The ides of March are upon us!12 March 2012

Discovering Our Countryside provides a clear, interesting and informative picture of the important role of agriculture and rural affairs in the lives of pupils from an early age, the films and commentaries have been developed specifically to enhance the work that you are doing in your own classrooms.

These are the scripts and associated teaching links and notes for the program of 26 January 2012.

Teaching links.

Below are this program's specific links to:

- National Curriculum
- The 9 Eco School topics.
- National Government initiatives:
    - Healthy Schools
    - Sustainable Schools
    - Every Child Matters
    - Learning Outside the Classroom
- Thinking Skills.

Note on National Curriculum links

The National Curriculum subjects and the units from the QCA schemes of work. (Rather than list each specific National Curriculum objective we have simply listed the QCA Units as these are already linked to the National Curriculum and are generally what schools reference when planning work.)

These will allow you to easily link each program into your existing work.

The programs can also be used to promote interaction by children in pairs and groups, circle time or class discussion, encouraging learning through discussion and interaction

Discovering Our Countryside is a modular approach to rural affairs - we hope you and your pupils will look forward to each new episode as it paints the picture of the rural environment and it's seasonality.

Specific links for this weeks program sections:

The ides of March are upon us!

Confession time – I have heard this saying lots of times without know what it meant, when I looked it up and found it meant the middle or 15th of March it seemed ideal for this program

Details of this program

This program looks at the mid-March seasonal happenings – in the countryside, and down on the farm.

- **Bees** – Explains why bees are so important, giving a brief explanation of their role in the life cycle of a flowering plant.
- **Busy bees Busy Farmers** –Shows bees busy pollinating tomatoes, and farmers busy in the fields, fertilising winter crops and sowing spring crops.
- **Secret Calves and lambs?** – Explains how we have so far been unsuccessful in catching calves being born on film, but how we are more confident of catching lambs being born as our farmer has

2000 ewes to lamb. We see these ewes being brought inside, fed and vaccinated in preparationf or lambing.

These sections can also be found on the relevant topic page, which over the weeks will build up the seasonality picture for each of the main themes: Crops / Arable; Livestock; Wildlife and the Countryside

NATIONAL CURRICULUM SUBJECTS LINKS.

Citizenship KS 1 + 2

E.g. Shows how farmers look after animals and prepare them for having young

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 3 Animals and Us

Design and Technology KS 1 + 2

Looks at growing crops in greenhouse to extend the growing period and provide fresh 5-a-day produce

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 1c Eat More Fruit and Vegetables

Science KS 1 + 2

The videos have lots of science links to the units listed below for example:

Shows plants life cycles and what parts of a plant we use and harvest.

Some of machinery could be used to discuss pushes and pulls.

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 1B. Growing plants.

Unit 1E Pushes and Pulls.

Unit 2A Health and Grow.

Unit 2B Plants and Animals.

Unit 3B. Helping plants grow well.

Unit 4B Habitats.

Unit 5B. Life cycles.

Unit 6A Interdependence and adaptation.

ECO SCHOOL TOPIC LINKS

Showing pupils just which of their food products are grown in this country will give them important background knowledge when discussing transport, energy and global perspective of food production and the healthy living choices they make when they go to the shops.

- Transport
- Healthy Living
- Energy
- Global Perspective
- Sustainability

- Biodiversity

TEACHERS NOTES:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/pollination-in-plants - *lots more clips on plants*

NEW SPRING – NEW LIFE: SCRIPT

INTRO

The ides of March bring... calves, sheep in, sowing

BEES...

Why are bees so important?

You may have heard people saying how important insects like bees are – but just why is this?

First we need to understand something about how plants grow and reproduce, and just what parts of plants we use for food.

Do you know what parts of plants we often eat?

Many of the parts you enjoy eating are the fruits and seeds.

Plants produce fruits and seeds as part of their way of reproducing

Thee seeds are sometimes wrapped in a fruit which is there to help spread the seeds away from the parent plant so they have space to grow.

The fruit is meant to be eaten by animals this also spreads the seed is it is either eaten and passes out of the animals dung or they simply spit the pips out like we do!

The seeds are what new plants grow from.

Flowering plants produce fruits and seeds from their flowers.

This is part of a flowering plants life cycle

Here's a reminder of a flowering plants life cycle.

Flowers contain nectar and pollen to attract insects.

When they visits flowers insects pollinate the plants

Pollination is when pollen he powder from the middle of plants is moved to another part of the flower.

Pollen is from the male part of the flower - the anther

it is moved to the female part of the plant - the stigma

Insects do this when the pollen is carried on their body to another plant

When pollen is moved to the female part of the plant the flower is fertilized and can then make fruit and seeds

Without bees and other insects there would be none of these....

BUSY BEES - BUSY FARMERS

Our tomatoes are now in flower - so guess what the bees are doing

Busy pollinating the flowers.

The bees are collecting the pollen to take to their hive to feed their grubs.

Watch as they go into the hive with pollen in the baskets on their legs then come back out with them empty.

When collecting pollen they also 'accidentally' collect some on their bodies which they then transfer to the next plants they visit.

Pollinating these plants which can then produce seeds and fruit.

Our cucumbers are flowering too - but these are not being pollinated. Any ideas why?

How often have you had a cucumber with seeds in?

Cucumbers are usually sold without seeds in as people don't like having to eat or pick out the seeds, and cucumbers with seeds in can be bitter in taste

So cucumbers don't get pollinated - in fact the grower will nip out any plants he sees developing as males

In the fields farmers have been busy too.

The winter crops (planted last autumn and growing over winter) need their attention

They have been putting fertiliser on like in this Winter Oil Seed Rape and winter barley

Winter crops because they start spring growth from an established plant like this winter oilseed rape, winter barley or winter wheat often give a better yield – which means they produce more for us and animals.

Yield is the total amount of a crop the farmer harvests

Some crops are not sown until the spring – such as this spring barley

Spring sown crops although producing less yield, often produce better quality so can be used for products like malt used in brewing beer.

SECRET CALVES - LAMBS TOO?

Calves - inquisitive, playing, looking cute, drinking milk but sadly none born on camera - YET!

We are going to do a similar follow for lambing – we should have more luck as our farmer has 2000 ewes to lamb

Meet our ewes….

The farmer has brought them inside as they are easier to feed and manage and help during lambing.

The ewes are fed silage ... preserved grass

and these nuts made of cereals – we saw a feed mill which does this last term

The farmer has also given all these ewes a vaccination which will protect the new born lambs.

This vaccination must be given 4-5 weeks before lambing – the immunity is passed from mother to the lamb and stops the lamb catching several life threatening diseases in the first few days of it's life.