



Written by Arlette Roberge Illustrated by John Roberge



A Florida Agriculture Literacy Day Book



Florida Agriculture Literacy Day

is an annual event held each spring in which hundreds of agriculture industry volunteers read a designated children's book about agriculture in elementary school classrooms around the Sunshine State. The event is a partnership between Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom

is a non-profit association charged with educating Florida students and teachers about the importance of Florida agriculture. It is funded by sales of the agriculture specialty license plate known as the "Ag Tag."

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is able to provide Agriculture Literacy Day books and other related items free of charge because of the funding it receives from the Ag Tag.



Florida Farms At School

A Florida Agriculture Literacy Day Book

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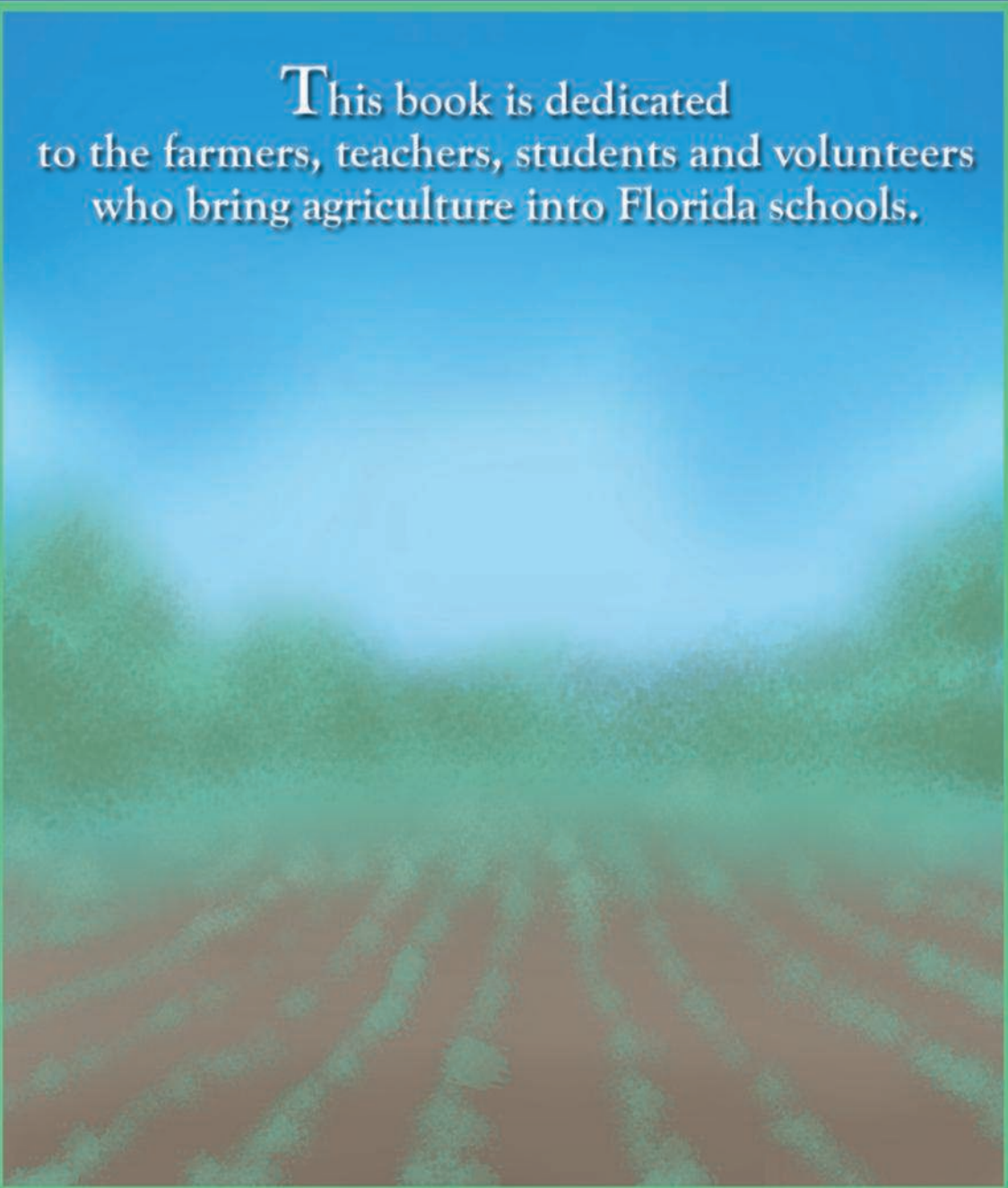
Florida Department
of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
www.FreshFromFlorida.com



