

Everyone gives a talk/presentation in a different way and you need to have a talk that suits you, whilst ensuring you engage with the children and teachers you are speaking to.

Before you start ...

- Introduce yourself and give a brief outline of what your role is
- Ask the pupils what they already know about your type of food/farming.
- Decide if you would like questions as you go or would prefer them all at the end.
- Use props where possible

Here are some suggestions of points to cover for several different topics

Livestock Talk outline

- Start the story from the animal giving birth, how they are looked after including breeding cycle and time of year
- Different names for different sexes/ages i.e. lamb, heifer, gimmer etc
- Different breeds in the UK
- Animals wear ear tags and have passports - traceability
- Animals need to have a baby before they can produce milk (first milk – colostrum contains antibodies to help immune system)
- Animals need grass and a varied, balanced diet (silage, proteins, minerals etc) Sample of feed can help here but ensure they are enclosed to prevent allergy issues)
- During winter, animals are sometimes housed in big sheds/barns
- Husbandry – worming, clipping, feet etc
- Extra staff required for different jobs/times of year i.e. shearing
- How old are the animals when they are sold for meat
- Scottish brand – QMS, labels on food mean it's been produced to high quality standard.
- Why red meat is good for us- nutrition, iron & protein for growth
- Identify where different cuts of meat come from on the animal

Dairy talk outline

- Start the story from the animal giving birth
- Different dairy cow breeds in the UK
- Dairy cows wear ear tags and have passports
- Cows need to have a calf before they can produce milk
- Traditionally milked twice a day
- Different milking parlour (rotary, herringbone, robotic)
- Cluster to illustrate how the milk is taken from the cow
- Cows need grass and a varied, balanced diet (silage, proteins, minerals etc)
- Cows chew the cud which is brought up from their 4 stomachs
- During winter, cows are housed in big sheds/barns
- Dairy cows like to socialise and there is usually a hierarchy within the herd
- Farmers sometimes use coloured tape on the cows tail to highlight an illness or dietary change or just to be kept an eye on
- Milk is stored on farm in bulk tanks at 4°C

Arable talk outline

- Start from the beginning, perhaps in terms of seasons, when the crop was planted, the ploughing, sowing, etc
- What does a plant need to grow? Heat, water, fertiliser
- Seasons – when it's ready to harvest
- The type of machines used to do each job
- Crops grown in Scotland - wheat, barley, oats, oil seed rape
- What each crop is used for wheat – cereal/flour/bread, barley- animal feed/whisky, oats- porridge/oat cakes, OSR- low saturated fat oil/biofuel

Careers Talk – day in the life of a farmer

- Introduce yourself
- Brief outline of what your role is – Dairy Farmer
- Where the farm is – North Lanarkshire
- How many animals – 150 milking cows
- How big it is – in football pitch relations
- How many staff – 3
- What do you need to be a farmer – you were lucky as you were born into the farm, although you did study at college – explain opportunities for degrees, different types of jobs needed within agriculture
- Ask the pupils what they already know about your type of farming
- What time you get up in the morning, what time you finish
- Day to day jobs
- Seasonal jobs i.e. harvest, silage
- Ask children what they know throughout the talk to engage them
- What kind of traits do you need to be farmer – patient, hard working etc