

SPRING ON THE FARM

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Connecticut Nature



What do you think of when you hear the word spring? What do you notice happening with the plants and animals around you? You might notice trees getting flowers, buds, and new green leaves. Or that the grass begins to look green again and flowers like dandelions begin to bloom. You might see bees becoming more active visiting all the new flowers. All these signs of spring are very important for life on the farm both in the fields and the barns.

In the fields, as the temperatures warm and the threat of frost decreases farmers begin to plant their crops. These crops

include many of the fruits and vegetables that we like to eat such as strawberries, tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, peppers, and lettuce. Spring is also the time of year that many fruit trees flower. If these flowers are pollinated by bees then in late summer/early fall the farmer will have fruits like apples, peaches, and pears to pick. Bees are not just responsible for pollinating the fruit trees, but they are responsible for pollinating all the crops that a farmer grows. Since bees are so important for crops many farmers will have beehives on their farm. In the spring the farmer will start new hives if needed and check all existing hives to ensure that the bees are healthy and have enough food to survive until the flowers bloom.



Spring is also a busy time in the barns. As the temperatures warm and the grass in the fields begins to grow the animals will start to spend more time out in the fields. With the animals spending more time in the fields the farmer must make sure that the fences are secure to keep the animals in and safe. Spring is also the season that many babies are born on the farm. Often in the spring sheep will give birth to lambs, cows to calves, and pigs to piglets. For all these animals the farmer must make sure that the babies are getting enough milk from their mothers and that the babies are kept in a warm, dry, and clean area to keep them healthy. Other common babies on a farm in the spring include baby chickens which are called chicks and baby turkeys which are called poults. The farmer must make sure that the chicks and poults are kept at the right temperature and that they have plenty of food and water.



With new plants sprouting for the ground in the fields and new babies being born in the barns spring is an exciting and busy time on a farm.

TRY IT!

Grow a plant –

Plant a seed in a container of potting soil. Keep a journal of how the plant changes each day.



Farm Visit –

Visit a local farm that is open to the public. If you are not able to visit a farm in person you can check out our Virtual Farm Tour at <https://elcct.org/topic-1-virtual-farm-tour/>.