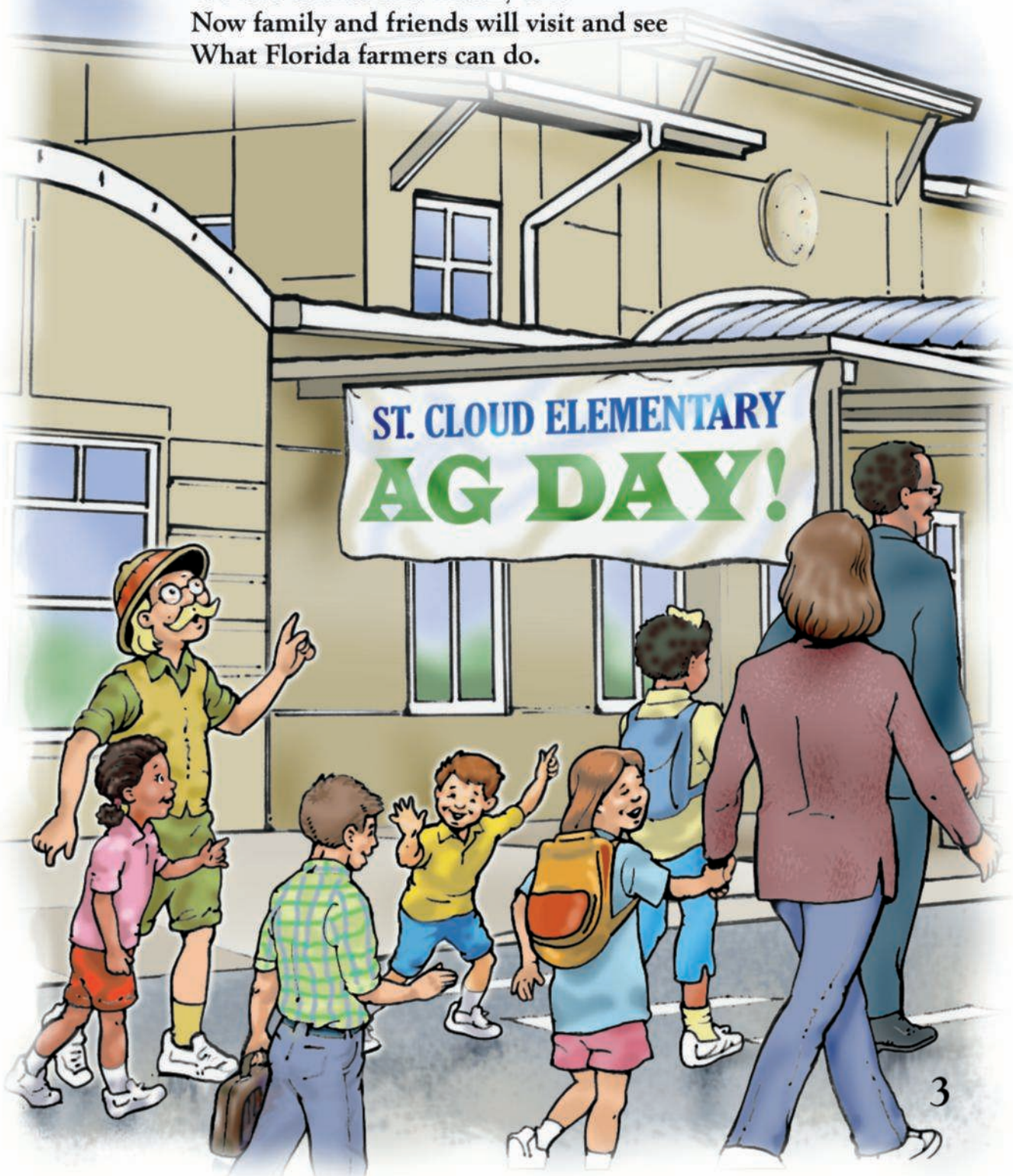
Florida
Agriculture in
the Classroom, Inc.

"Educate Students About
Florida Agriculture"
(352) 846-1391
www.agtag.org

This book is dedicated
to the farmers, teachers, students and volunteers
who bring agriculture into Florida schools.



We learn language arts, math and nutrition.
We love science and history too.
Now family and friends will visit and see
What Florida farmers can do.

