

22 October 2012 - Re-Starting Natures Annual Cycle

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 22 October 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:

Re-Starting Natures Annual Cycle 22 October 2011

Details of this program

This program looks at how cycles and re-cycling is an important part of farming.

- **Horse Power - important, then and now!** Shows the part horses have played in the countryside, on farms, in war and still today saving our environment.
- **The Poo Cycle.** How farm livestock re-cycle the products of harvest. This shows how livestock eat the products of harvest and produce manure for the farming to re-cycle by using on the crops he grows.
- **Re-starting the Crop Cycle** – Shows farmers planting their Winter crops and thus re-starting the farming cycle.

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; Wolds Heritage

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

Unit 5B. Bread

Unit 5D. Biscuits

Geography KS 1+2

Give examples of what the countryside around your schools 'local' area will contain.

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 1. Around our school - the local area

Unit 6. Investigating our local area

History KS 1+2

Unit 2. What were homes like a long time ago?

Unit 11. What was it like for children living in Victorian Britain?

Unit 12. How did life change in our locality in Victorian times?

Unit 18. What was it like to live here in the past?

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.

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!

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INTRO

there is something about the outside of a horse...

that is good for the inside of a man.... (Winston Churchill)

Teachers notes:

I produced this video and was struck on the inside when I watching it - then by chance I found the Winston Churchill quote - perfect!

THE GREAT WAR AND THE HORSE

One of the main 'tools' on a Victorian Farm was the horse by 1910 there where over 1 million horses on British Farms

Horses where also very important in cities too London had around 300,000 horses mainly to transport goods and people - some people still keep these horses and the carts they used, but only for show

The main breed of horse on the Wolds was a cross between the Shire horse and the Clydesdales

The horse where looked after by horse lads who had very long days

Horses did much of the work on farms from ploughing to harvesting

Here's some horses ploughing today at a ploughing match - just imagine what it would have been doing this all day in all weather

The horses and lads would be expected to plough an acre a day (1/2 a football pitch) during which time they walked 11 miles!

Blacksmiths where very important as horses wore shoes made of iron to protect their feet - especially important on the Wolds as flints are often mixed in with the chalk and without shoes horses feet could be injured.

The Yorkshire Wolds were the only area in Britain that used a wagon with a fixed middle pole just like that used in the army

This fact and the skill of the horse lads on the Wolds led Sir Mark Sykes to form the Waggoners Reserve.

From his experience in earlier wars Sir Sykes realised that skilled Waggoners would be needed to move the men and equipment of war right from the start of any new war.

The Waggoners reserve would provide these men instantly on the outbreak of any war - the army would not have to wait for them to be trained.

Over 1000 men had signed up by 1914 - Waggoner 681 Fred Cook joined in Jan 1914 age 19 is just one example

Little did Sir Sykes realise the effect this would have on the Wolds when WWI broke out on 28 July 1914

Many of the Waggoners reserve received their call up papers with their 'lowance' in the harvest fields

'they were leading corn one week on the Yorkshire Wolds, the following week they were operating as Army Transport in France

Although not actually fighting in the trenches the Waggoners still risked their lives delivering supplies to just behind the front line - 34 waggoners lost their lives during WWI

Many horses suffered too

There is a memorial to the Waggoners in Sledmere village - it tells their story in tablets around the central column

Sadly Sir Mark Sykes never saw it finished he died in 1919 aged 39 a victim of Spanish flu pandemic

The call up of over 1000 Waggoners to the Army led to an immediate shortage of labour on Wolds Farms

Lady Sykes stepped in and enrolled women to work on the land to support the war effort.

The Wolds farmers were also asked to plough more land to grow more food - to do this they probably used steam engine ploughing gangs - like this....

The steam engines pull the plough from end to end of the field on a wire rope - watch

These gangs of 2 engines and 5-6 men could plough over 20 times the area a man and horse could plough in a day

After the war horses began to be replaced by tractors such that by 1958 only 84,000 horses were still working the land.

Today very few farms if any farms use horses at all although the size of the tractors which replaced them are still measured by their 'horse power' this one is rated at 200 horsepower!!!

BUT horses are being used again for some tasks as they have less impact on their surroundings than tractors.

Like this horse being used to remove trees from a conservation project in Aksham Bog near York

Teachers notes:

Thanks Go to Mr Ellerington who kindly agreed to share his reminiscences of his early life farming with horses.

Mr Ellerington was born in 1924 farming on the Wolds all his life.

LIVESTOCK – RE-CYCLING THE CROPS AND THEIR POO

Many farmers have now got cattle housed inside.

These housed cattle are using the products of harvest

They eat some of the cereals you saw being harvested

And the silage made by pickling grass.

They are bedded up with the bales of cereal straw

Other farms have other animals inside all year – such as pigs and goats

They eat cereals and hay and lie on straw too

Of course – what goes in....

This means that farmers have lots of manure to remove from their sheds where livestock are kept.

This manure is NOT waste it is recycled by spreading it on the land for the crops a farmer grows.

This is a long practiced recycling process at the heart of many farming methods.

This manure will rot adding organic matter and releasing nutrients for the following crops.

Are you recycling your school garden waste?

Teachers notes:

Not only does farming follow the seasonal cycle it also follows a re-cycling cycle!

The livestock and arable farming sectors are very integrated. Livestock use many of the products harvested from crops for feed and bedding which they convert into manure this in turn is spread back on the land to fertilise the next crop. This is not a new 'modern' method in farming it has been practiced probably by the very first farmers. It is now very high tech. With the high price on artificial fertiliser, manure is now viewed as a valuable commodity, which is analysed and applied according to crop need. Sorry could not resist this 'Where's there's muck theirs money!'

THE FARMING SEASON STARTS AGAIN

The new farming season is now underway.....

This is when any manure will be spread.

The spread manure is worked into the soil usually by ploughing, this helps the manure to rot and release its nutrients for the following crop.

The land is then worked to break the soil into small lumps - called 'tilth' and create the right conditions for seed to germinate and grow.

Once the farmer is happy with the seedbed he will plant or drill the seeds

The crops drilled in the Autumn are referred to as Winter crops as they will be growing slowly through the winter, and then rapidly in the spring, before being harvested next summer.

So the crops being drilled are Winter Wheat, Winter Barley or Winter Oilseed Rape

There are several different types of drills but they all do the same basic job.

The seed is put in a hopper.

The seed is then passed down these tubes - usually blown with air.

To be placed in the ground and covered over with soil

Some farmers, to save fuel and improve the soil, are now planting crops using minimal cultivation.

Rather than turn the soil over like with a plough they simply loosen it and plant the seed in one pass.

As well as saving fuel, this also conserves soil moisture.

Some times the seedbed may be rolled once the crop has been drilled. This helps with the control of pests such as slugs which will eat the seed and newly emerging seedlings

Teachers notes:

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