

# Farm animal needs

## – answers (a)

### **Food (All)**

All farm animals need to be fed a wholesome diet that is appropriate to their species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health and to satisfy their nutritional needs.

### **Clean water (All)**

All farm animals need continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day.

### **Comfortable resting area (All)**

All farm animals need to be housed in a suitable environment that protects them from discomfort and provides them with a comfortable place to rest. For example, dairy cattle should have an adequate bed of straw or wood shavings or a soft cow mat to lie on.

### **Interesting things to do/things to play with (All)**

All farm animals need environmental enrichment to keep them active, prevent boredom and allow them to carry out their natural behaviours.

- Ducks should have access to water facilities for preening and bathing. Straw bales can also help to encourage activity.
- Cattle should have access to a well-managed exercise area. Some farmers give the cows brushes (attached to walls) to rub against.
- During the grass-growing season, if the climate is suitable, sheep should have access to outdoor grazing, which allows them to carry out natural grazing behaviours.
- Pigs need access to straw or other suitable material to allow rooting, pawing, mouthing and chewing behaviours.
- Hens need access to perches, and suitable litter to allow dustbathing, pecking and scratching at the ground.

### **Protection from hot sun/bad weather (All)**

All farm animals should be kept in a suitable environment with access to shelter to protect them from inclement weather.

For example, to avoid sunburn, free-range pigs should be provided with access to shade and well-managed wallowing areas.

Free-range hens need overhead shade/shelter to protect them from rain or hot sun.

### **Not be too hot or cold (All)**

All farm animals should be kept at a suitable temperature.

For example, sheep that are sheared during winter should be kept in draught-free indoor housing for two months after shearing to avoid cold stress.

### **Someone to look after them (All)**

All farm animals need to be regularly checked by competent stock-keepers to make sure that they are ok.

# Farm animal needs

## – answers (b)

**Vet (All)**

All farm animals should be kept free from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

**Clean housing (All)**

Good hygiene is important to prevent infection and reduce the risk of disease.

**Enough space (All)**

All farm animals should have sufficient space to move around, exercise, express their natural behaviours and avoid other animals if they choose to do so.

**Friends/company (All)**

Many farm animals would naturally live in a herd or a flock and find it stressful to be kept alone. They therefore need to be kept with other animals of their own kind.

**Place to make a nest (Hens and pigs)**

Hens need to have a suitable place and suitable material for laying their eggs.

Pregnant sows (female pigs) have a strong instinct to build a nest a few days before they farrow (give birth), and should be provided with materials (e.g. straw) to enable them to carry out this behaviour.

**Perches (Hens only)**

Free-living hens roost on perches at night, and use them during the day to move away from other hens, so providing perches or other platforms enables the hens to express normal behaviour.

**Not be frightened (All)**

All farm animals should be kept free from fear and distress.

**No loud noises (All)**

Loud noises can scare farm animals.

**Not be in pain (All)****Handled gently (All)**

All farm animals should be handled carefully by a trained animal-handler to prevent them becoming scared, distressed or injured.

**Bathing facilities (Ducks only)**

Ducks need access to water facilities for preening and bathing.

**Correct lighting (All)**

All farm animals that are kept indoors need periods of light (of a suitable brightness) and a suitable dark period so that they can carry out daylight behaviours and rest.