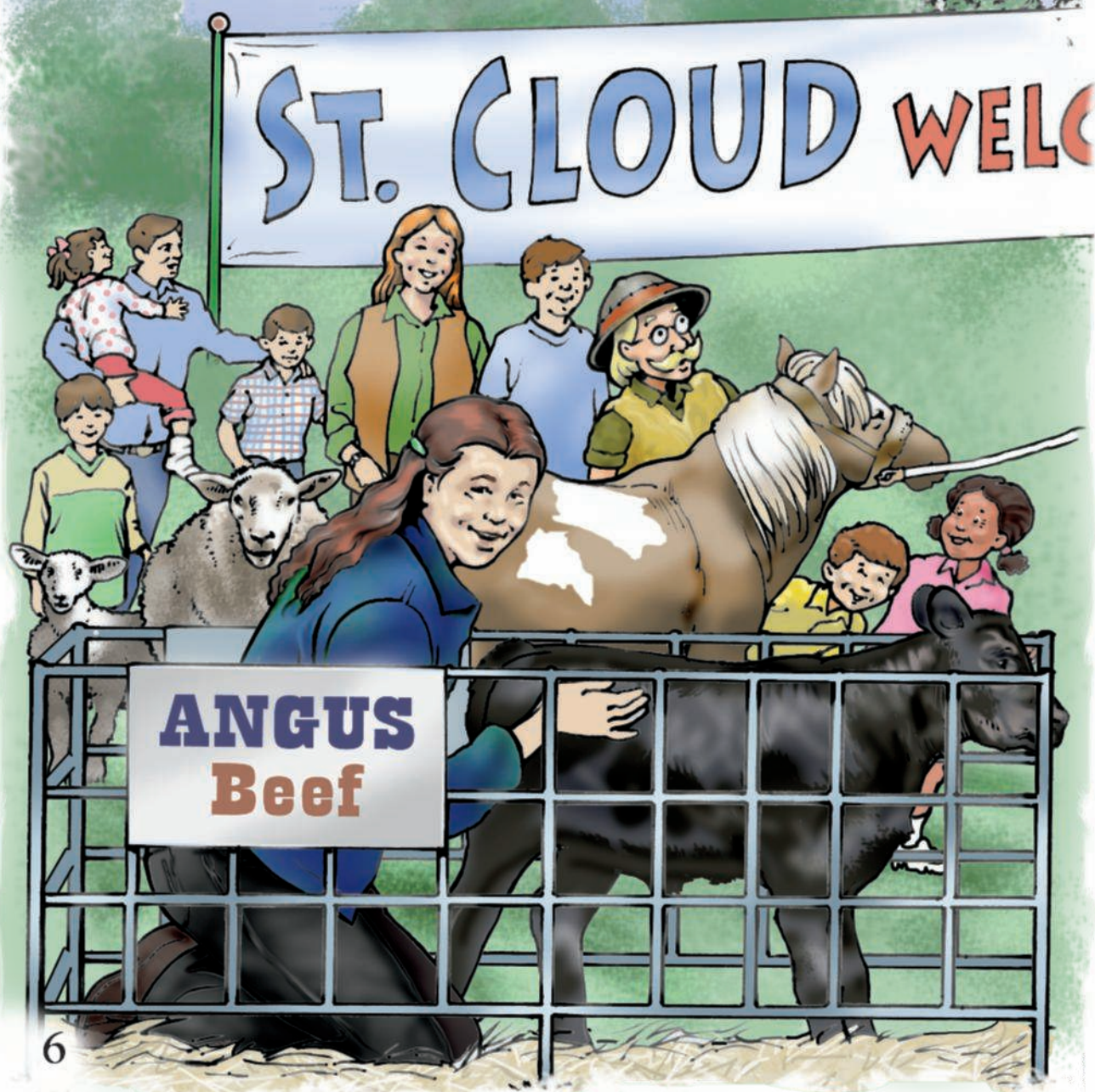


Though everyone learns from books and computers,
There's a lot we can learn from the land.
By helping plants grow and caring for critters,
We learn to work with our hands.

