

Cattle Corrections

Grade Levels: 4 - 8

Lesson Overview

Most kids love hamburgers, but how much do they know about raising beef cattle? In this lesson, students will practice their proofreading and editing skills while learning cattle and farming terminology and how cattle are raised.

Student Objective

1. Edit written pieces for usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, grammar and structure errors.

Materials

- ✓ Beautiful Bovine supplies
 - surgical glove
 - vest - leather/fur
 - yarn
 - chewing gum
 - fly swatter
 - plastic headband
 - cardboard
 - four socks
 - sandpaper
 - four balloons
 - large bag
 - elastic
- ✓ Word Usage worksheet
- ✓ Punctuation and Capitalization worksheet
- ✓ General worksheet

Vocabulary

- **breed** – to make pregnant.
- **bulls** – male cattle that can breed.
- **calves** – baby cattle.
- **cows** – female cattle. (The word cow can also mean any single cattle, male or female.)
- **heifers** – young female cattle that have not given birth.
- **nurse** – to drink milk from a mother's body.

- **steers** – male cattle that have had an operation to remove the testicles. Steers cannot breed.
- **wean** – to separate a young animal from its mother so that it will begin to eat solid food

Background Information

Beef cattle are an important commodity in Illinois and the United States; not only for the meat they provide, but the by-products used in other food and non-food products.

The websites listed in the additional resources section also give great background information on the subject matter.

Procedure

1. Introduce the topic of cattle using the activity “Beautiful Bovine.”

Directions:

- a) Assemble the items below to represent the body parts of a cow and place in a bag:
 - udder - Stuff the surgical glove with tissue. Attach yarn to tie around student's waist.
 - horns and ears - Cut cardboard in the shape of a cow's ears and horns and attach them to a plastic headband.
 - hooves - Cut four cardboard hoof prints and attach them to the bottoms of the four socks.
 - tongue - Cut sandpaper to hang around student's head. Attach yarn to tongue to hang around student's head.
 - stomachs - Blow up four balloons and tie them together with yarn.
 - tail - Tie fly swatter to a piece of yarn to tie around the student's waist.
 - gum - Give student a piece of chewing gum to chew as "cud."
 - hide - Place the vest on the student to represent the hide of a cow.
- b) Ask one of your students to volunteer to be dressed up to look like a cow. To avoid embarrassing any of your students, ask your principal or another adult to be the volunteer.
- c) Ask students to imagine what a cow looks like and what special parts it has that are different from a human. What makes a cow a cow?
- d) Ask students to suggest ways to make the volunteer look like a cow. As they come up with ideas, dress the volunteer with the props in your bag. Share background information regarding each body part as you dress up your

volunteer.

2. Spend some time talking with the students about the products and by-products that we use which come from livestock. What animals give us pork and beef?
3. Explain to students that they will complete worksheets that have mistakes in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization (you may wish to give the students the following clues about the number of mistakes in each Word Usage worksheet - more than 20; Punctuation and Capitalization worksheet – more than 30; General worksheet – more than 20).
4. Distribute worksheets.
5. After students have completed their worksheets, review their work as a class.

Extension Activity

Students may complete a research project based on some aspect of the beef cattle industry or a specific breed of beef cattle.

Additional Resources

- *Beef* by Jason Cooper ISBN 978-0866256179
- *Cattle* by Dorothy Hinshaw ISBN 978-0876147658
- *Your Calf: A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing Beef and Dairy Calves* by Heather Smith Thomas
- *Life on a Cattle Farm* by Judy Wolfman ISBN 978-1575055169
- *Beef Cattle in the Story of Agriculture* by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Buggey ISBN: 978-1-926781-09-9
- *Beef Cattle an A to Z* book by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Buggey ISBN 978-1926781082
- www.beef.org – National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- www.illinoisbeef.com – Illinois Beef Association
- www.angus.org – American Angus Association
- www.shorthorn.org – American Shorthorn Association
- www.hereford.org – American Hereford Association
- www.simmental.org – American Simmental Association
- www.maine-anjou.org – American Maine-Anjou Association
- www.chicattle.org – American Chianina Association

- www.nalf.org – North American Limosin Foundation
- www.salersusa.org – American Salers Association
- <http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/TeacherResources.shtml>
Beef Ag Mag & Reader from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

Standards

Illinois English Language Arts Standards

CCRA.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

CCRA.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

The **M**ultidisciplinary **A**gricultural **I**ntegrated **C**urriculum (mAGic) was created in 2004 under the leadership of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education Project (FCAE). Funding was made available through the FCAE grant budget from the agricultural education line item of the ISBE budget. This revision, as printed, was developed in January 2021.



These mAGic lessons are designed to bring agriculture to life in your classroom. They address the Illinois Learning Standards in math, science, English language arts and social studies.

