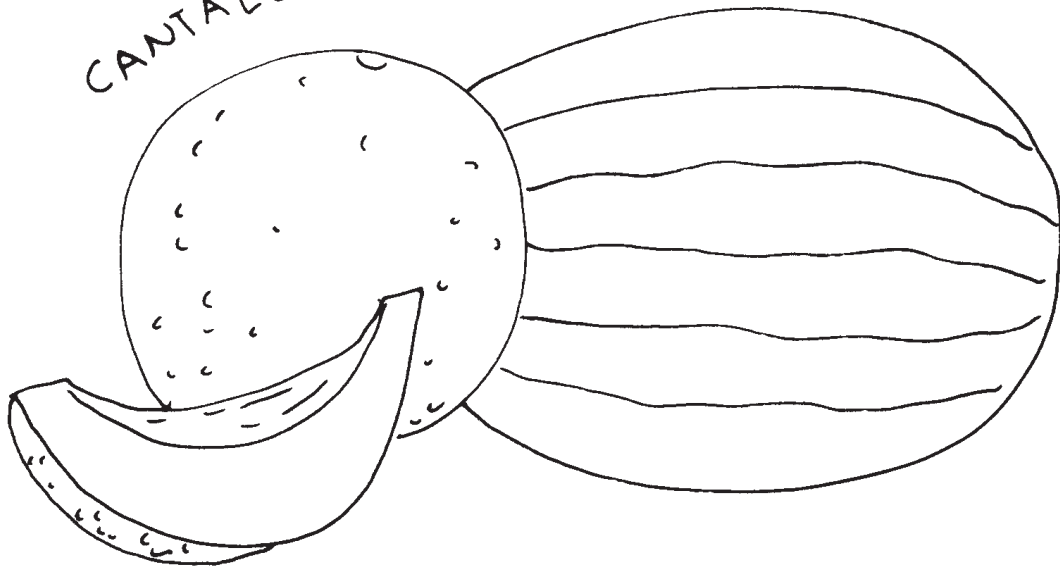
Lambs are young sheep. The coats of sheep and lambs produce wool for warm clothing like sweaters, hats and mittens.