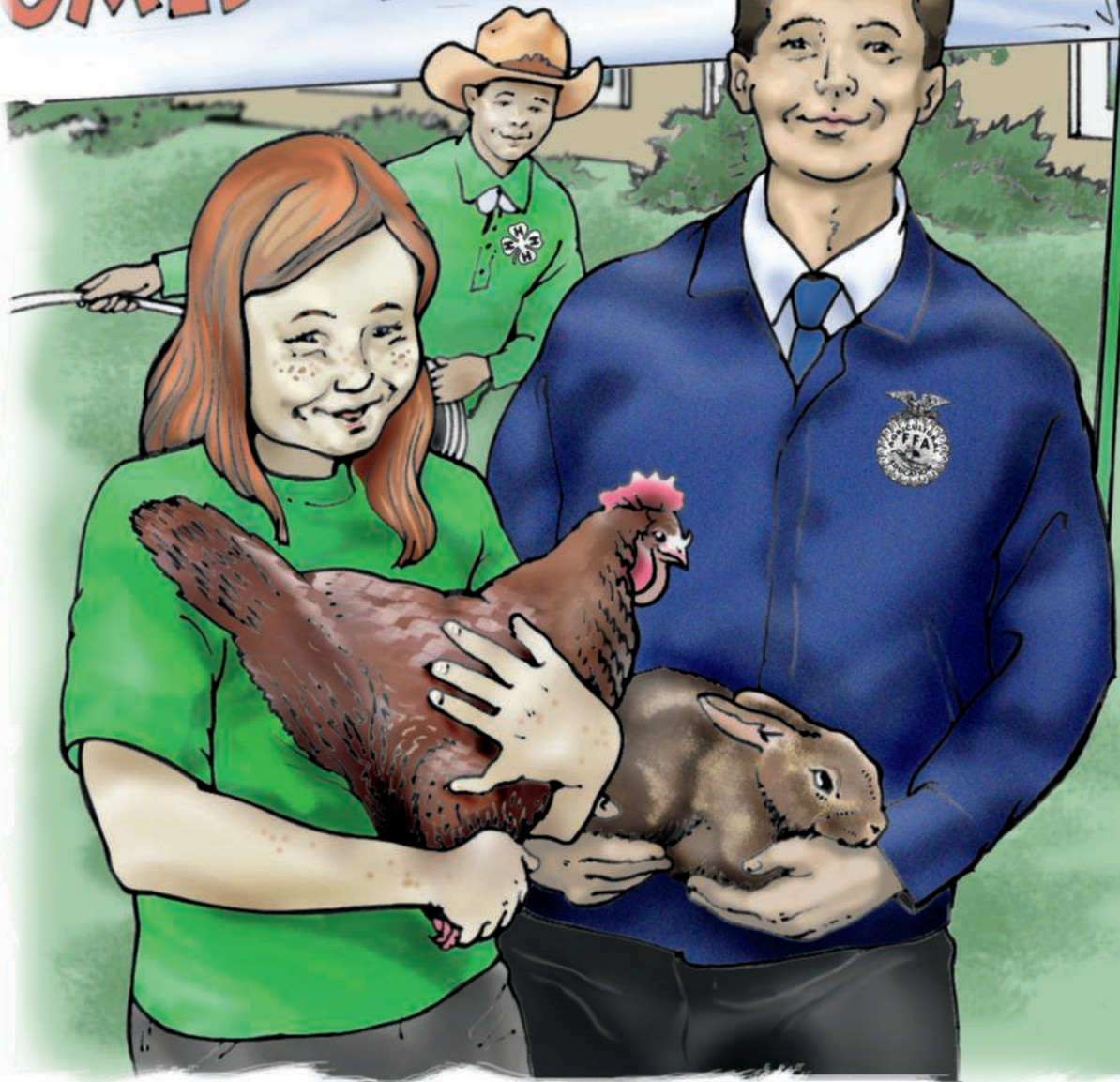




My brother's class learns about chickens and cattle,
Through their Animal Science courses.
They raise sheep and goats from birth to the show ring,
Along with rabbits and miniature horses.



