Types and Classification of Farm Animals

CHAPTER 12

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this chapter, students should be able to:

â—† list different types of farm animals.

â—† classify farm animals according to

â—† Habitat

â—† Uses.

12.1 Introduction

Farm animals are domesticated species that thrive under the care of man. They serve several purposes such as food, protection, as pets, work animal for sporting activities, transportation and medicinal. There are different types of farm animals as described in Table 12.1.

TABLE 12.1

Farm Animals	Scientific Name	Brief Description	Classification	Uses
Cattle	*Bos taurus*	A ruminant comparatively large in size (about 8 kg) Cows 540–675 kg, Bulls 675–900 kg	Terrestrial	• Meat • Milk • For work • Transportation
Sheep	*Ovis sp.*	A ruminant relatively small (Rams: 45–60 kg, Ewe: 35–40)	Terrestrial	• Meat • Milk • Wool
Goat	*Borine sp.*	A ruminant, relatively small about 25–35 kg size	Terrestrial	• Meat • Milk • Hide and skin
Pig	*Sus scrofa* *Sus vittatus*	A monogastric animal; relatively large, mature in 6–9 months, average 110 kg	Terrestrial	• Meat • Land
Rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*	Monogastric, comparatively small in size	Terrestrial	• Meat • Fur
Poultry	Chicken: *Gallus gallus* Turkey: *Meleagris gallopavo*	Monogastric, with feather on body	Terrestrial	• Meat • Egg
Fish	*Tilapia nilotica* *Clarias sp.*	About 0.5 kg	Aquatic	• Food

Terrestrial animals: These consist of animals such as cattle, sheep and goat.
Aquatic organisms: Organisms that live entirely in water such as fish, shrimps, oysters and crayfish.

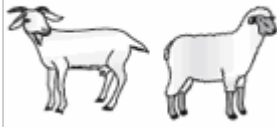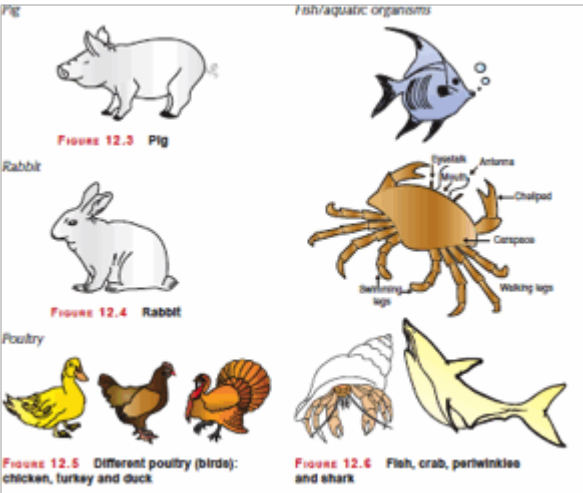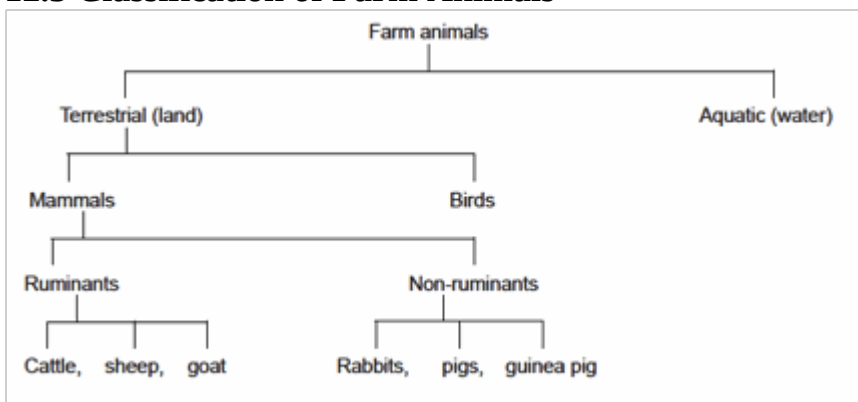## 12.2 Types of Farm Animals

