



FARM ANIMALS / MARCH 9, 2022

How Farm Animals Help Us



Over the weekend, I headed back home to the farm and was happily greeted by the four-legged farmhand, Briggs, and his cat companions. Luckily, no cows or chickens were following behind, the gates are holding up, but some animal therapy was just what the doc prescribed! We've all heard it, "dogs and cats are therapy," but I would go on to say that all farm animals are therapy animals. The beloved farm dog is certainly at the top of an extensive list, however. It is thought that farm animals were domesticated between 8000 and 2500 BC when settlements were being established. The first dog was supposedly domesticated just over 14,000 years ago. This is known because the dogs and their humans were buried beside one another after passing. This signifies a strong bond of a pet. Funny to think how our basic emotions haven't changed much in that stretch of time.





The Need for Farm Animals

As the farms evolved, so did the need for the animals. They would ward off predators, help haul supplies, give warmth during the cold nights, and provide an abundance of food, not so different from today. A family farm dog can ward off the pesky salesman like no other! Hard to sell ADT to a farmer if the salesman can't make it to the door. "Good boy, good boy." When I consider farming life, it really relies on the animals. We've relied on them for centuries, for obvious reasons like Auntie's horses to pull the plow or the cows to provide milk and the chickens for eggs, but also for the not so obvious. The sweet, little, innocent farm cats can turn into land hawks to pounce on unwelcomed prey and scale trees to stalk. When the storms are brewing, the animals sense it first. And the fertilizer a farm animal can supply the crop ground with, is a golden byproduct that should not be underestimated. To think of it in a business sense, they provide "economic diversification and risk distribution". 🤖

As a business student, farming appears to be a high demand and very promising field. Not only do our animals provide the balanced blue-ribbon proteins, vitamins and minerals that the population needs, but they are efficient for a "sustainable agricultural system". They provide fertilizer, farm power and environmental health to the grasslands to continue supporting such operations and the people of the world. Farmers and their animals are a huge asset for ongoing global food security. (This is about when PETA Advocates will close the tab, LOL).



Population Growth – the Need for Food

The world population is estimated at 7.9 billion today. By 2050 that number is anticipated to be 9.5 billion. America needs more farmers to feed that many mouths, or we need to learn how to ration. This is an interesting consideration for the farmer, if not a bit daunting. I commend farmers for not being intimidated by those numbers. Remember how Grandma's table was always big enough? I think that is a farmers ingrained belief when considering the task of feeding the population, nor would Grandma's table be farm fresh without the animals – beef, pork, chicken.

Companionship

As the Farmer's daughter, I find the mental nourishment of the farm animals is similarly impactful in life. Just ask any 4-H member who has raised a cow, pig, goat, chicken, rabbit etc. to show at



the local county or state fair. Not only are significant life lessons and responsibility learned about caring for another, but there is a sense of sincere companionship. I fondly remember our bottle calves growing up, Duke and Daisy (yes, from *Dukes of Hazzard*, we were bada** kids). My brother and I cherished those animals, like pets, from day one. Their wet, cold noses and slobbery kisses in anticipation of that big, delicious bottle, which also taught us responsibility



Bottle calves – Duke & Daisy

in caring for them. Likewise, the caring and ever protective family dogs were just as impressive in our little lives. Mom tells the story that when my brother, Jake, was about three, she looked up from her garden work and he was gone. Immediate heart attack for any mother. Obviously, there are many places to look for a three-year-old on a farm – machine sheds, corn cribs, tractors, etc. She couldn’t find him, so she started off for the pasture where dad was mending fences. Sure enough, Jake was headed out to help, too, with the ‘ole farm dog as his aid. Fortunately, the farmers and their trusty sidekick animals are taking care of all humans these days. A visit home and some time spent with a four-legged farmhand will shed light on a topic like this!

Sincerely,

an american honey

[Importance of Animals in Agricultural Sustainability and Food Security | The Journal of Nutrition | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)

[< Grandma’s Kitchen](#)

[A Backseat Life Lesson >](#)

You Might Also Like



Love Thy Neighbor



Give’r the Beans



Chickens: Facts About Barnyard Fowl

Leave a Reply