OMES 4H & FFA

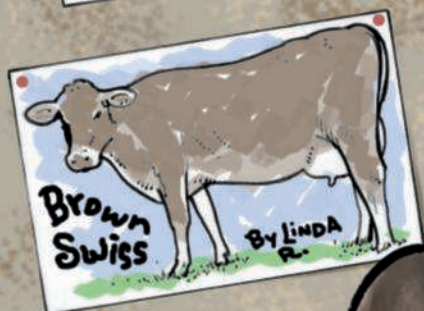


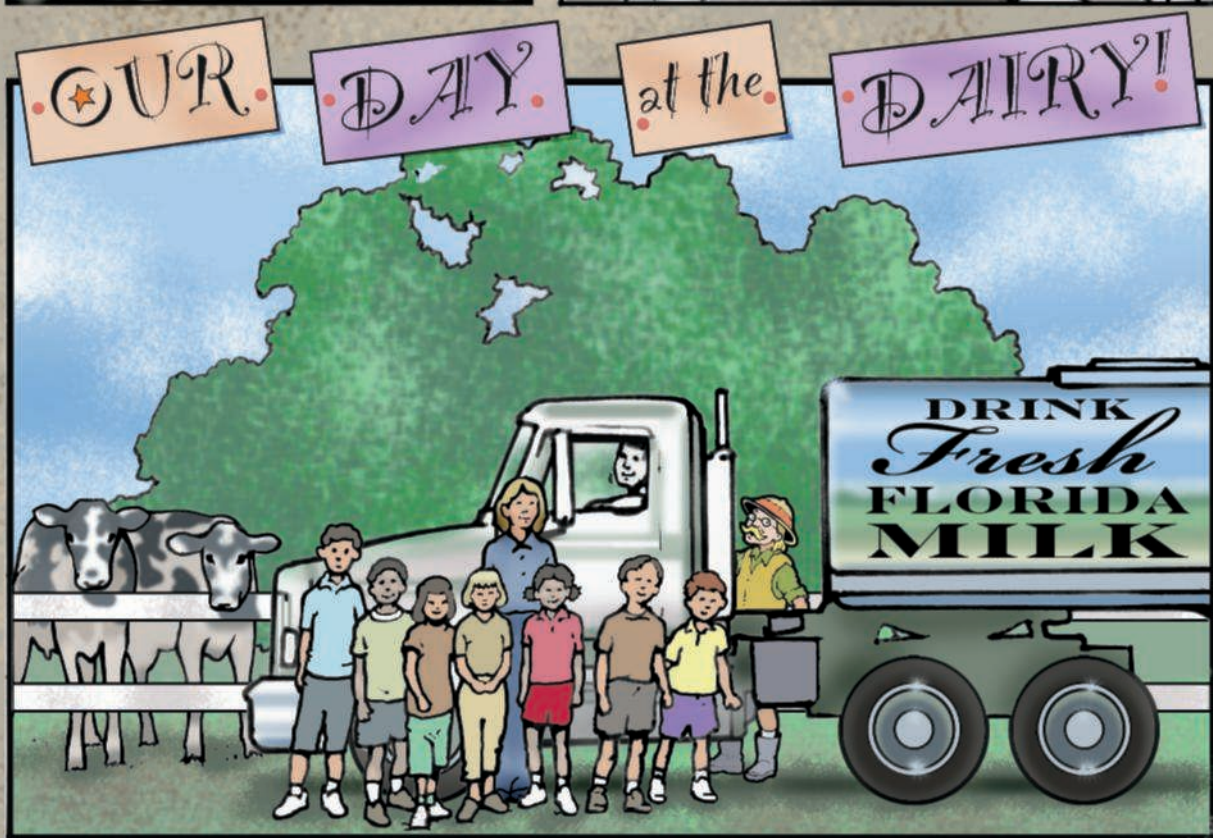
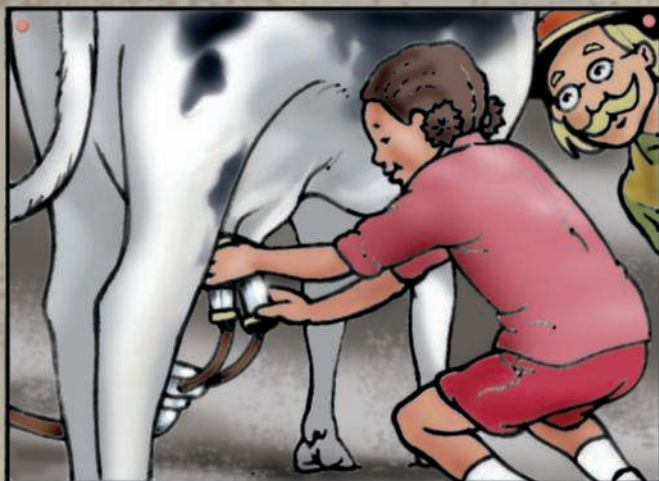
My teacher helps us to plant a spring garden,
Full of flowers, veggies and fruit.
We water and weed them and feed them some plant food.
So put on your gloves and your boots!





