

A teenager's life on the farm

In this unit you are going to

- talk about chores on a farm (*Speaking A2/B1*)
- talk about farming competitions (*Speaking A2/B1*)
- discuss organising charity events (*Speaking B1*)
- discuss ideas for a new TV series about farming (*Speaking A2/B1*)
- write a blog comment about farming competitions (*Writing B1*)
- read a blog entry about the *Young Farmer of the Year Award* (*Reading B1*)
- read descriptions of TV series about farming (*Reading B1*)
- listen to a phone-in show about the computer game *Farming Simulator* (*Listening B1*)
- practise trouble-free grammar: Modal verbs (*Language in use A2/B1*)
- boost your vocabulary: Farming competitions.

Warm-up

Chores on a farm



Step 1: Have a look at the questions about chores and tick how often you do them.

	always	sometimes	never
1 How often do you help with the cooking?			
2 How often do you help with the laundry?			
3 How often do you load / unload the dishwasher?			
4 How often do you dust the furniture?			
5 How often do you sweep the yard?			
6 How often do you pick apples off the ground?			
7 How often do you pull up weeds by hand?			
8 How often do you clean agricultural machinery?			
9 How often do you help repair fences?			



Step 2: Get into pairs and compare your results from Step 1. Then discuss the questions below. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox.

- 1 Which chores do you not mind? Why?
- 2 Which chores do you dislike? Give reasons.
- 3 Why do young people enjoy farm life despite all these chores? Explain in detail.

LanguageBox

In my family we share / don't share chores: For instance, I'm responsible for ... (*verb + -ing*).
 I sometimes ...
 However, I never ...
 I don't mind repairing fences / cleaning agricultural machinery / mowing around trees ... because I can be outdoors / work with machinery ...
 I think dusting the furniture / loading the dishwasher ... is okay since it doesn't take a lot of time ...
 I really dislike picking apples off the ground ... because this chore is so tedious / boring ...
 I can't stand pulling up weeds / sweeping the yard ... as it is so exhausting / monotonous ...
 What I particularly like about farm life is that I can learn to drive at an early age ...
 On a farm, there is never a dull day / there are endless ways to entertain myself ...
 Young people enjoy farm life because they learn to hunt or fish / aren't supervised all the time ...
 I really enjoy the feeling of freedom / the endless space to run and play / the close-knit community / hanging out with my friends from the local clubs / taking part in competitions ...

Writing

It's competition time

Chores are just one aspect of a teenager's life on a farm. Luckily, there are sweet rewards for the hard work: Farm kids can take part in competitions organised by local clubs and associations.

1

Have a look at the VocabBooster. Match the words/phrases with the appropriate pictures (1–12). Compare your results with a partner.

VocabBooster

tractor run ■ tug of war ■ ploughing match ■ *Young Farmer of the Year Contest* ■ debate ■ clay pigeon shooting ■ stock judging ■ cider tasting ■ dirt bike race ■ sheep shearing competition ■ firefighting competition ■ mechanical bull riding competition



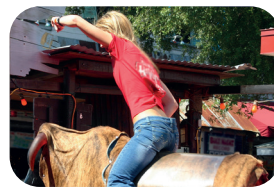
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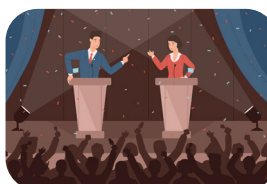
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7



8



9



10



11



12



2

Get into pairs and discuss the following questions. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox below.

- 1 Have you ever taken part in a competition organised by a local club / association? Where and when did it take place? Who organised the competition?
- 2 What did you like / did you not like about it?
- 3 What can you learn by taking part in such a competition?

LanguageBox

Last week / month / year, I took part in ...

It was organised by the local fire brigade / *Young Farmers' Club* ... in ... (location).

I had to plough a field / shear a sheep / extinguish a fire ... as fast / precisely ... as possible.

What I particularly liked was that I could meet new people ...

However, I didn't like the referees being unfair / that there were hardly any spectators ...

I regularly compete with my club as it is inspiring / offers a chance to gain experience / showcases my skills ...

Participants are encouraged to work in teams / cooperate with others / achieve a goal as a team ...

By taking part in competitions, I can learn how to handle stressful situations / speak publicly ...

I think it's great fun to take part in competitions because I can improve my skills / meet friends ...



3

Read the blog entry about the *Young Farmer of the Year Award* in New Zealand and underline the most important pieces of information.