M m



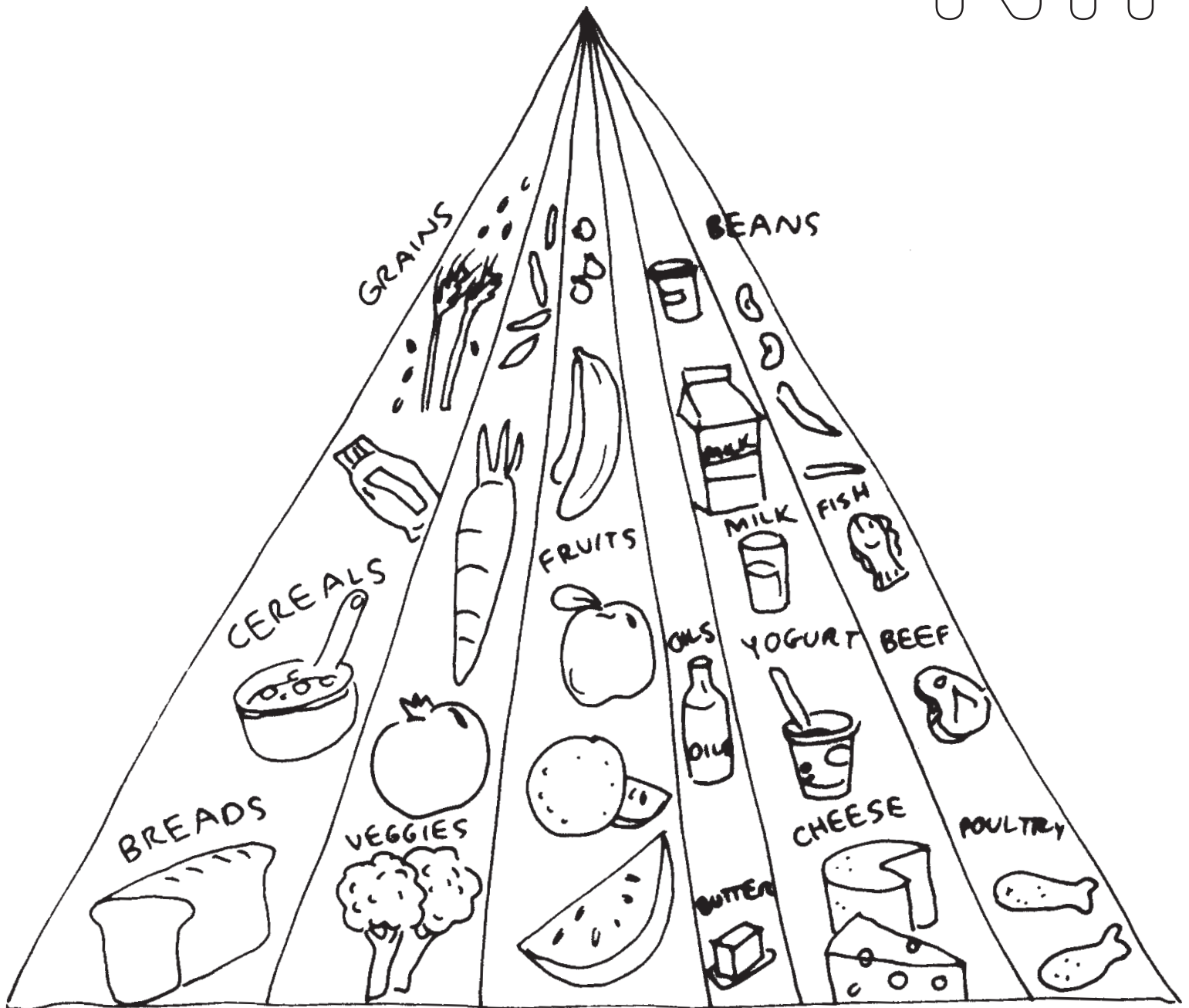
CANTALOUPE

WATERMELON

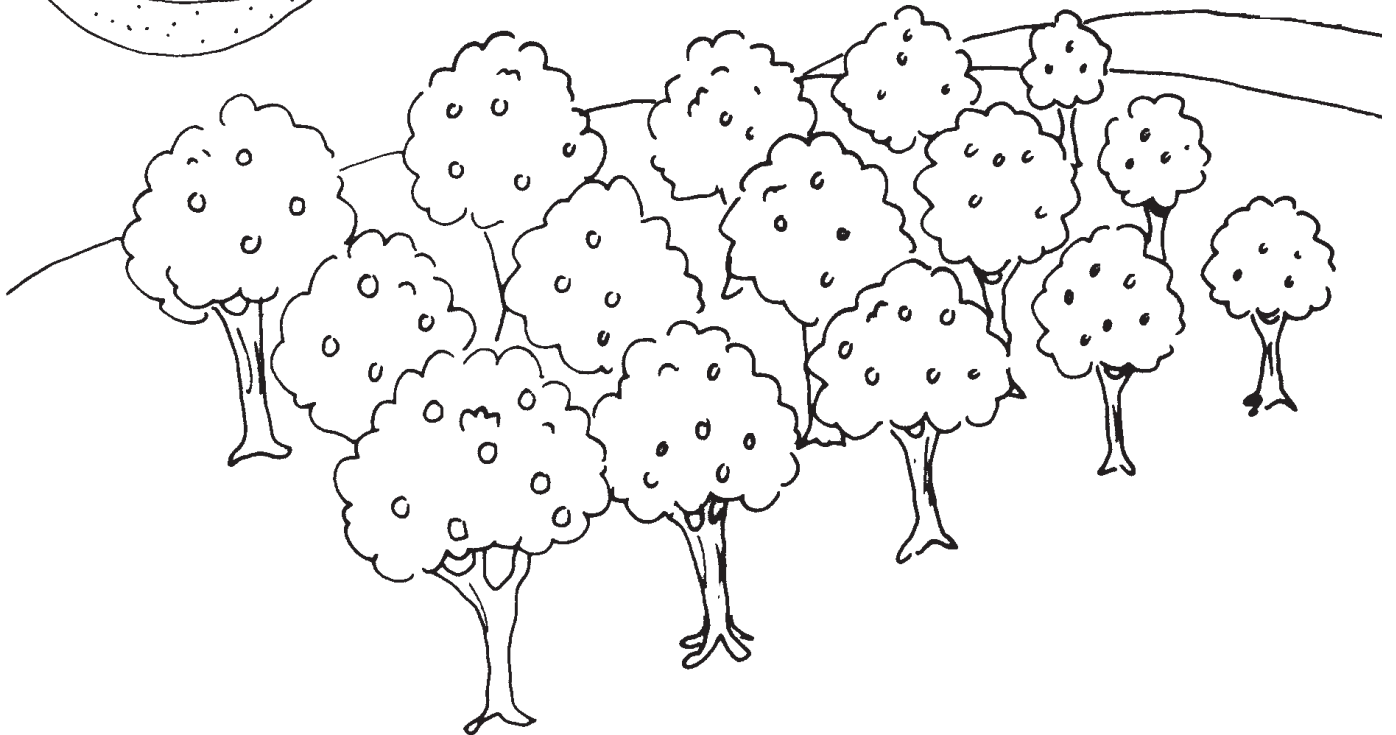
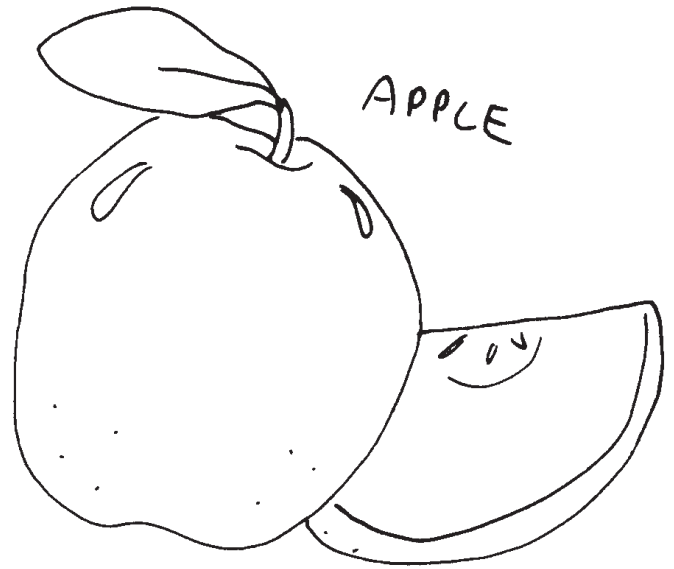
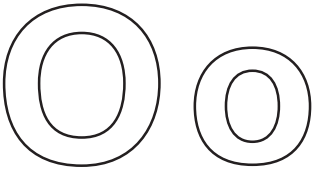


Melons like cantaloupe and watermelon are fruits grown in Virginia. Eating healthy includes 2 to 4 servings of fruit per day.

Nn



Nutritious foods help us build strong, healthy bodies. Farmers care about us and work hard to grow foods that are good to eat. By using the Food Pyramid you can plan a healthy, nutritious diet.



Orchards are made up of rows of trees. Fruits like apples, peaches and cherries are grown in orchards.

P p



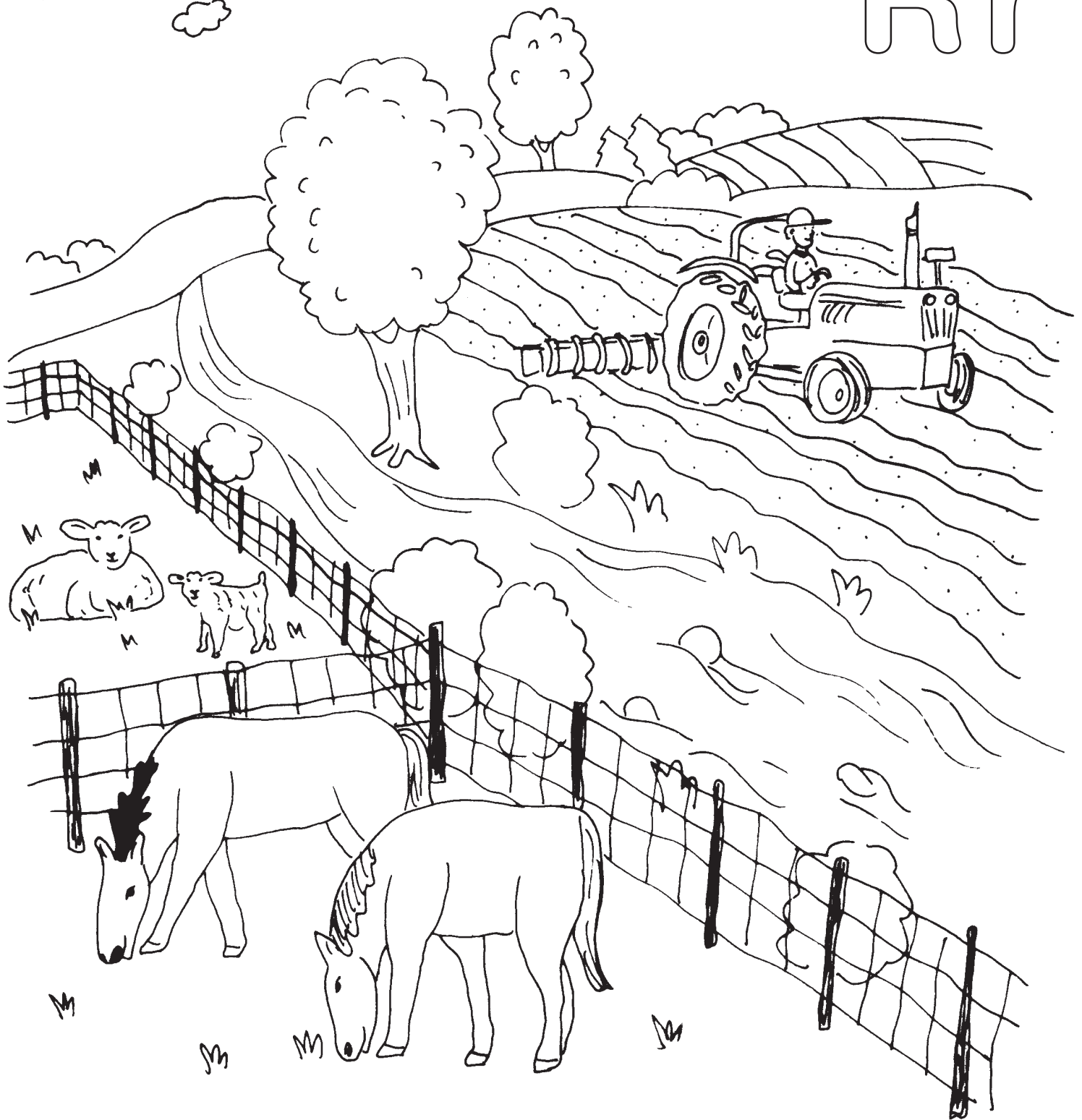
Poultry is another word for chickens and turkeys that are grown on a farm. Poultry and eggs are a great source of protein and energy in a healthy diet.