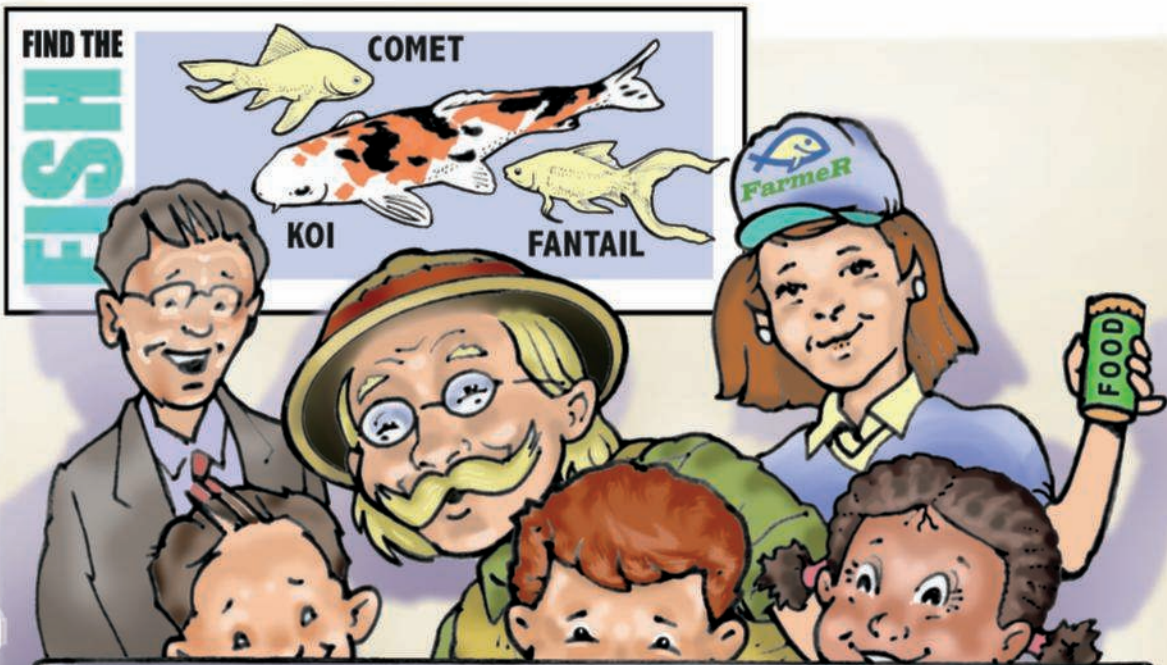
We went on a field trip
to visit a dairy,
And saw Jerseys, Brown Swiss
and Holsteins.
Without them we wouldn't
have milk, cheese or yogurt
That help us stay fit, strong
and lean.





Plants grow from seedlings inside a greenhouse,
Walls of windows bring plenty of light.
We grow perennials, annuals and fresh herbs for cooking,
Because inside the climate's just right.



