

If you're happy and you know it lay an egg:*

Drama activity – ideally needs plenty of space for pupils to move around.

1. Start the first verse of *If you're happy and you know it clap your hands*.
2. But you're a hen! What do hens do? Collect suggestions and explain (and demonstrate!):

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lay an egg• Make a nest• Eat some food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scratch for worms• Bathe in dust• Flap their wings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run around• Fly about• Perch in a tree
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3. Some hens live free-range, some in cages. Which can they do? Free-range hens can do all; caged hens can only eat food, have a drink, lay an egg from the list above; enriched cage hens can use a low perch, scratch (but not for worms) and lay their egg in a nesting area.

4. Class divides (or some of them divide) into free-range and caged hens, the latter bunched into groups. Explain that free-range hens can act out the song, but that caged hens can only do some things – get them to make a frustrated hen sound (whirr-pe-pe?) with a suitable hen movement where they can't do something!

5. Sing several verses of the song, with the children acting out as they go along.

6. Stop the song. Ask the free-range hens if they are happy. Ask the caged hens if they are happy. Whatever the answer, explain that the hens have now stopped laying so many eggs now they are old (70 weeks of laying) and their commercial life is over. You can ask what could happen to them (chicken soup or being set free?). Ask the caged hens what they would like. Ask the rest of the class what they think should happen. Whatever the answer, set them free! Try a few more verses. Ideally try "If you're happy and you know it run around / fly around" if you have space for the children to let off steam. Finish with "If you're happy and you know it go to sleep / dream sweet dreams" to calm them down ready for the next activity (video?).

7. You can explain that the barren battery cage was banned throughout Europe in the year 2012, but many eggs come from hens kept in "enriched" cages. You can buy free-range or barn eggs if you want to.

* This activity is developed from an idea originally developed by the RSPCA's education department. Their educational activities are available at <https://education.rspca.org.uk/>.

Compassion in World Farming Resources and Activities

Primary Schools and Young Children's Groups

The following activities for primary students are available for free download at ciwf.org.uk/primaryeducation:

- *Resources on cows, Hens resources and Pigs resources*. Three packages including interactive PowerPoint presentations and short film clips to encourage discussion about farming and the behaviour and welfare of farm animals.
- *A Life Worth Living*. Short film showing farm animals frolicking in fields, dust bathing, nestling in straw, splashing about in water etc. Use to discuss the benefits of higher welfare farming. Suitable for all ages.
- *Let's Ask the Animals* video (produced by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour). This is a historical but excellent empathy-developing video which teaches life processes with some wonderful farm animal stories. Children will be enraptured for 22 minutes!
- *Needs of Animals* Activity (small group discussion exercise).
- *If you're happy and you know it lay an egg* (drama exercise developed from RSPCA activity).
- *Farm Animals & Us* film. Discusses welfare of farm animals and our responsibility for them. Suitable for children aged 10+.

Resources on cows, pigs and hens

If you want to teach about food and farming, prepare for a farm visit, encourage empathy for farm animals, discuss the needs of animals, reinforce learning about life cycles, then our resources on cows, pigs and hens will help engage discussion and understanding.

Each starts with an interactive PowerPoint presentation, full of pictures, short films and questions for the children to answer.

They also include a range of short video clips such as the excitement of cows let out for the first time in spring. They include maternal behaviours such as cows and pigs suckling their young and the *Mission Impossible* hen surmounting an obstacle course so she can lay her egg in a nest. Combine with the Needs of Animals discussion exercise.



A Life Worth Living

Short film of farm animals rollicking in fields, dust bathing, nestling in straw and splashing about in water. These may seem like simple things, but they can make all the difference to the wellbeing of a farm animal.

Use this film to stimulate discussion of the benefits of higher welfare farming. Has five sections of roughly a minute each on free-range pigs, laying hens, laying ducks, laying quail and pigs again.

For each, students can consider the behaviours they see, whether they would be possible in an intensive farm and then discuss the advantages and disadvantages of free-range farming.

6 minutes. No voiceover. Suitable for all ages.

Let's Ask the Animals film

Let's Ask the Animals video (produced by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour). This historical video is aimed at 8-11 year-olds who will watch enraptured by descriptions of life processes using farm animal stories. Chickens learn from watching TV, sheep recognise the sound of the farmer's land rover, pigs show their remarkable sense of smell and outsmart computer feeding systems! Parts of the video can be used with younger children.

Scientific issues covered include:

- Need for food and other life processes including growth, movement, growth and reproduction
- Growth
- Importance of strong skeletons
- Reproductive needs of animals (especially maternal)
- Importance of exercise for health

Most important, you can count on a good lesson with this video. The children will love it. Combine with *Needs of Animals* activity. Could lead into a piece of written work or a poster.

Needs of Animals activity

You need posters or pictures of a series of farm animals (this exercise also works with pets and other animals). You need copies of the 2 *Needs of Animals* worksheets cut up into cards.

Each group chooses an animal poster and decides through discussion which of the needs on the cards applies to their animal. Follow up with general discussion. Could lead into a piece of written work or a poster.

If you would like extra colour copies of the *Needs of Animals* cards, please phone Compassion in World Farming's Education department on 01483 521965.

Farm Animals & Us film

Aimed at pupils aged 10-16, this video discusses the welfare implications of intensive farming compared with free-range. Introduction includes some remarkable animal stories including:

- a hen completing an assault course so she can lay her egg in a nest (taken from *Let's Ask the Animals*)
- a pig playing a computer game
- a great pig escape and a life-saving pig (a moving reconstruction based on a true story)
- Salford teenagers role-playing the lives of broiler chickens.

Year 6 students will enjoy and be moved by this video. Expect a lively discussion! Good for teaching PSHE & Citizenship – considering moral dilemmas in everyday life.