Q q



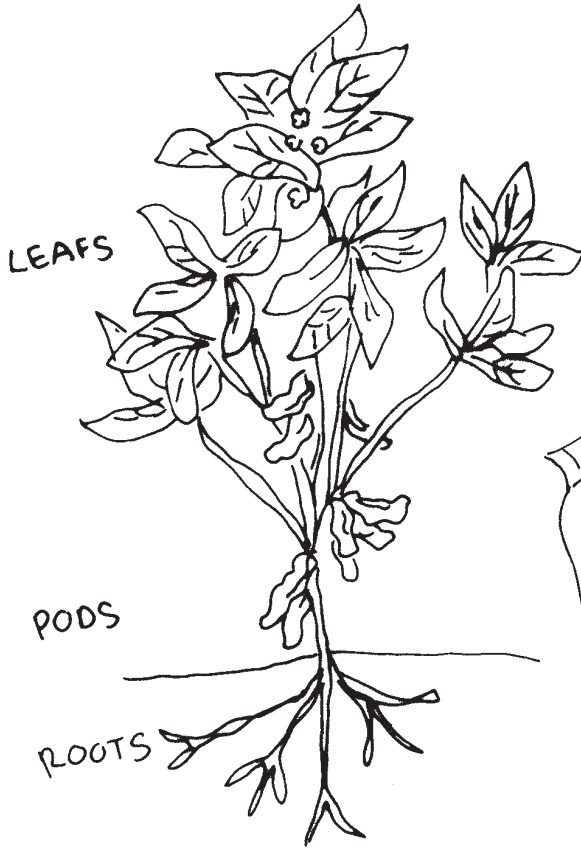
Quesadilla is a Hispanic term for a dish of flat bread, made from wheat or corn flour. It has cheese and sometimes vegetables in the middle.

Rr



Resources are a part of everyday farm life. Farmers are human resources, equipment and buildings are capital resources, and plants and animals are natural resources. Can you think of a few more?

S s



Soybean plants produce pods that contain soybean seeds. Soybeans are in paint, food products, oil, ink, fuel, soap, animal feed, margarine, soy burgers, candles, plastics and many other products you use every day.

Tt



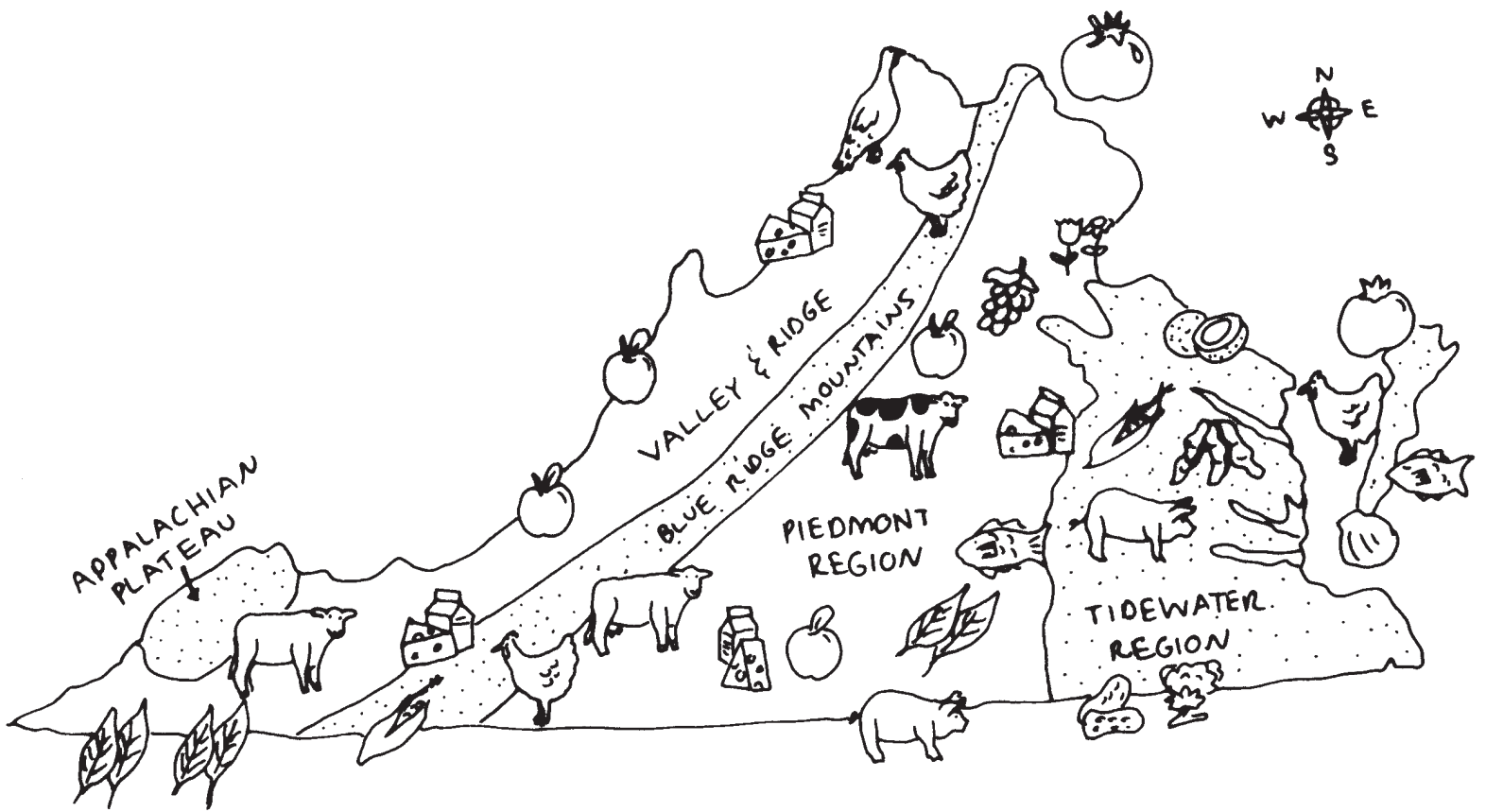
Tractors are one of the most useful machines on the farm. Tractors are very strong and can pull large loads or carry big objects. Farmers use different sizes and types of tractors for different jobs.