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Name _____

Word Usage Worksheet

Female cattle that ain't given birth to a calf are known as heifers. A heifer is called a cow after she had a calf. Like humans, a cow are pregnant for nine months. Farmers that raise beef cattle try to time the breeding (by separated the bull from the cows) so that the calfs will be borned in early spring when the whether is nice so that the new calves doesn't get sick. When it is time for the calf too be borned, the cow will get off on her own to give birth. Tho sometimes farmers have two help a little, most cows have know trouble giving birth on there own. Calfs are usually born head and front feet first. After the calf is borned, the mother will clean off the calf. After a rest, the calf will try to stood and walk and nurse from it's mother. Within a few day of birth, the farmer will usually given all newborn calves a shot to keep them healthy and will putted a tag with a special number in there ear. The tag enables the farmer too identify the animal and log it's health history.

Name _____

Punctuation and Capitalization Worksheet

raising a beef animal for consumption is a lengthy process from the time the mother cow is bred until the calf is grown and ready to be packaged into meat takes between 21 – 30 months after the male calves weigh about 500 pounds usually at five to seven months old they are weaned and separated from their mother and fed a diet of hay grass and grain after about three months or when they weigh between 650 and 850 pounds the steers are placed in a feed lot there they are fed hay grain minerals and given plenty of water to drink until they reach a finished weight of more than 1,000 pounds a packing house buyer may purchase the cattle straight from the farm or the animals can be taken to a sale barn or auction to be sold to the highest bidder only about 40% of a beef animal is used for meat the rest of the animal is used for by-products such as chewing gum candles marshmallows pasta cosmetics crayons deodorant paints leather goods glue wallpaper soaps linoleum margarine mayonnaise ceramics and insulin for diabetics

Name _____

General Worksheet

there are many chores that farmers have to do throughout the year to take care of their animals. winter is an especially busy time because of the weather. farmers must make sure that the cattle have fresh water to drink at all times since it is cold the water source may freeze and the farmer will need to break ice in a creek or haul water to a tank. towards the end of fall or early winter the land that the cattle grazed on during the summer months is no longer growing so farmers will start to feed baled hay and grain to the pasture cattle. fencing is another chore that farmers must keep on top of. fences can be damaged by dead trees, deer, or the cattle themselves. fences must be kept in working order to protect the cattle and keep them out of other farmers' fields. farmers take very good care of their cattle because the animals are how they make their money.

Word Usage Worksheet ANSWER KEY

Female cattle that have not given birth to a calf are known as heifers. A heifer is called a cow after she has had a calf. Like humans, a cow is pregnant for nine months. Farmers that raise beef cattle try to time the breeding (by separating the bull from the cows) so that calves will be born in early spring when the weather is nice so that the new calves don't get sick. When it is time for the calf to be born, the cow will go off on her own to give birth. Though sometimes farmers have to help a little, most cows have no trouble giving birth on their own. Calves are usually born head and front feet first. After the calf is born, the mother will clean off the calf. After a rest, the calf will try to stand and walk and nurse from its mother. Within a few days of birth, the farmer will usually give all newborn calves a shot to keep them healthy and will put a tag with a special number in their ear. This tag enables the farmer to identify the animal and log its health history.

Punctuation and Capitalization Worksheet ANSWER KEY

Raising a beef animal for consumption is a lengthy process. From the time the mother cow is bred until the calf is grown and ready to be packaged into meat takes between 21 – 30 months. After the male calves weigh about 500 pounds, usually at five to seven months old, they are weaned and separated from their mother and fed a diet of hay, grass, and grain. After about three months, or when they weigh between 650 and 850 pounds, the steers are placed in a feed lot. There they are fed hay, grain and minerals and given plenty of water to drink until they reach a finished weight of more than 1,000 pounds. A packing house buyer may purchase the cattle straight from the farm or the animals can be taken to a sale barn or auction to be sold to the highest bidder. Only about 40% of a beef animal is used for meat. The rest of the animal is used for by-products such as chewing gum, candles, marshmallows, pasta, cosmetics, crayons, deodorant, paints, leather goods, glue, wallpaper, soaps, linoleum, margarine, mayonnaise, ceramics, and insulin for diabetics.

General Worksheet ANSWER KEY

There are many chores that farms have to do throughout the year to take care of their animals. Winter is an especially busy time because of the weather. Farmers must make sure that the cattle have fresh water to drink at all times. Since it is cold, the water source may freeze and the farmer will need to break ice in a creek or haul water to a tank. Towards the end of fall or early winter, the land that the cattle grazed on during the summer months is no longer growing, so farmers will start to feed baled hay and grain to the pasture cattle. Fencing is another chore that farmers must keep on top of. Fences can be damaged by dead trees, deer or the cattle themselves. Fences must be kept in working order to protect the cattle and keep them out of other farmers' fields. Farmers take very good care of their cattle because the animals are how they make their money.