Figure 12.1 Cattle

Goat and sheep

Figure 12.2 Goat and sheep

Pig

Figure 12.3 Pig

Rabbit

Figure 12.4 Rabbit

Poultry

Figure 12.5 Different poultry (birds): chicken, turkey and duck

Fish/aquatic organisms

Figure 12.6 Fish, crab, periwinkles and shark

12.3 Classification of Farm Animals

Farm animals can be broadly classified based on the following:

a. Habitat

b. Uses

12.4 Habitat

Farm animals are classified based on their living abode (terrestrial).

Terrestrial: These consist of farm animals that live on land. They are made up of cattle, sheep, goat, donkeys, pigs, rabbits and guinea pigs. These animals are further classified based on their mode of feeding as

i. Ruminants

ii. Non-ruminants

12.5 General Uses of Farm Animals

Farm animals serve different purposes as follows:

â Food and feed: Farm animals are raised to supply food in the form of meat, milk and eggs which

supply protein. Other by-products include butter and cheese. They also supply feed for farm animals in the form of blood meal and bone meals.

â Work: The bullocks are used to draw farm implements – harrow, cultivators and carts.

â Transportation: The donkeys are used as a means of transporting goods and services especially in the Northern part of the country.

â Clothing: Farm animals provide products such as wool and fur used in making clothing. The skin of cattle, goat and sheep are used in leather works, such as making bags, shoes, belts, foot wears and covering drums. They are also used for decoration.

â Medicinal purposes: Farm animals are raised for the production of hormone used in the treatment of certain ailment. For example the use of cattle insulin in treating diabetics in man.

â Manure: Animal excreta (dung, poultry faeces) are used as manure to supply nutrients to the soil.

â Race/recreation: Horses are raised for playing polo games and for racing during festival. For example, a horse race held annually in Dubai.

â By-products: Some by-products from animals are useful. Examples include

â Feather: They are used for decoration and stuffing pillows and mattresses.

â Horn: They are used in making knife handles, comb and button.

â Animal fat: They are used for making candles, glues, soap and lubricants.

â Prestige: People keep animals for prestigious purposes. In some communities the numbers of animals kept are used to rate wealthy individuals.

Activity

Students to list farm animals that thrive in their communities. They should classify them based on their habitat and uses.

SUMMARY

â—† Farm animals are domesticated species that thrive under the care of man.

â—† The following are different types of farm animals: cattle, sheep, goat, rabbit, poultry and fish.

â—† Farm animals are classified as terrestrial and aquatic based on their habitat.

â—† They serve several purposes such as pets, work animal, in sporting activities, transportation and medicinal.

Review Questions
Essay Questions

1 (a) What are farm animals?

(b) List ten farm animals found in your locality.

2. Classify the following animals and identify their habitat: Cattle, pigs, fishes, crab, periwinkle, tortoise, goat, shark

3. List ten uses of farm animals.

Objective Questions

1. The following are farm animals except

(a) sheep.

(b) goat.

(c) bat.

(d) cattle.

2. Farm animals can be classified based on their habitat as

(a) terrestrial.

(b) arboreal.

(c) nocturnal.

(d) mammals.

3. Farm animals are used for the following except

(a) food and feed.

(b) work and transportation.

(c) demand and supply.

(d) pets and medicines.

4. Fats from farm animals are used in making

(a) glucose.

(b) ice cream.

(c) soap.

(d) polish.

5. Work animals are used in the farm to pull farm implement for

(a) transportation.

(b) ploughing.

(c) winnowing.

(d) tanning.

6. Crabs and periwinkles are referred to as

(a) terrestrial.

(b) arboreal.

(c) aquatic.

(d) adephic.

ANSWERSs to Objective Questions

1. c 2. a 3. c 4. c 5. b 6. c