What an amazing weekend for young farmers!

by Tim_16

July 8, 12:30 pm

- 1 I've just come back from Hawke's Bay where I and thousands of other enthusiastic fans watched the national final of the *Young Farmer of the Year Award*. The contest aims at promoting a positive picture of agriculture. But in fact, it's the best place to meet young people from all walks of life and experience the fun side of farming.
- 5 Well, I wouldn't have been able to succeed in this tough competition! The seven competitors had to drive a large grape harvester, install an irrigation system for fruit trees and make sausages. They also assessed health and safety risks with a virtual reality simulator, marketed a line of sheep and did an agri-business exam. Believe me, the three days were intense!

And guess who won? James Robertson, a 22-year-old business graduate, became the youngest person
10 to win the *Young Farmer of the Year Award* in its 51-year history.

Robertson grew up on a dairy farm. He joined the *Young Farmers' Association* in high school where he started the *Teen Ag club*. In 2013, he won the *Teen Ag competition* as part of his high school's team. He recently completed an agricultural commerce degree at *Massey University* and now works for an agricultural company in Auckland. He won prizes worth \$75,000, including a trip to Ireland in
15 September.

So, what about you? Would you like to take part in one of the many other competitions organised by the *Young Farmers' clubs*?



4 You have decided to comment on the blog entry in activity 3. In your blog comment you should

- outline your reasons for taking part in such competitions
- describe one competition you have participated in
- highlight one unexpected event during the competition.

Write about 200 words.

Speaking

Having fun for charity

One reason for organising a competition or an event is to raise money for charity.



1 Walk around in class and ask your classmates questions about charity events they have helped organise. Take notes. Then report back to the class.

Find someone who ...	Name & details
1 has helped organise a charity concert.	
2 has helped organise a tent festival.	
3 has assisted with the raising of the maypole.	
4 has helped organise a cider tasting.	
5 has helped organise a workshop for senior citizens.	

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 6 | has taken part in an information event (<i>e.g. handing out leaflets on local food production</i>). | |
| 7 | has helped organise a competition. | |
| 8 | has had an idea for a charity event. | |



2

Get into groups of four and discuss ideas for a charity event that you could organise in your community. In your discussion you should

- discuss which type of event you would like to organise
- specify the location, date and appropriate advertising
- outline what you would do with the money you raise.

Talk for about five minutes.

LanguageBox

Why don't we organise a workshop/competition ...?

We could organise a tractor run/a concert ...

It should be an event for the general public/young people/the farming community ...

We want to reach out to all young people in our community/the elderly ...

It is crucial to establish a theme for our charity event, for example ...

We want to raise awareness for healthy food production/young people in our region ...

To find a location/a venue at a low cost, we could contact ...

It might be a good idea to schedule the event for the beginning of July/the holidays ... because ...

We could market our charity event by handing out leaflets/putting up posters/A-boards ...

To spread the word, it might be a good idea to mail invitations to .../to use social media ...

With the ticket sales/donations, we could support a good cause such as ...

The money could be used to support people with disabilities/the local kindergarten ...

Language in use

Couldn't we take part in a quiz night?

Trouble-free grammar: Modal verbs

We use the following phrases to speculate:

That **can't** be correct.

It **could** be "Answer B".

It **might be** right, but I doubt it.

It **must be** false.

It **may be** true, but I am not 100% sure.

Yes, it **could possibly be** a *John Deere* tractor.



Step 1: Get into groups of four to do the quiz. Take turns reading the questions out loud.

Use the language for speculating from the *Trouble-free grammar box* to discuss the quiz questions on pages 6 and 7. Tick or write down your answers. Do not use your smartphones.

Please note: Pub quizzes or quiz nights are great fun and have become part of leisure culture in English-speaking countries since they were established in the UK in the 1970s.

1st round: Don't chicken out! Circle the correct word to complete the farming idioms.

Which expression would you choose if you wanted to say that ...

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A something is impossible?
Yes, that will happen when
sheep / chickens / pigs / cows fly.</p> | <p>C someone could wait for a very long time?
You can wait until the
sheep / cats / foxes / cows come home.</p> |
| <p>B someone should consider a decision
carefully and not act rashly?
Hold your cattle / horses / dogs / bulls!</p> | <p>D you are extremely hungry?
I'm so hungry I could eat a
pig / cow / horse / chicken.</p> |

2nd round: Maths for farmers! Calculate the correct answers.