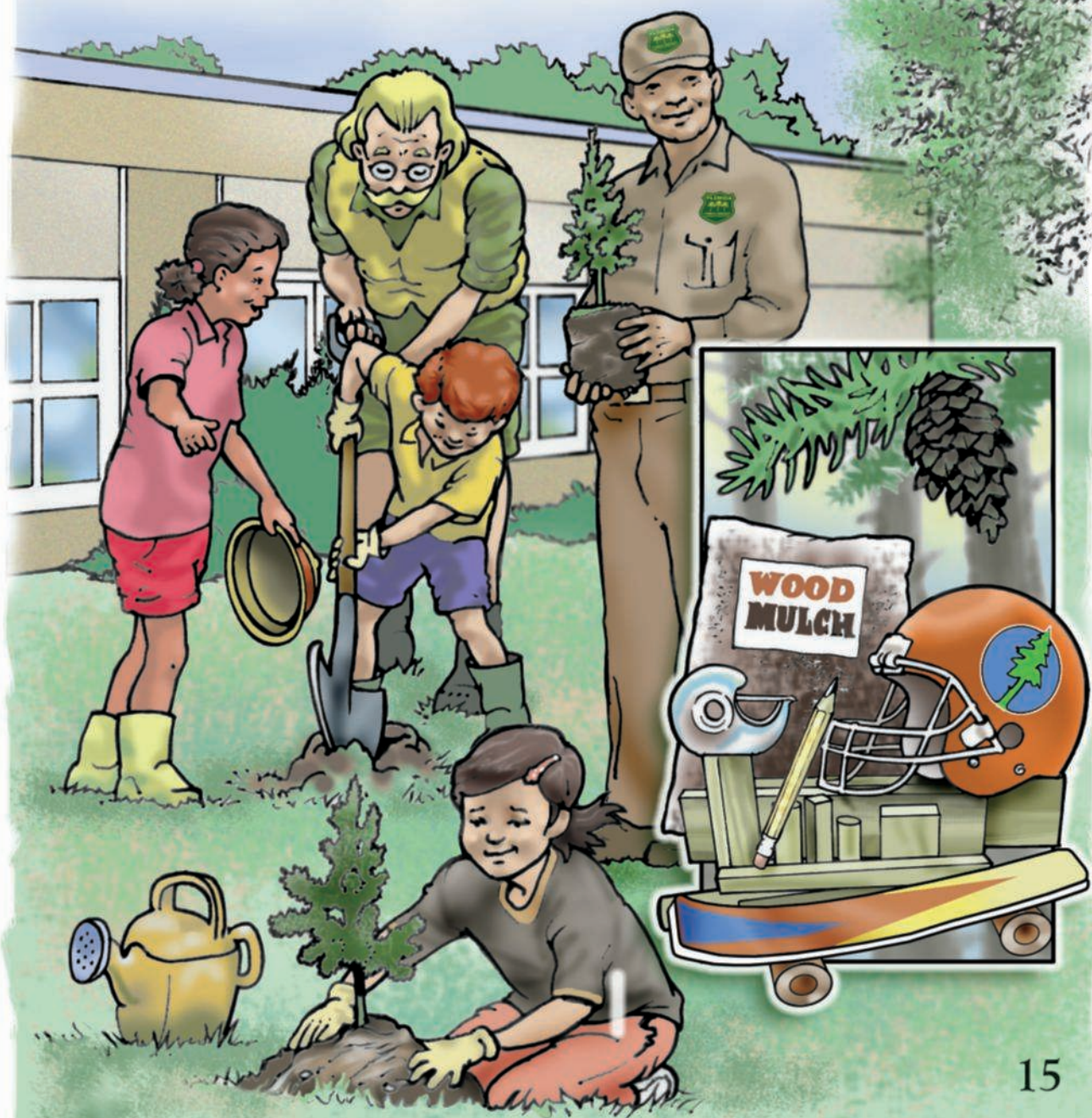


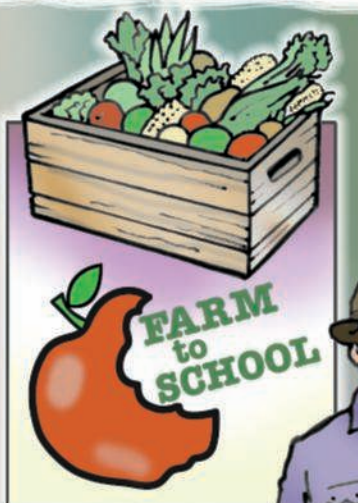
A tropical fish farmer brought us this tank,
To hold Comets, Fantails and Koi.
We keep out algae and feed them some fish food.
They'll stay healthy and be such a joy.

The Farm Bureau lady shows us how farmers grow cotton.
These bolls are like “southern snow.”
It’s sent to the gin where it’s cleaned and it’s flattened.
Then it’s woven and spun into clothes.



We plant trees to learn how wood, leaves and sap
Make everyday items we need.
Trees provide homes for wildlife and clean air for all.
And everything starts with a seed.





