



## FOODS, FIBERS, AND FARMING

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### COMPLETE SIX ACTIVITIES.

- 1** Plant and care for a garden that contains at least three vegetables your family or friends can eat. Keep a record of how you prepared the soil; when you planted and harvested each crop, how often you watered, weeded, and added fertilizer; how you kept out pests; and how you could improve your garden in another year. Harvest each crop at the proper time and share your vegetables with others. (This activity counts as *two* activities.)

*or*

Plant a window box, container, or indoor garden with at least three different miniature vegetables or herbs. Keep a record of the type of container you used and the preparation of the container, the vegetables and herbs you planted, the date you planted them, the care you gave your garden, and the harvesting of your crops. Share your vegetables and herbs with others.

- 2** For at least two weeks take care of an animal, such as a chicken, rabbit, or lamb, that is usually raised for food or fiber. Keep a daily record of what you did.

*or*

If you cannot take care of an animal that is usually raised for food or fiber, choose one you would like to raise. Interview someone

who raises this type of animal or find out more about it. Record how you would take care of this animal for two weeks.

Include the kind and amount of food, feeding schedules, where your animal would live, how it would get its exercise, and special health problems of this animal.

- 3** Talk to the county cooperative extension agent and/or some farmers, ranchers, or people in the fishing business in your county or a county nearby to learn about agriculture or fishing. Find out about food products that are raised in your area. Make a display that can show others about what you have learned.

*or*

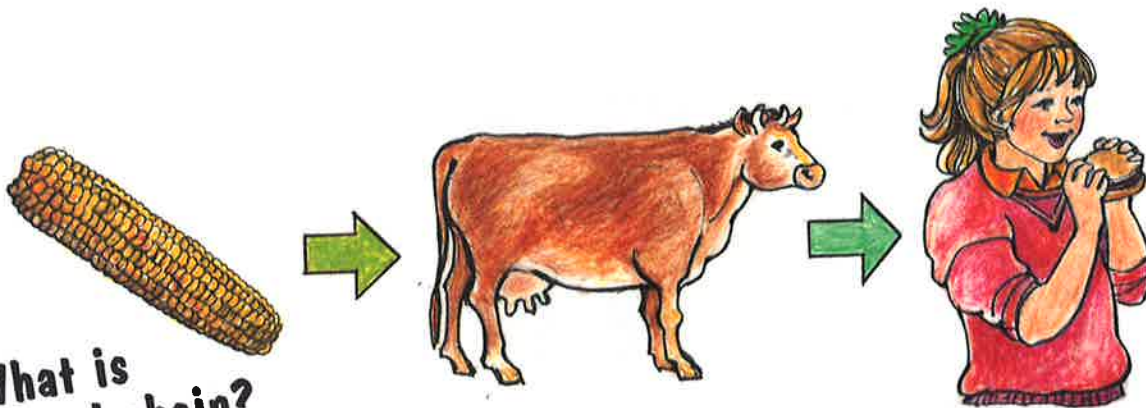
Invite someone to talk to you about the farming methods used in a developing country.

- 4** Spend several days living and working on a farm or ranch, either on your own or with your family or troop. Learn about life there by helping with the work and by asking questions about what you see. Keep a daily journal of your experience.

*or*

If you live on a farm or ranch, invite some girls who do not live on one to visit you. Help them experience life on a farm or ranch.

## What is a food chain?



**F**armers grow corn and other plants that are fed to cows and other animals, which are then eaten by people. It takes 15–17 pounds of grain and plants to make one pound of meat suitable for people to eat. Figure out how many pounds of meat you eat each week. (If you are a vegetarian, try this for a friend who eats meat.) Now figure out how many pounds of grain it took to produce the meat you ate. Could eating less meat provide more food for people who are hungry? What do you think?

- 5 Try your hand at food processing. Make butter, cheese, yogurt, raisins, applesauce, or a processed food of your own choice.

*or*

Grow sprouts from mung bean, alfalfa, or other seeds. Make sure you choose seeds that have not been treated with chemicals. Use your crop in salads or sandwiches or as a side dish.

*or*

Make something from natural fibers. You could spin wool into yarn, weave cotton cloth, knit or crochet.

- 6 Go to a county fair or other exhibit on agriculture. Discover two or more things about foods, fibers, or farming that you didn't know before. Share what you find out.

*or*

Enter something you have grown, raised, or made from an animal or plant product in a county fair or other similar exhibit.

- 7 Visit a food or fiber processing plant. Learn all you can about the steps involved in getting the finished product from the field to you. You might visit a:

- Cannery.
- Flour mill.
- Cereal plant.

- Feed or meal company.
- Frozen food processing plant.
- Wool or cotton mill.
- Citrus processing plant.
- Meat, fish, or poultry packing company.

- 8 Find or describe three weeds or three insects that cause problems to gardeners or farmers in your area. Identify the pest, the damage it does, and the way to control or eliminate it. What pest and weed control methods can you discover that do not use chemicals? Share this information with others.

- 9 Visit a veterinarian or invite one to come to a troop/group meeting. Find out about the work she does. Find out, if possible, the care that farm animals need and the common diseases that they may develop.

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Leader's signature