U u



The **United States** is home to many different types of farms and ranches. What farmers grow depends on the weather, the soil and the amount of water available where they live.

V v



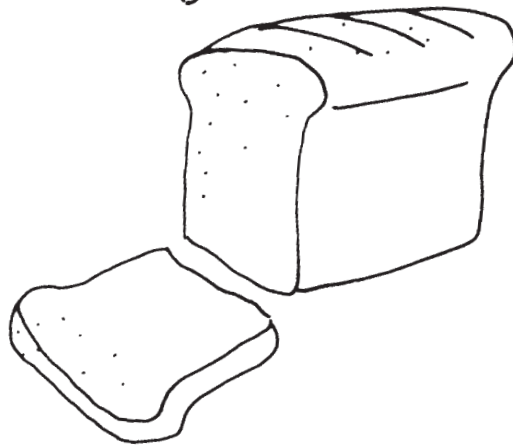
Virginia has a large variety of agriculture. Chickens, cattle, dairy cows, flowers, shrubs, turkeys, soybeans, peanuts, apples, grain, cotton, fruits and vegetables are just some of Virginia's agricultural products.

Ww

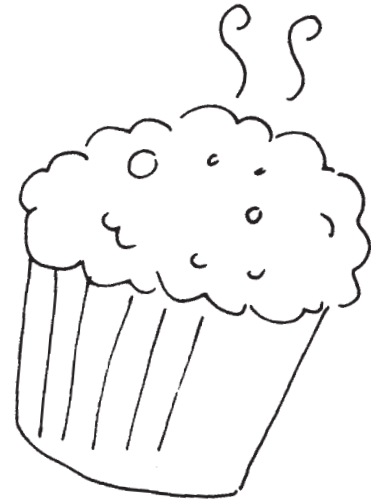
WHEAT



BREAD

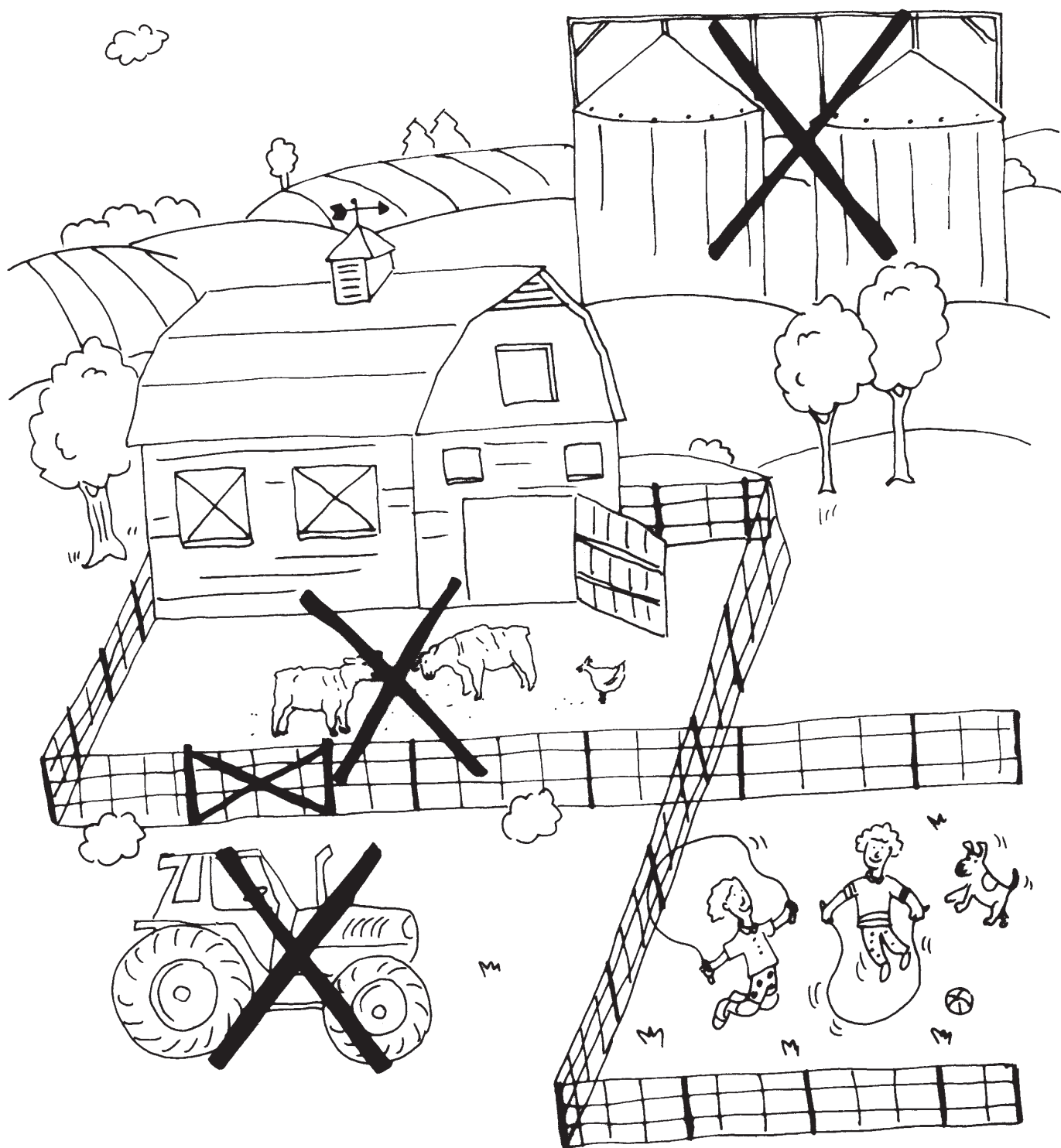


MUFFINS



Wheat is a grain crop. Wheat is ground into flour to make bread, cereal, muffins, pasta and many other tasty foods. Eating 6 to 11 servings of grain foods each day helps build your Food Pyramid.