- A** One bushel of corn will make 56 boxes of cereal. If your family ate 2 boxes of cereal a week, how many weeks would one bushel of corn provide breakfast for your family?
- B** In Wisconsin, a cow produces on average 2,639 gallons of milk each year. From the milk, 2,243 gallons are made into cheese, 20 gallons are used for ice cream, and 91 gallons are used for yogurt. The remaining milk is used for drinking. How many litres are left for drinking?
- C** In autumn, a farmer hopes to be able to harvest about 175 bushels of corn per acre. A bushel of corn weighs about 56 lb. How much does the corn from a 120 acre field weigh?
- A** A classroom measures around 50 square meters. How many classrooms would it roughly take to make an acre?

Please note: Quantities

a bushel of corn = 56 lb	a gallon = 3.78 litres	a yard = 0.9144 m
a lb (pound) = 0.45 kg	a foot = 0.304 metres	an acre = 4046.86 m ²

Please note: Language for equations

12 divided by 2 equals 6.	12 plus 2 equals 14.
12 multiplied by 2 equals 24.	12 minus 2 equals 10.

3rd round: Farming around the globe. Match the elements in A with the elements in B.

- A** Match the countries with the corresponding average age of farmers.

	A	B
Austria	1	<input type="checkbox"/> around 60
Canada	2	<input type="checkbox"/> around 58
USA	3	<input type="checkbox"/> around 55
UK	4	<input type="checkbox"/> around 49
Australia	5	<input type="checkbox"/> around 60



B Match the sentence beginnings in A with the correct sentence endings in B.

	A	B
Young Danish farmers	1	<input type="checkbox"/> make up 1.3 % of the population.
American farmers	2	<input type="checkbox"/> have to buy their parents' farm.
Qualified young Irish farmers	3	<input type="checkbox"/> have to complete the <i>Green Cert Course</i> .

Please note: Young people can qualify as trained farmers by taking the *Green Cert*.

C Match the US states in A with their most important commodity in B.



	A	B
Florida	1	<input type="checkbox"/> wine
Nebraska	2	<input type="checkbox"/> oranges
Wisconsin	3	<input type="checkbox"/> corn
California	4	<input type="checkbox"/> beef
Texas	5	<input type="checkbox"/> cheese

4th round: Tractors in all colours. Tick whether these statements are true (T) or false (F).

Statement	T	F
1 In 1995, <i>New Holland</i> presented the world's first high-horsepower tractor with stepless <i>Vario</i> transmission.		
2 Cyrus McCormick is often considered the "Father of Modern Agriculture". He invented the world's first mechanical reaper in 1831, which helped replace manpower to harvest crops.		
3 John Deere, who was born in Vermont in 1804, is famous for inventing the gasoline-powered tractor.		
4 Harry Ferguson invented the three-point hitch shortly before the Second World War.		

Step 2: Check your answers with the rest of the class. You get 1 point for each correct answer. Add up the points. The group with the most points is the winner.

Follow-up activity: Couldn't our club organise a quiz night?

Now it is your turn to compile a farming quiz for a charity event.

Get into groups of four and compile a quiz consisting of 3 rounds. Each round should consist of 3–4 questions. Use different types of activities (*multiple choice questions, matching activities, true or false, etc.*). Print the quiz, as well as the answers to the questions, for the next lesson.

QUIZ NIGHT

Listening

Meet the young farmers who play *Farming Simulator*

Sometimes, young farmers just want to stay at home to relax or play *Farming Simulator*.



1

To play *Farming Simulator*, you need to know a lot of terms for machinery and farming activities (e.g. *ploughing*, *milking* ...).

Get into groups of three. Write down as many farming activities and terms for farming machinery as possible. Then one group after the other names one item on the list. If one of the other groups has the same item on their list, no one gets a point. If your group is the only one that has the item on the list, you get one point. The group with the most points is the winning team.

Complete your list with the words/phrases you do not have. Then share the complete list with your group members. At the end, each of you should have an extended list of farming activities and farming machinery to add to your vocabulary list.

2

Match the sentence beginnings in A with the appropriate sentence endings in B. Compare your results with a partner.

	A	B
As they farm 2,000 hectares of land,	1	<input type="checkbox"/> which means it has declined.
The farm's gross income was € 30,000, but	2	<input type="checkbox"/> that is not owned by the person working the land.
The number of farmers has gone down,	3	<input type="checkbox"/> cause a sudden drop in income.
A tenant farm is a farm	4	<input type="checkbox"/> it is a substantial operation.
Catastrophes such as hail, thunderstorms or floodings can	5	<input type="checkbox"/> because of taxes the net income was a lot lower.
<i>John Deere</i> is one of	6	<input type="checkbox"/> the world's leading manufacturers of tractors.



