

WELCOME to our farm!



Welcome to our Farm!

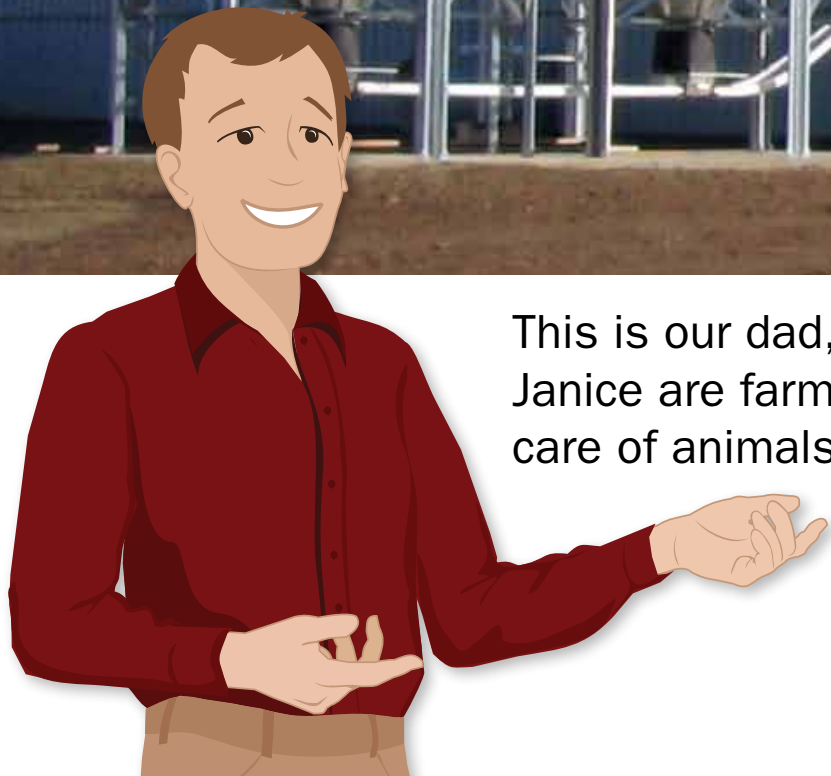
We invite you to join us on a trip to the farm. We hope you enjoy this chance to meet a real farm family and see their animals. The tour is about ready to start.

**Remember to
be quiet so you
don't scare the
animals!**



Hi! We are Bethany and Michael and we live on a farm in Iowa. Have you ever been to a real farm? Well, we'd like to take you on a tour.





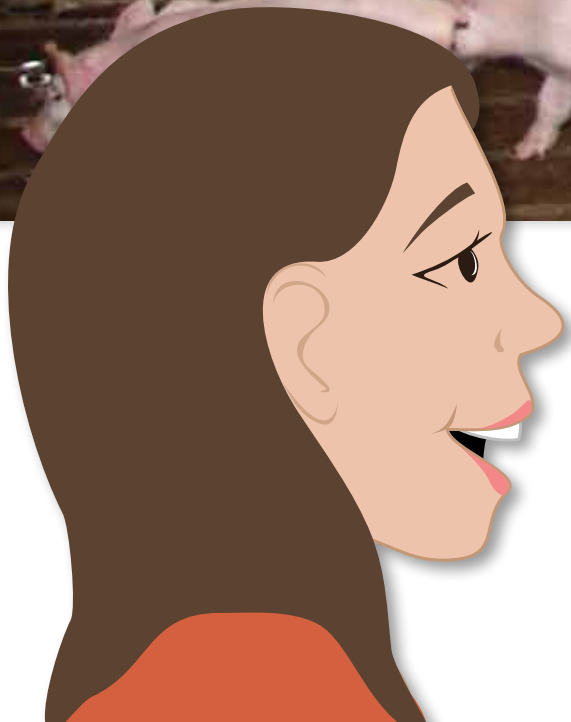
This is our dad, Denny. He and our mom Janice are farmers. Some farmers take care of animals. **Guess what animal we have on our farm?**



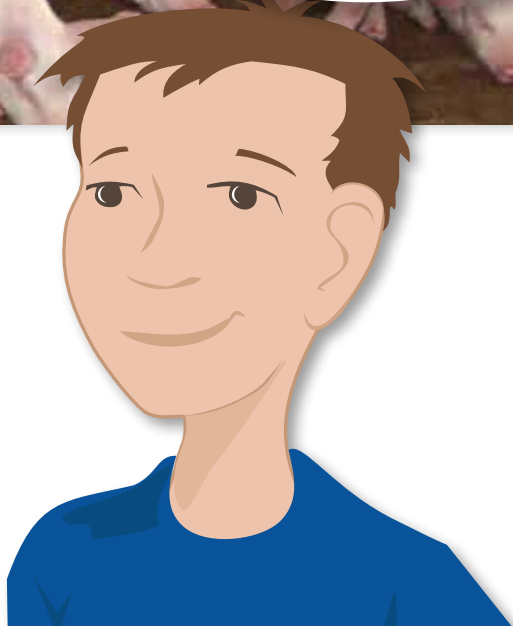


We have pigs on our farm. The main job of a farmer is to make sure the pigs are healthy and well-fed. **Do you know what pigs eat?**

Pigs like to eat foods like ground up corn, soybeans, wheat and grain sorghum. We feed our pigs corn and soybeans since these crops are found here in Iowa. The silver grain bins hold the feed for our pigs.



