

URI Small Acreage Livestock Education Program Resource List for 4-H Volunteers

Many of the resources available at the State 4-H Office have information and activities related to the Livestock on Small Acreage project. These resources are available on loan to 4-H leaders. Here's a list of what's available:

1. Quality Assurance and Animal Care Youth Education Program – Beef Learning Lab Kit; sections on Housing Needs, Space Requirements, Bedding/Sanitation and Waste Management.

2. Horse Industry Handbook – A Guide to Equine Care and Management
Ch.3 “Facilities and Waste Management”
 1. Ch.7 section HIH730 “Pastures for Horses”

3. Down-to-Earth – Enriching Learning Through Gardening (4HCCSBU-07714)
Soil Characteristics: pg 33 “Nitty Gritty” pg 36 “Soil Sleuths” pg 39 “The Good Earth”. Water Quality: pg 107 “Splish Splash”, pg 116 “Wat’er You Drinking”, pg 119 “Water Explorers”

4. Exploring Your Environment (4HCCSBU-07704 thru 07707)
Level 1: Eco-Wonders: pg 10 “Construct an Ecosystem”, pg 14 “Spin a Food Web”, pg 22 “Round and Round” (cycles in nature), pg 24 “Create a Compost Pile”, pg 27 “Searching For Signs of Pollution”. Level 2: Eco-Adventures: pg 10 “What’s in a Watershed”, pg 13 “Digging Through Dirt”, pg 26 “Going Underground with Groundwater”. Level 3 Eco-Actions: pg 13 “What About Water Quality”, pg 35 “Catching Our Soil Before It Runs Off”, pg 56 “Working Through Wetlands”.

5. Groundwater Model with teaching kit – available from the URI Cooperative Extension, Home*A*Syst Program. Contact Holly Burdett at 874-5398, hburdett@uri.edu

6. Build a Farm Activity for outdoor programs. (Directions on next page)

Build a Small Farm: An educational activity which demonstrates water movement through the environment.

Materials:

Small sized “kiddie pool” or other large container

Sand

Toy sized items to represent a house, barn, livestock, trees, garden, fences, etc

Colored Popsicle sticks

6” piece of 1”PVC pipe or a straw or similar item

Watering can with a nozzle to simulate rain or a hose with a nozzle that simulates a rain-shower

Notes:

*This activity involves sand and water so it should be performed outdoors

*The pool fills quickly with water after the “rain”. Have a small container such as a plastic cup on hand for bailing out excess water.

Steps:

1. Set-up the pool on a sturdy table or on the ground. Add sand to the pool to a depth of at least 2-3”.
2. Allow students to shape the sand into a “landscape”. They may have hills, valleys, streams, ponds, etc.
3. Tell the students that this landscape is now the site of a small farm. Have the students place a house, a well (pipe), a septic system (use red popsicle sticks to mark the area), a barn, a livestock yard (use yellow popsicle sticks), a veggie garden (green popsicle sticks) pasture area (use toy fencing or sticks) and a manure pile (blue popsicle sticks). If the students do not know what the purpose of any of these areas are, take time to explain the purpose of each to insure understanding. Ask the students to explain why they chose to place the items as they did.
4. Instruct the students to pay close attention to what happens on the farm as a rain shower comes through. The instructor will now simulate a rain shower on the farm using the watering can or hose with nozzle on a shower setting. Try to disperse the water evenly over the pool. After the rain, discuss how the items and areas on the farm were affected by the rain. How could the water quality be affected? Could items or special use areas be placed differently to protect water quality?
5. Repeat the activity from step 2, this time instruct the students to use what they learned from the first time to place the items in a way that considers water movement and protecting water quality for people animals and the environment.