Recent Children’s Books on Agriculture: A Selected List

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Every child is unique and reads at his or her own reading level. The categories into which these books are arranged are only a guide. Note, too, that in the section for primary grades, some books are for first readers and some are adult read-alouds.

There are many, many books about farming and ranching for children. These are just a few of those published in the last ten years. Happy reading!

**For the Very Youngest**


**Picture Books**


*Punk Farm.* Jarrett Krosoczka. New York: Knopf, 2005. “After a long day of work, Farmer Joe goes home to bed. But meanwhile, back at the barn . . . Cow sets up her drums. Pig plugs in his amp. Goat tunes his bass. Chicken sets up her keyboards. And Sheep checks the microphone. They are Punk Farm and tonight they’re ready to ROCK! With adorable farm animals - and a surprise tribute to Old MacDonald - this rollicking tale is sure to have kids cheering--and singing--along.”
**Punk Farm on Tour.** Jarrett Krosoczka. New York, Knopf, 2007. Cow, Sheep, Pig, Goat, and Chicken are getting ready to rock across the U.S.A.

**Senses on the Farm.** Shelley Rotner. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2009. Vivid photographs help you see, hear, taste, smell, and touch your way through a season on a working farm.


**This Little Chick.** John Lawrence. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2002. In rhyming text, a little chick shows that he can make the sounds of the animals in his neighborhood.

**Tough Chicks.** Cece Meng. New York: Clarion Books, 2009. A trio of smart, fearless, adorable chicks show the other farm animals why it’s good to be different.

**Tractor Day.** Candice Ransom. New York: Walker & Co., 2007. Simple rhyming text describes a child’s day spent riding on the tractor with Daddy at their small farm.

**Wake Up, Big Barn.** Suzanne Tanner Chitwood. New York: Scholastic, 2002. Rhyming text describes a rowdy rollicking farm where piggies love a mud bath, farm frogs rock hop, and Owl’s on the night shift, shooby, hooby, hoo!

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**Primary Grades**


**Bean.** Louise Spilsbury. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2005. Excellent photographs and very simple text show how a bean becomes a plant.


**Biscuit’s Day at the Farm.** Alyssa Satin Capucilli. New York: HarperCollins, 2007. Biscuit the dog helps out by feeding the hens and the goats and encouraging a piglet who wants to roam to stay in his pen instead.


**Century Farm.** Cris Peterson. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press, 1999. In photographs and anecdotes, tells the story of a 100-year-old family farm in Wisconsin and the three generations of Petersons who have owned and farmed the land.


Down on the Farm: Goats. Sally Morgan. New York: Crabtree Publishing Co., 2008. Did you know goats can jump as high as five feet?


In the Pig Pen. Patricia M. Stockland, Edina, MN: Abdo Publishing, 2008. Fun fact: pigs are very clean animals, and will always use the same corner of their pen for a bathroom.

In the Sheep Pasture. Patricia M. Stockland. Edina, MN: Abdo Publishing, 2008. Like the other books in this series, presents bright pictures and limited text.


What Happens at a Horse Farm? ¿Qué pasa en una granja de caballos? Amy Hutchings. Gareth Stevens Publishing: 2009. Presents a photograph facing a page of one or two sentence text. (In English and Spanish)


Upper Elementary


Anna on the Farm. Mary Downing Hahn. New York: Clarion Books, 2001. In the summer before World War I, nine-year-old Anna is happy to spend a week at her aunt and uncle's Beltsville, Maryland, farm until she meets Theodore, who calls her a "city slicker" and spurs her to prove that she's just as clever and brave as he is.


The Biography of Corn. L. Michele Nielsen. New York: Crabtree Publishing, 2007. Includes discussion of how corn spread around the world; how corn is grown and harvested; hybrid and GMO corn; and products made from corn.


Farmer George Plants a Nation. Peggy Thomas. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press, 2008. From the book: "He planted the seed of freedom on the battlefield, and with his ingenuity as a farmer and his leadership as the nation’s first president, the United States grew into a world leader in farming."


How Did That Get Here Series? New York: Crabtree Publishing. Titles include the Biography of: Bananas; Chocolate; Corn; Cotton; Potatoes; Rice; Rubber; and more.


Inventions and Discoveries: Agriculture. World Book, Inc. Chicago: World Book, Inc., 2009. Sample topics: the domestication of plants and animals; the plow; the horse harness; hybrid crops; genetically modified food.


Return to Sender. Julia Alvarez. New York: Knopf, 2009. In this novel, Tyler’s family is forced to hire migrant Mexican workers after Tyler’s dad is injured in a tractor accident. “Despite his reservations, Tyler soon bonds with a worker’s daughter, who is in his sixth-grade class. His problems seem small compared to Mari’s: her family fears deportation, and her mother has been missing since re-entering the States months ago.” – Publishers Weekly Review.

The Seed Vault. Bonnie Juettner. Chicago: Norwood House Press, 2010. "The seed vault in Norway houses plant seeds from around the world to be stored in the event that the plant needs to be re-introduced into the food supply." –Publisher.


The Super Soybean. Raymond Bial. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whtiman, 2007. Readers will be amazed to learn how much contact they have in their daily lives with soy; as Bial notes, “the versatile bean is used in foods, plastics, medicines, fuels, inks, crayons, and zillions of other products.”


Middle Grades and Up


*Food and Farming – (The Global Village).* John Baines. London: Evans Brothers, Ltd., 2008. Partial contents: Our global food store; Globalisation and free trade; Food producers around the world; Food for the global market; Can free trade be fair trade? The future of farming; The great debate.


*Our Farm: Four Seasons with Five Kids on One Family’s Farm.* Michael J. Rosen. Plain City, OH: Darby Creek Publishing, 2008. “How would your year be different if you had ninety acres to mow, two hundred hay bales to lift, five hundred tons of manure to move – plus school work, wrestling practice, baseball, and all the other things that go with being a kid?”


*Superfood or Superthreat: the Issue of Genetically Engineered Food.* Kathlyn Gay. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2008. Describes how genetically engineered food is developed, produced, and marketed, and presents both sides of the argument regarding whether or not such food is harmful.

*The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl.* Timothy Egan. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. In this National Book Award winner, Egan follows a half-dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the High Plains region, going from sod homes to new framed houses to huddling in basements with the windows sealed by damp sheets in a futile effort to keep the dust out. He follows their desperate attempts to carry on through blinding black blizzards, crop failure, and the deaths of loved ones.