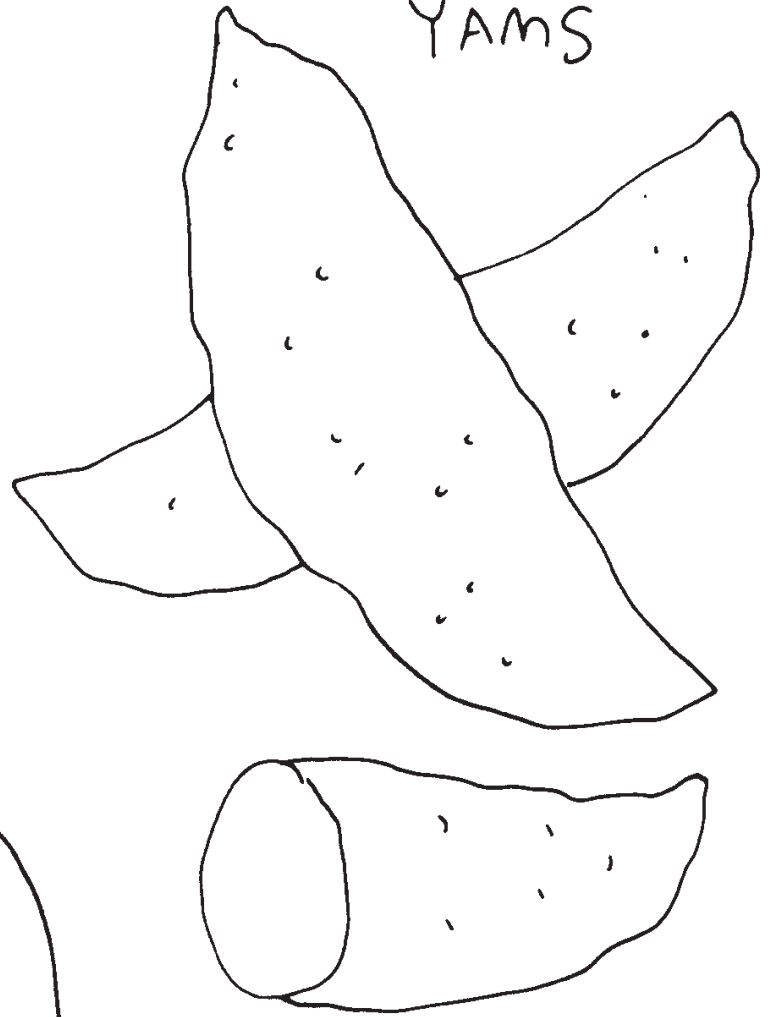
Xx



X marks the places where kids should NOT go on the farm. Can you guess why? Remember to always be safe on the farm.

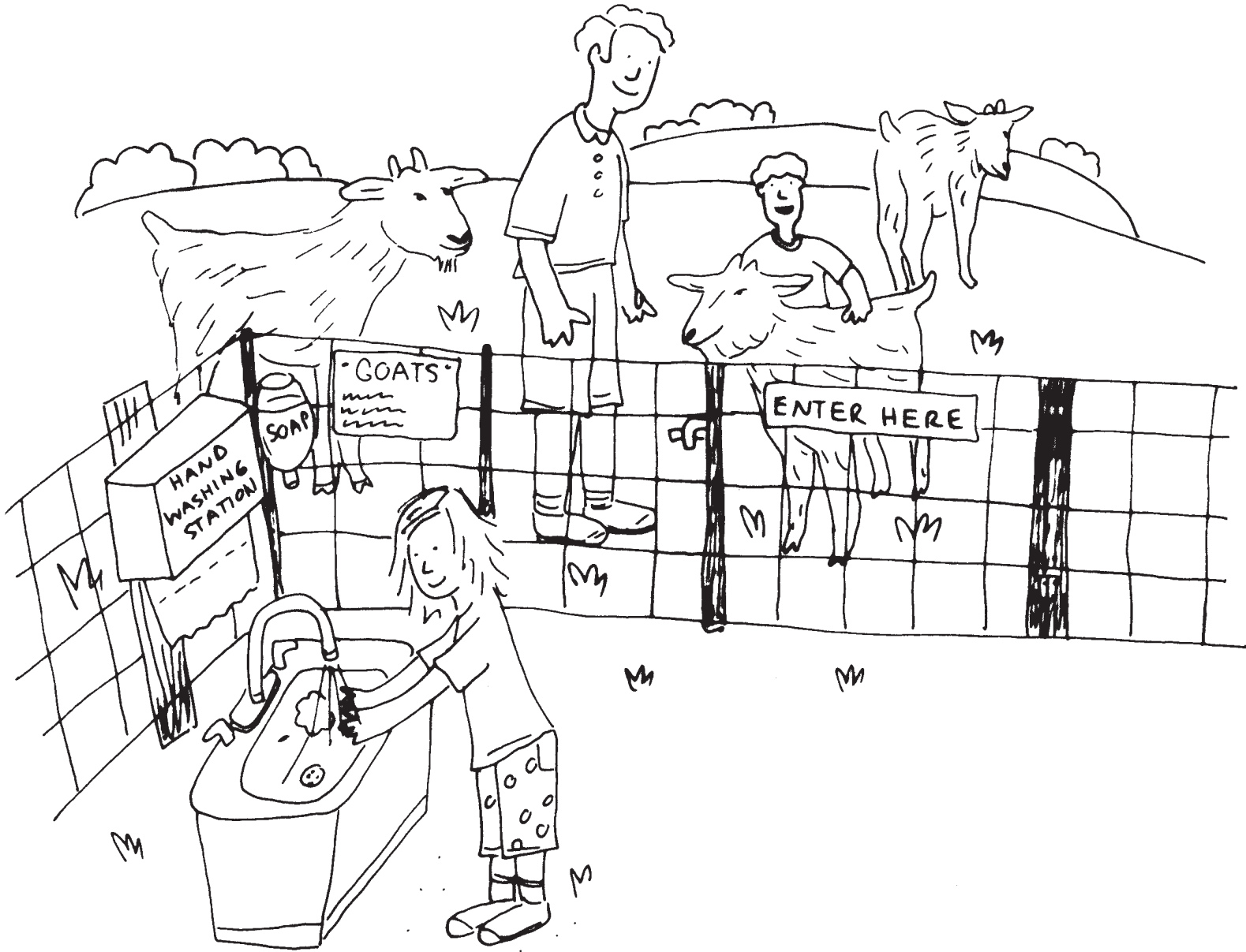
Yy

YAMS



Yummy Yams grow in the soil, and farmers dig them up to harvest. Yams are full of vitamins to help you grow.

Zz



Zoos are good places to see farm animals if it's a *farm zoo*! Farm petting zoos and farm markets are great places to learn more about agriculture, but be sure to wash your hands carefully before eating or going on to other activities.