Pigs get thirsty, just like you do, so it is important for them to have water at all times. Look closely, these pig is drinking water from a small tube.



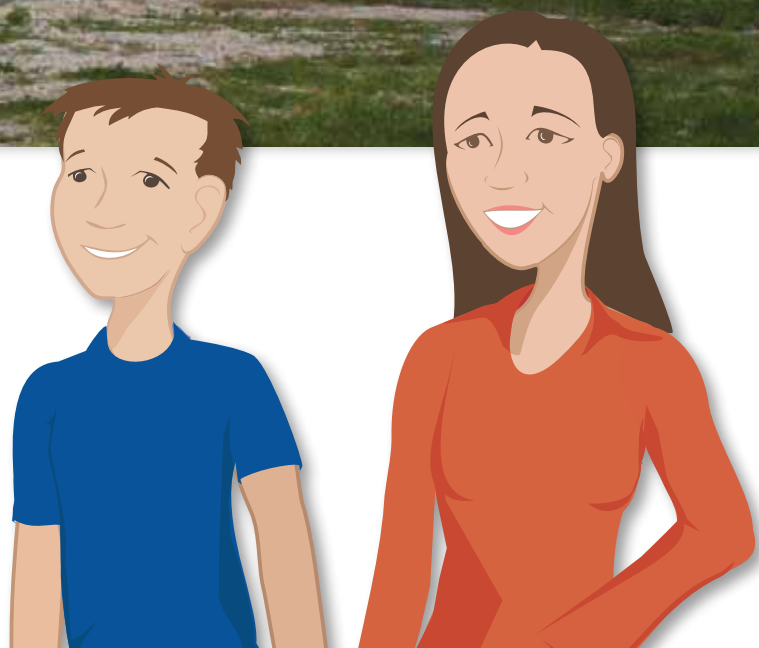


Does it get cold in winter where you live? Well, it sure can get cold in Iowa. We like the cold because it means we can play in the snow, but pigs don't like the cold. That's why we keep pigs in buildings. We have a pig heater that keeps our pigs warm during the winter.



Did you know that pigs can't sweat?

That's why, during the summer, if it gets hot we use fans or water sprinklers to keep our pigs cool. It's like using a fan or going to the swimming pool to cool off.





An exciting time on our farm is when a mother pig gives birth to piglets. These piglets are drinking milk from their mother.



These pigs are small enough for us to hold. Look at their noses. They are called snouts. Pigs make funny noises with their snouts. **Can you make a sound like a pig?**

There are usually about 8-12 piglets in a family. A family of piglets is called a litter. **How many piglets can you see in this picture?** The skin on these piglets is soft and pink but the hair can be different colors.



Older pigs like these have hair that is rough and bristly. Even though pigs are smart animals, their size keeps them from being pets. By the time they go to market, they will weigh about 250 pounds.



Well, that's the end of our tour. Thanks for coming to visit.
We hope you can come back again soon.

Notes to the Educator:

Introducing the book:

This book is written for preschool and first-grade children. We recommend the following activities to enhance the main messages of the farm story.

Mystery Box Introduction:

Place some animal feed (such as corn, soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum) in a shoe box. Invite the children to guess what's in the box. Shake the box - is there any sound? Open the box and allow the children to feel what's in the box without seeing it.

1. If the children have not guessed, explain that the box is filled with feed that is fed to farm animals.
2. Ask students if they have been to a farm. If so, what did they see?
3. Explain that you will be reading a story about a trip to a farm.

Language Activity:

The *Welcome to our Farm* book will introduce children to the following new words: farmer, farm, crop, pig, piglet, snout and litter. To reinforce these words, ask the children to draw a mural of a farm, including pictures illustrating the words. Label each picture with the appropriate word. Help the children avoid stereotypes (such as: farmers can be male or female, and they wear normal clothes. Pigs aren't dirty animals).

- A **farmer** is a person who raises animals and/or crops for a living.
- A **farm** is a place where the farmer raises animals and grows crops.

- **Crops** are plants grown by a farmer, like corn, soybeans and wheat.
- A **pig** is a farm animal with a short, flat nose, four legs and a tail.
- A **piglet** is a newborn pig.
- A **snout** is a pig's nose.
- A **litter** is a family of newborn pigs.

Art Activity:

Paper pig snouts are easy to make and fun for kids to wear while listening to the *Welcome to our Farm* story. Take a small paper cup and trim the rim of the cup down to the size of a pig snout. Draw nostrils on the bottom of the cup. Thread string or ribbon through the holes and tie around the child's head.

Student Activity Sheet:

Copy and distribute some of the student handouts included in the *Welcome to our Farm Curriculum Guide*. Read the directions to the students and ask them to complete the activities.

Answering Children's Questions:

What happens to pigs when they go to market? Pigs, like other animals, are sometimes used for food. The meat we get from pigs is called "pork." Pork is the most popular protein in the world. You might see pork in the grocery store as pork chops, ham, roast, etc. Believe it or not, pig products are also used for many things you find in your school classroom like crayons, chalk and glue.



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This message funded by America's Pork Checkoff Program.

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