

VOCABULARY

alfalfa: a legume (plant) used for forage or hay in livestock feeding.

antibodies: a protein produced by an animal which destroys or inhibits the growth or action of another microorganism.

barrow: a neutered, male pig.

beef cattle: breeds of cattle selected for their meat production.

boar: a male pig, any age.



breed: a group of animals with common ancestry, possessing certain inherited characteristics which distinguish them from other groups of animals.

breeding: the pairing of a male and a female of the same species to produce offspring.

broiler: a chicken of either sex about 7 weeks of age.

bull: a male bovine cattle of any age.

by-product: a substance produced or left over during the making of another product.

calf: the offspring of a cow.



calving: to give birth to a calf.

colostrum: the first milk produced by a female mammal after giving birth. It contains high levels of antibodies, protein and energy.

crossbreed: an animal which is the combination of the best traits of two or more animal breeds.

cud: food that is brought up from the first compartment of the stomach to the mouth of a ruminant to be re-chewed.



dairy cattle: breeds of cattle suitable for milk production.

dairy processing plant: where raw milk is taken to be processed and put into containers or made into cheese, butter or ice cream.

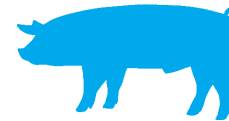
digestive tract: a part of the digestive system, where food is converted into energy.

domesticated: animals tamed and tended by humans.

down: very fine soft feathers.

embryo: an animal in the early stage of its development, before birth or emergence from an egg.

ewe: a female sheep of any age.



farrowing: to give birth to piglets.

felting: the process of making a type of cloth from wool by using agitation (matting and pressing the fibers) in combination with moisture. Heat can also be used to "speed-up" this process.

fertile: the ability to reproduce.

fleece: the outer covering of wool on a sheep.

forages: plants used for feed by animals (e.g., alfalfa, hay, corn silage, or other hay crops).

freshening: the ability of cows to give milk after calving.

gilt: a female hog, that has not borne a litter of piglets.

heifer: a young female of the cattle species that has not borne a calf.



hen: a mature female chicken or turkey.

homogenized: the process during which the particles of fat in the milk are broken up so that the cream (fat) does not separate and rise to the top.

lambing: to give birth to a lamb or lambs.

lanolin: a wax secreted by the sheep to protect the wool fiber; used extensively in cosmetics and lubricants.

layer: a female chicken producing eggs regularly.

litter: a number of offspring born at the same time from one sow. (Cats and dogs also have litters.)

milk: a liquid produced by female mammals after they give birth; used to feed their young or as food for humans.



molting: the shedding of feathers by poultry, accompanied by a reduction or ceasing of egg production for a short period of time.

needle-punched wool: an unwoven product that results from mechanically pushing barbed needles through a wool batting; the fibers interlock until a fabric structure is attained; similar to felting.

offspring: the young of an animal.

pasteurized: a process of heating milk to kill disease-producing bacteria; this helps to prevent spoiling without destroying the vitamins or changing the taste.



piglet: a young pig.

poult: a young turkey.

poultry: chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and other domesticated birds raised for eggs and meat.

pullet: a female chicken up to six months of age.

ram: a male sheep of any age.

roaster: a young meat bird, 10 to 12 weeks old weighing 8 to 9 pounds, used for pan roasting.

rooster: a male chicken of any age.

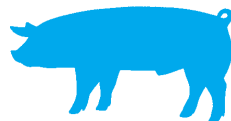
roughage: feeds high in fiber and low in total digestible nutrients such as hay and silage.

ruminant: an animal having a stomach with four compartments. Its digestive process is more complex than that of animals having a true (or monogastric) stomach.

shearing: removal of the wool from a sheep.

sheep: a grass-eating animal that produces meat and wool.

silage: an entire plant (stalk, leaves and grain), coarsely chopped, stored green and fermented, and used for livestock feed. Moisture content is approximately 65%. Three pounds of silage equals one pound of hay nutritionally.



sow: mature female hog.

species: a group of animals or plants closely related with similar form and function.

steer: a neutered male of the cattle species.

swine: another name for hogs.

tom: a male turkey.

wean: to train a young animal that has been nursing to accept food other than its mother's milk.

weaving: a process in which yarn is interlaced to make fabric.

wether: a neutered male sheep.

ADDITIONAL VOCABULARY

avian: pertaining to poultry and/or fowl.



bovine: pertaining to cattle.

brand: an owner's identification mark applied to a specific area of an animal's body.

dam: the female parent of an animal.

flock: a group of animals that live, travel, or feed together.

gestation period: period of pregnancy; in beef and dairy cows, the average period is 281 days; in sheep, the average is 147 days; in swine, the average is 114 days.

incubation: the process of keeping eggs under controlled conditions of heat and moisture to permit the fertile eggs to hatch. Chicks require 21 days and ducks, geese and turkeys 28 days to hatch.



lactation period: the length of time a female gives milk following the birth of an offspring; usually with reference to dairy cows, and milk goats.

legume: a type of plant which grows pods and takes nitrogen from the air to use for its growth.

livestock: domestic farm animals raised for production. Examples include beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goats, swine and poultry.



milk replacer: a substance which resembles the nutritional make-up of milk and is used to supplement young animals' diets.

monogastric: having only one stomach or stomach compartment (like humans).

ovine: pertaining to sheep.

parturition: the act or process of giving birth.

porcine: pertaining to swine.

ration: the amount of food supplied to an animal for a specific period, usually for a day.



shepherd: a person who takes care of sheep (also called a shepherd).

silos: a pit or a tall, airtight, cylindrical structure in which silage is stored.

sire: the male parent of an animal.

wool grading: separating fleeces into categories that reflect differences in fiber diameter, length and condition.



For information on other programs and materials available, please contact: Michigan Farm Bureau, Attn: Deb Schmucker, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, Michigan 48909; PHONE: 800-292-2680, FAX: 517-323-6604.