The ABC's of Farm Products

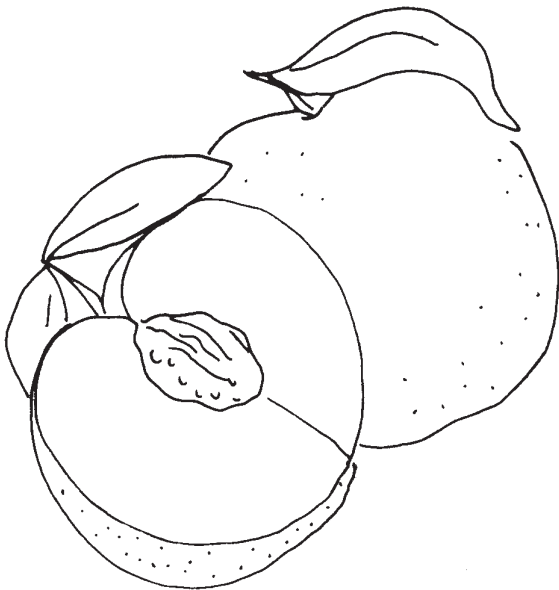
1. Are these farm products in **ABC** order? Write **TRUE** if they are. Write **FALSE** if they are not.

1. cabbage, lettuce, radishes _____
2. oranges, apples, pears _____
3. carrots, bananas, apples _____
4. cucumbers, kiwi, okra _____
5. lettuce, limas, lemons _____



2. Number each list in **ABC** order. Be careful—the lists are very tricky!

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| A. ___ apricots | B. ___ carrots | C. ___ grapes | D. ___ potatoes | E. ___ onions |
| ___ bananas | ___ cabbage | ___ lettuce | ___ pears | ___ okra |
| ___ apples | ___ corn | ___ limas | ___ peaches | ___ turnips |
| ___ broccoli | ___ celery | ___ grapefruit | ___ peas | ___ radishes |
| ___ blueberries | ___ cucumbers | ___ lemons | ___ plums | ___ tomatoes |
| | ___ cantaloupe | ___ leeks | ___ pineapples | ___ oranges |
| | | | | ___ strawberries |



