

# Thank Farmers and Ranchers for Healthy Food!



A lesson based on the book, Farmers and Ranchers Care about their Animals by Dan Yunk.

America's food supply is safe, affordable and abundant but misunderstood by the public. Kansas Farm Bureau seeks to improve consumer knowledge of the importance of farming and ranching through the *Kailey's Ag Adventure Series*, of which this book is a part.

## Background Information:

*After reading Farmers and Ranchers Care about their Animals, start with the following prompts to lead into the thank you note lesson.*

Think of a time when you received a gift. Maybe it was Christmas or your birthday or maybe someone surprised you with something special just because. What did you say to that person who gave you that gift to show that you were happy to get that gift?

*Targeted student response: Thank you!*

It's polite to show you are thankful for a gift you receive by saying thank you. But, what do you do if you aren't able to thank someone in person?

*Possible student responses: Call them, email them, or write a thank you note.*

Those are all good ways to show that you are thankful for the gift. By raising your hand, who has eaten something in the past day? Then, did you know that you received a very good gift from farmers and ranchers? It's called food! Farmers and ranchers provide all of us with a safe and healthy food supply. Have you ever thanked a farmer or rancher? Today let's learn how to write a thank you letter and thank our farmer and rancher friends for providing us with healthy food!

**Level:** Pre K - Grade 2

**Subjects/Standards:**

**Writing: 1st Grade**

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.1.8**

With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

*Standards may be adjusted to fit other grade levels.*

**Activity Description:**

Students write a thank you letter to a farmer to thank them for providing a safe and healthy food supply.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will demonstrate writing a thank you letter to a farmer.

**Estimated Teaching Time:** 30 minutes

**Activity:**

A letter needs three things: a greeting, the body, and a closing.

The greeting is who the letter is written to. Do you know a farmer or rancher? Perhaps it's your mom or dad, an aunt or uncle, a grandparent, a neighbor, or someone you know from the community. If you don't personally know a farmer, just write Dear Farmer or Dear Rancher.

The second part of a letter is the body, which is the part of the letter where you thank the person. Explain why you are thankful.

The third part is the closing, which is where you write 'Sincerely,' and then sign your name so that the person receiving the letter knows who is thanking them. An unsigned letter is impolite.

*Use the example to illustrate each part of a thank you letter.*

By reading Farmers and Ranchers Care about their Animals, we discovered that farmers and ranchers take their responsibility for caring for animals seriously, because healthy animals mean healthy food! By writing them a thank you letter, we expressed how thankful we are for the food they produce!

**Extensions:**

Contact your local Farm Bureau office to distribute the letters to local farmers and ranchers. If the student personally wrote to a farmer or rancher they knew, be sure to distribute the letter to that specific individual.

Teach an accompanying lesson on addressing a letter. Include placement of the mailing address, return address, and stamp.

**New Vocabulary:**

Greeting  
Body  
Closing

**Materials Needed:**

Farmers and Ranchers Care about their Animals  
Transparency of example  
OR  
Copies of example for students  
Copies of lined paper  
Writing utensil

**Optional Materials:**

Envelopes  
Stamps

**Prepare Ahead:**

Make copies/  
transparency.

Example

Dear Kansas Farmer,  
Thank you for raising  
healthy animals. Healthy  
animals mean healthy  
food. My favorite food is  
hamburgers. I am happy  
that there are farmers  
and ranchers to give us  
food to eat. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Kailey

