

## 18 February 2013 - New life, follow it and even help!

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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 14 January 2013

### 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:

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### Details of this program

This program looks at new life starting with the onset of the new spring, new plants growing, new piglets being born and how you can help with birds nesting and rearing new young.

- **Preparing for Calving and Sows Farrowing** – Shows a farmer fetching in his cattle ready for calving in the spring, Then goes on to show how piglets are born all year round. With footage of piglets actually being born .
- **New Life in the Greenhouse** –Show the tomatoes we saw being planted and grown as seedlings now being transferred and set out in greenhouses.
- **Bird Nesting Boxes - helping new life.** – Helping a little owl then how you can help birds after a hard winter. Jon Traill a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust field officer gives tips and advice on types of bird boxes and where to place them for best results.

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.

#### Design and Technology KS 1 + 2

Looks how farmers use modern technology to grow crops and provide fresh 5-a-day produce

Give examples of different vehicles and also how the wheat is grown which is milled to make flour to bake bread and biscuits.

#### *Relevant QCA Schemes of Work*

Unit 1c Eat More Fruit and Vegetables

Unit 2A. Vehicles

#### Science KS 1 + 2

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

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

Looks at how we can help bees so important to many of the plant food crops we rely on

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 5B. Life cycles.

Discovering Our Countryside - Teachers Notes

These are just the links we thought of – please let us know if you make any more!

## Citizenship KS 1 + 2

E.g. Shows how farmers look after animals.

## *Relevant QCA Schemes of Work*

Unit 3 Animals and Us

## ECO SCHOOL TOPIC LINKS

With apologies if we are ‘teaching grandma to suck eggs’ here are some of our thoughts on how our videos link to the Eco School Topics

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.

- Energy
  - Growing food and the associated energy costs of buying home grown food or imported food
- Water
  - Use of water to grow plants
- Biodiversity
  - How growing studying local habitats and where pest are found can help local biodiversity
- School grounds
  - How the simple act of hunting for mini-beasts can help build up a picture of the school grounds in preparation for the design and creation of new features in your school grounds
- Healthy living
  - How growing your own produce can promote healthy living by promoting a healthy diet and also promoting exercise in the act of growing that produce. The improvement of school ground can also aid mental well being.
- Transport
  - Reduce transport costs of food by growing your own local produce.
- Litter
  - When carrying out gardening tasks introduce children to tidy habits – pick up all packaging and dispose of ‘thoughtfully’ – see waste
  - When outside be it school, garden or countryside “Take only photos Leave only footprints!”
- Waste
  - Explain that gardening and farming is and always has been synonymous with recycling. Re-use seed trays, compost is made from last years ‘recycled’ plants. Think twice about where to put litter – bin or recycle?
- Global citizenship
  - Explain how even the little things we do – where how food comes from, how much we recycle, our biodiversity, can affect the whole world be it good or bad!

**TEACHERS NOTES:**

*Farrowing crates have allowed many thousands of piglets to survive over the course of their introduction in the 1960's Yes they do confine the sow but they also save piglets lives and allow the farmer to produce more food. And the sow is not confined in these farrowing crates all the time in actual fact in the UK she will spend 1 month every 6 months confined in this way, the rest of the time she is free to move about. Unlike in some other EU countries which still confine the sow during all of her pregnancy too. Some people are now saying we should not confine animals in this way and there are alternatives which again are being looked at and tried. If this is what the consumer wants and is prepared to pay extra for meat kept in this way then the market will probably result in these being adopted – if we do so in this country though it cannot be fair that meat produced to lower welfare standards is still allowed to be sold and used in this country?*

**NEW LIFE FOLLOW IT AN EVEN HELP...: SCRIPT****INTRO**

*Winter is slow to release it's grip but life goes on...*

*you can... follow, join in ....and even help...*

**WILDLIFE NEEDS OUR HELP...**

*Wildlife has a hard time in winter especially when it snows*

*Like this little Owl we found*

*You can help birds recover by making sure they have suitable nesting site have you thought about putting some nest boxes up?*

*Here's some advice from Jon Traill a wildlife officer for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust*

**PREPARING FOR NEW ARRIVALS #CALVING321**

*Cattle usually calve in the spring – so in preparation for this the farmer has been rounding them up*

*Rather than chase the cows around which would not be good for their unborn calves – the farmer is trying to lure them out of the field by letting them see their food – see if it works?*

*yes now they are following the food*

*I bet these cows are secretly laughing at the farmer. What do you think they are saying?*

*Loading them up*

*And fetching them inside*

*While cattle are happy having their calves outside – bringing them inside just makes it safer and easier for the farmer to monitor this important event*

*You can keep following our 'Countdown to Calving' either via our website or on*

*Twitter @DiscovARCountry # CalvinC'Down*

*Pigs can have their baby piglets all year round. Pigs giving birth is called Farrowing*

*Most pigs farrow inside*

*We saw pregnant sows being kept and fed in large groups. The sows pregnancy or gestation lasts 114 days (3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days*

*The sows we saw where mated with a boar on the 15 October so when will they be due to farrow?*

*About a week before they are due to farrow the sows are taken out of the straw yards and moved to special farrowing houses.*

*The farrow houses are kept warm for the new born piglets and the sows are kept in special farrowing crates*

*The sows are kept in farrowing crates so that they don't accidentally lay on the piglets, injuring or even killing them.*

*Having the sow in these crates also makes it easier for the farmer to tend the new born piglets – giving them injections to keep them healthy*

*Pigs can farrow outside in special huts or farrowing arks – this is better for the sow as she is not confined but it does mean that more of the piglets can be accidentally crushed (a sow can weigh over 250Kg) or die of cold*

*Did you work out when the sow was due to farrow – Oh it's NOW!!!!*

*This sow is now farrowing and will have 10-15 piglets in a short time*

*The piglets are soon on their feet and feeding themselves – how old were you when you walked and make your own tea!!?*

*In the coming weeks we will follow these piglets as they grow up*

### ***TOMATOES INTO GREENHOUSE.***

*The tomato seeds you saw being planted and then sorted by robots are now being set out in greenhouses*

*The empty greenhouse is first prepared, it must be kept very clean, this reduces pests and disease and the need to spray chemicals to control them*

*Then the tomatoes are planted in rows*

*Set out is perhaps a better word than planted as at first they are left in the rock wool blocks they come in.*

*This is to encourage them to grow more trusses rather than roots.*

*The trusses on tomato plants are the little clusters of flowers which grow from the stems - the centres of which will develop into tomato.*

*The tomatoes are placed in rows and then fastened to these strings*

*Even these small plants have already got a truss formed – a truss is the part of the plant where flowers and then tomatoes will be produced.*

*These greenhouses will now be kept at the best temperature for maximum tomato growth.*

*This will be monitored by computer – the computer also monitors the water and carbon dioxide levels.*

*This greenhouse has just had a thermal shield fitted in the roof – this helps with insulation and keeping the right temperature. It will save on energy waste age and fuel costs – which are very high for a greenhouse.*

*We will follow these tomatoes closely over the coming weeks*