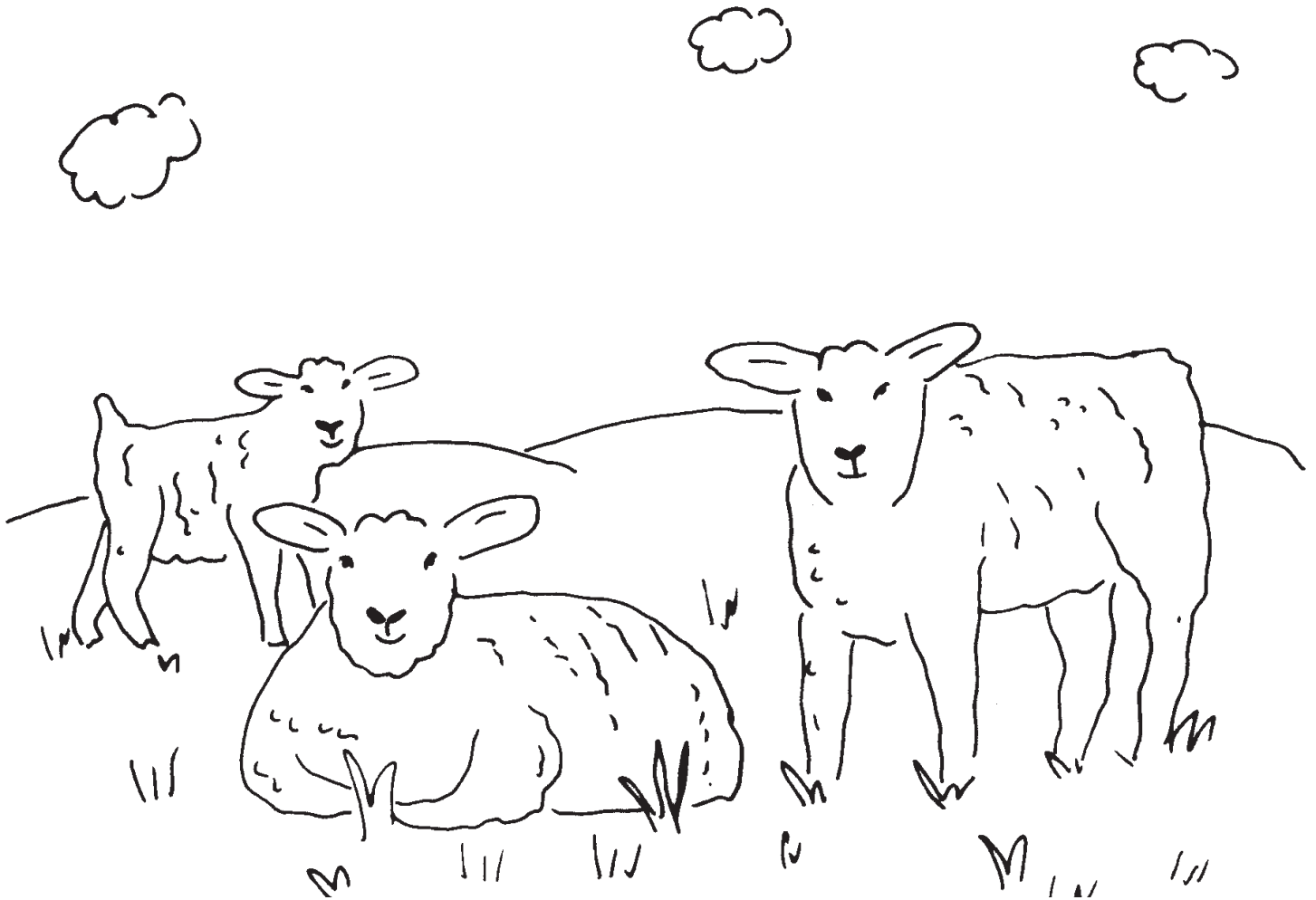
Match the mother to her baby

MOTHER

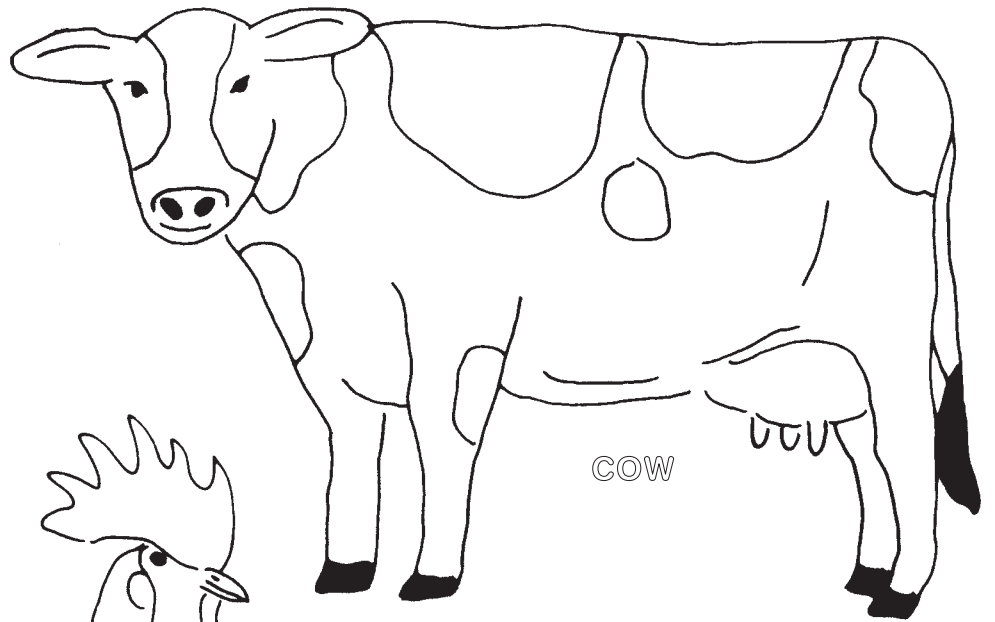
Cow
Ewe
Hen
Sow
Mare
Nanny

BABY

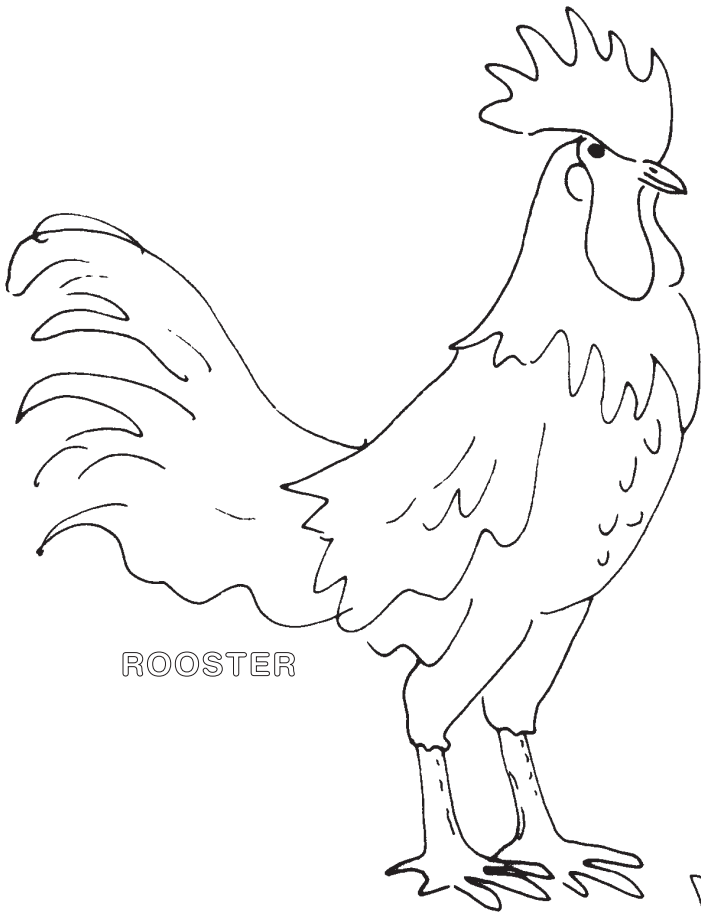
Kid
Chick
Foal
Piglet
Calf
Lamb



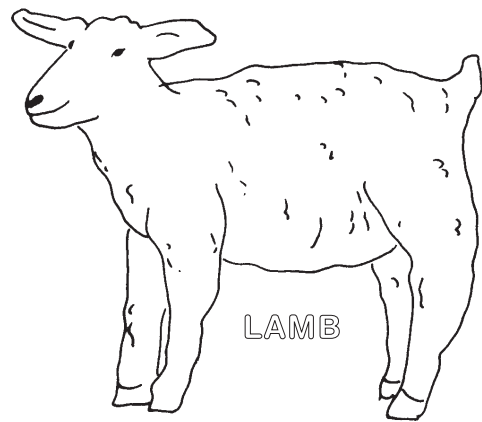
Animals



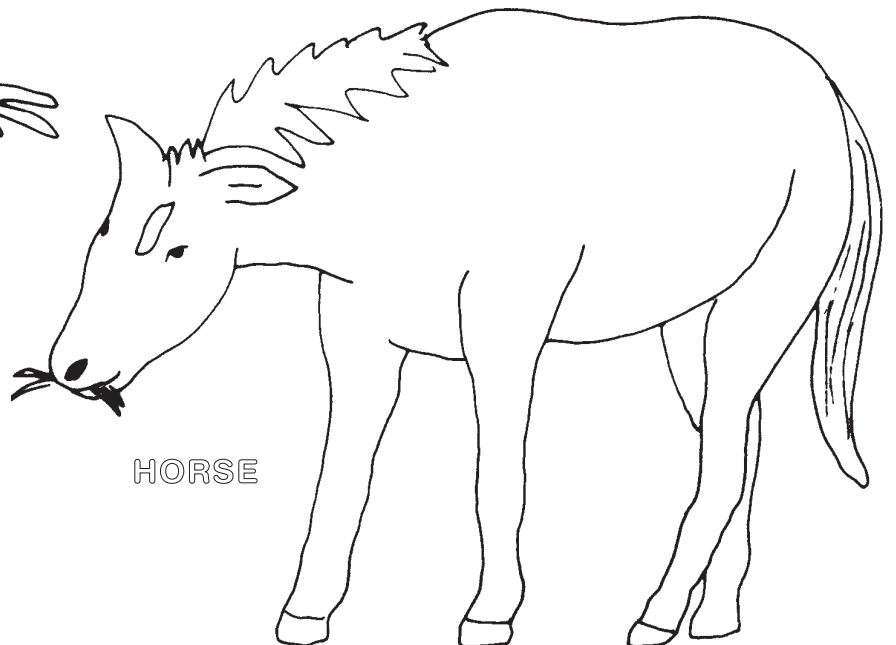
COW



ROOSTER



LAMB



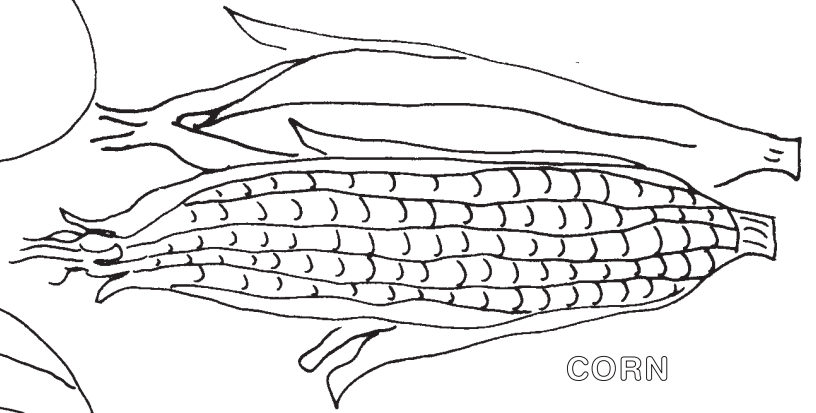
HORSE

Fruits and Vegetables

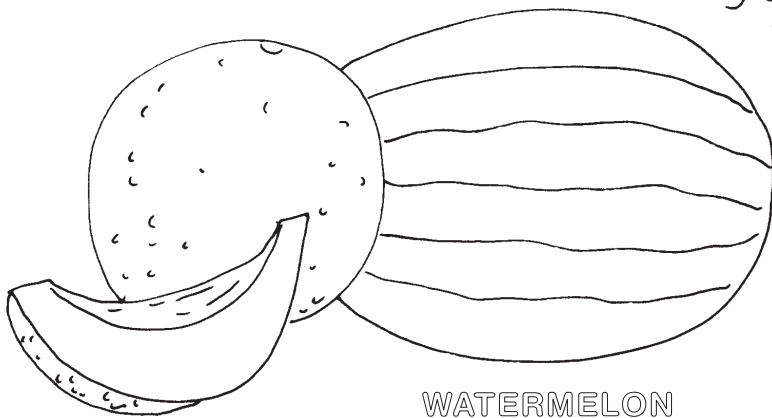


TOMATOES

POTATOES

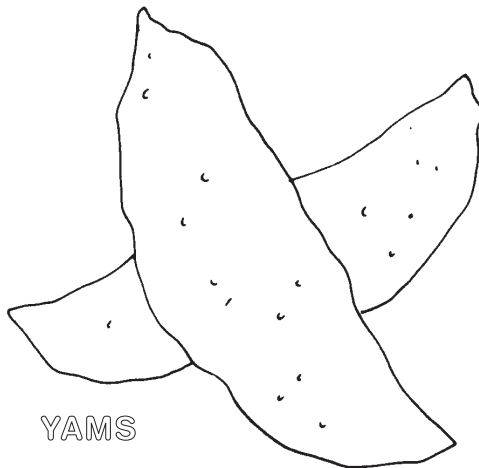


CORN

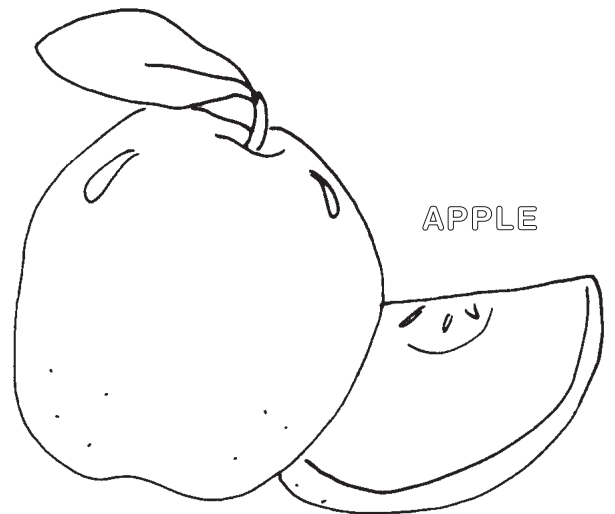


CANTALOUPE

WATERMELON



YAMS

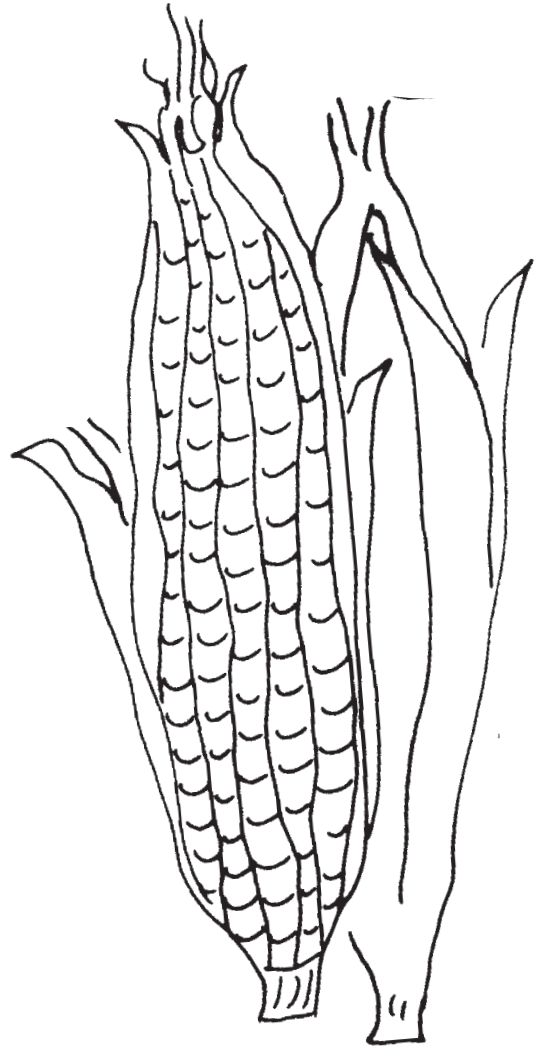


APPLE

Farming the Land

In this puzzle, find and circle the agricultural terms listed. They may be backwards, horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

P E A N U T D I O P R E T T U B
 L N R O C B A R N O T A E H W O
 A C A L F W I R E T F R B M R P
 N E H M O A R I C A A P P L E S
 T H A C D I Y G U T R U F E T O
 W O T H K S D A C O M Q H A B Y
 A G R I C U L T U R E S O R L B
 T S E C M P R I M U R G A H O E
 E I C K O E S O B M T T P D A A
 R L O E C R A N E E G G S E N N
 M O T N D M N T R A C T O R A S
 E B T O B A C C O T O M A T O L
 L A O B R A I N O N I M M H I Z
 O C N E A K F E R T I L I Z E R
 N O V E G E T A B L E K P E A S
 A N U F I T U R K E Y F A M T E



CORN

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| agriculture | apples | bacon | barn |
| beef | butter | calf | chicken |
| corn | cotton | cow | cucumber |
| dairy | eggs | farmer | fertilizer |
| grain | hoe | hogs | irrigation |
| meat | milk | oats | peanut |
| peas | plant | potato | sheep |
| silo | soybeans | supermarket | tobacco |
| tomato | turkey | tractor | vegetable |

MYSTERY WORDS: A product grown in Virginia is found in the puzzle but is NOT listed in the words. Can you find it?