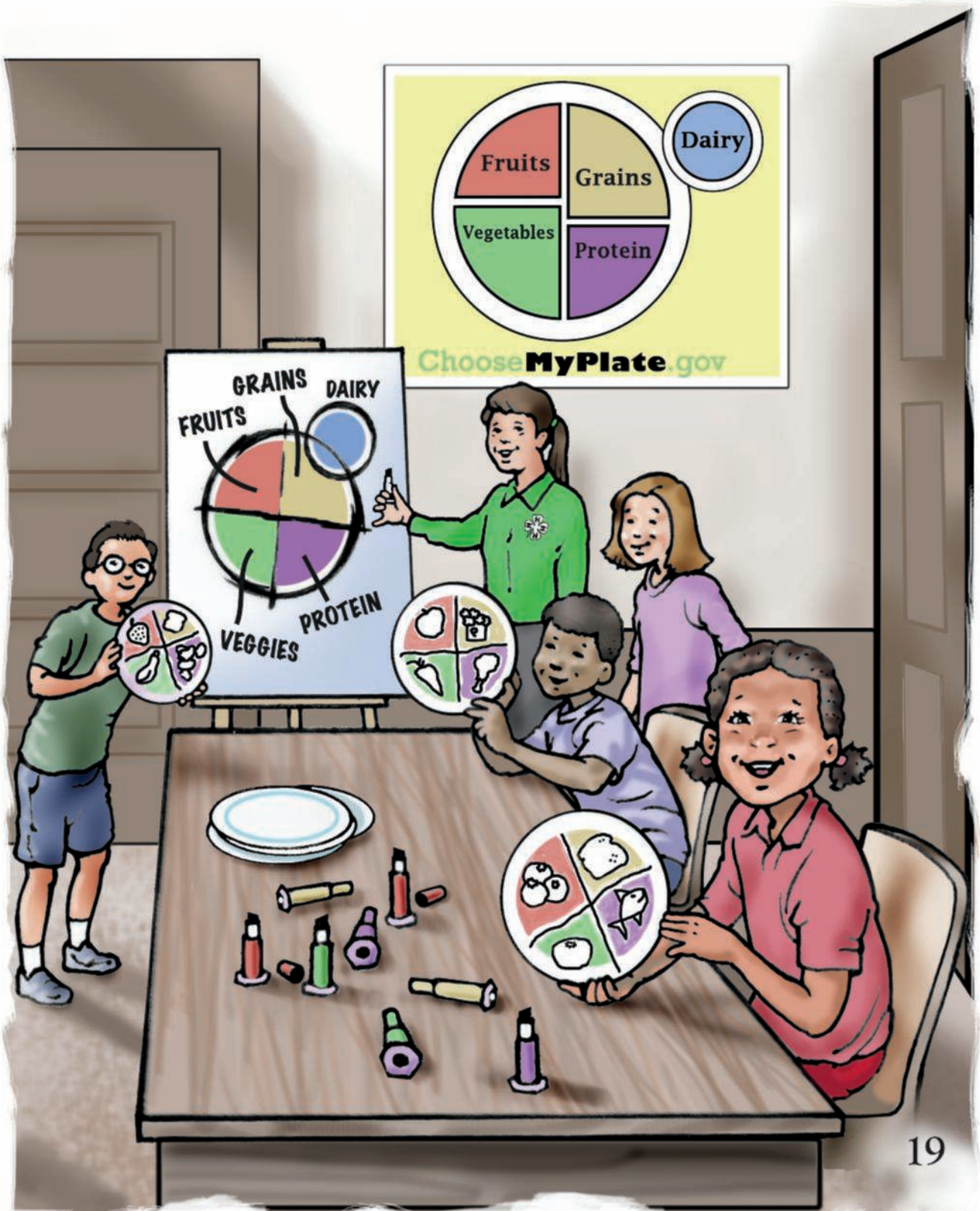
It's time to have lunch. Our farmers brought in
The crops that they sell for our food.
Veggies and juice, fresh fruit and peanuts,
Will they serve them sauteed, baked or stewed?





4-H, FFA and Ag in the Classroom
Teach nutrition, plant growth and more.
But reading and math are behind all the lessons,
And science is right at the core.





There are so many ways our farmers can teach us
On the farm, in our homes and at school.
From the food in our breakfasts, to the paper we write on,
We know that Florida farmers are cool!



Definitions:

Algae: Simple rootless plant-like organisms that grow in sunlit waters in proportion to the amount of available nutrients. They are food for fish and small aquatic animals.

Animal Science: The science and business of producing domestic livestock species, including but not limited to beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, and swine.

Annual: A gardening term referring to plants that survive for one growing season.

Boll: The seed-bearing capsule of certain plants, especially cotton and flax.

Brown Swiss: A hardy breed of large brown dairy cattle that originated in Switzerland.

Comet or comet-tailed goldfish: A common variety of fancy goldfish. It is slightly smaller and slimmer than common goldfish and has a long, deeply forked tail.

Fantail goldfish: A fancy type of goldfish. It has an egg-shaped body, a high dorsal fin and medium-sized double split tail fins. It sometimes has telescopic eyes.

Gin: Also called cotton gin, a machine used for separating the fibers of cotton from the seeds.

Holstein: A breed of cattle recognized by their distinctive color markings in patterns of black and white or red and white and outstanding milk production.

Jersey: A small breed of dairy cattle originally bred in the British Channel Island of Jersey. The breed is popular for the high butterfat content of its milk.

Koi: A type of fish which was originally bred in Japan for large size and a variety of colors. It is often stocked in ornamental ponds.

Miniature: Something small of its kind.

Perennial: A plant that has a growing season more than two years long.

Show Ring: A ring used at animal and livestock shows to display animals.

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