

Looking at Livestock

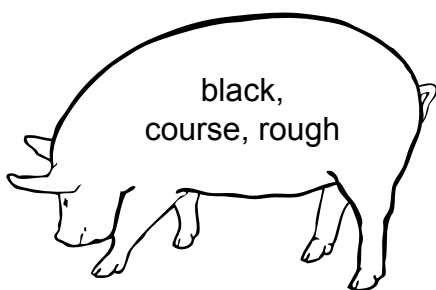
Most of our livestock animals are grouped together in one part of the Farm. They are the BIG animals with hooves--horse, pony, sheep, goats, pigs, and cows.

Some livestock animals are ruminants. They have four stomach compartments for digesting their food. After the food mixes with saliva and is fermented, it comes back up to its mouth to be chewed again. This is called “chewing the cud”. Sheep, goats, and cows are ruminants.

All livestock animals are mammals. They are warm-blooded, have a body covered with some sort of hair, and the females feed their babies milk from mammary glands (udders).

GETTING STARTED:

1. All livestock animals have hooves--a foot with a hard covering. You may want to begin “looking at livestock” by going on a HOOF HUNT to observe and make a drawing of each livestock animal’s foot and toes. You may also want to record on a graph the number of toes on each livestock animal’s foot and whether that number is even or odd.
2. Observe and feel the body covering of each livestock animal. Draw or write words that describe each animal’s covering. How are the coverings alike? Different?



3. Notice a sheep or goat’s udder and teats. When she is nursing her babies or when the farmers are milking her, the udder will be full of milk. In the late winter or spring, you may see the lambs or kids nursing.