3

Track 1

Listen to a phone-in show about the computer game *Farming Simulator* that is extremely popular among young farmers. While listening, match the beginnings of the sentences (1–6) with the sentence endings (A–I) on page 9. Write your answers in the spaces provided. There are two sentence endings that you should not use. The first one (0) has been done for you.

0	25 % of <i>Farming Simulator</i> players are linked ...	E
1	The aim of the game is ...	
2	<i>Farming Simulator</i> offers the chance ...	
3	<i>Farming Simulator</i> shows a way of life which is about ...	
4	A disease forced a player's family ...	
5	The player is honoured ...	
6	The game is also used ...	



- A to disappear.
- B to find a tenant.
- C to look for other jobs to make a living.
- D to create a virtual copy of his former farm.
- ~~E to agriculture.~~
- F to buy only the largest tractors.
- G to teach young people about agriculture.
- H to run a farm profitably.
- I to buy high-priced machinery.



4

Get into pairs and discuss the following questions. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox below.

- 1 Do you play *Farming Simulator*? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Why do you think this game is so popular? Give reasons.
- 3 Should *Farming Simulator* be used in your school to teach students about agriculture? Why? / Why not?
- 4 Can you recommend any other farming-related computer games? Describe them.

LanguageBox

I often / sometimes / never ... play *Farming Simulator* because ...

I'm fascinated by this computer game as it is fun to grow and build sth. / it's so authentic ...

I enjoy playing *Farming Simulator* because I can overcome challenges such as rising costs / broken machinery / a tight budget ...

I can create large farms / get new equipment to make my operation more efficient ...

I reckon it is popular because it is a form of wish fulfilment / relaxing / fun ...

Some farmers also see *Farming Simulator* as a connection to a lifestyle that is slowly dying out as ...

For many, it is relaxing because ...

Farming Simulator should / should not be used in class to educate students because ...

I can recommend ... (verb + -ing) as ...

If I were you, I would play ...

Please note: Change the language to English when playing *Farming Simulator*.

Reading

Being a couch potato

Some farm kids relax by watching TV with family or friends.



1

Get into pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you enjoy watching series on TV? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Which series about farming do you know? Describe what they are about.
- 3 Do you think farming on TV is realistic? Explain.





Read the descriptions of seven TV series about farming. Choose the correct statement from the list (A–I) on page 11 for each paragraph (1–6). There are two extra statements that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided on page 11. The first one (0) has been done for you. Compare your results with a partner.



Dig into the world of farming

1 Some of these series are tragic, some are comedic — but for these farming TV shows to make this list, they all had to have a bit of honesty and authenticity.

0 American Farmer

Keeping up with the latest trends in farming
5 equipment and technology can be a challenge, especially for those who spend their days in the field. *American Farmer* works to educate people about the latest developments. The show attracts a large farm and ranch audience as well as city
10 viewers who want to remain connected with country life and the business of agriculture.

1 FarmHer

According to latest data, the number of women-
led farms has tripled over the past four decades
15 and remains one of the fastest-growing groups in the US. Despite these powerful statistics, female farmers have often gone unnoticed until now. Each episode of *FarmHer* features agriculture through a unique lens: the female perspective.
20 The women of *FarmHer* are passionate and determined to make a difference in the lives of their families, communities and around the world.

2 American Harvest

25 The series *American Harvest* is about Chad Olsen, whose business is based in Hendricks, Minnesota, but he spends much of the time on the road between Texas and Canada harvesting wheat, milo, canola, corn, and soybeans — and
30 hauling the grain as needed. All in all, Chad Olsen's company runs more than 80 combines. You can follow along as they take you on a journey to see how farming is now becoming the most advanced industry the world has ever seen.

35 3 The Ranch

A funny series about a former pro football player who returns to Colorado to help run the family ranch business. The show takes place on the fictional *Iron River Ranch* in Garrison, Colorado,

detailing the life of the Bennetts, a chaotic family 40 consisting of two brothers, their rancher father and his separated wife and local bar owner. It isn't always accurate, but especially in the early seasons, it does show the real struggles of ranching, the high cost of farming, dealing with 45 growing season and crop failures, etc.

4 Heartland

Heartland is a family drama based on novels by Lauren Brooke. It premiered in 2007 and is the longest-running one-hour drama in Canadian 50 history. Set on a family ranch called *Heartland*, the series follows Amy Fleming's relationships with her family, with ranch hand Ty Borden and her special abilities as a horse whisperer. Winner of five *Directors Guild of Canada Awards* for best 55 family television series, *Heartland* has averaged more than 1 million viewers per episode and is broadcast in more than 100 countries.

5 The Farmer Wants A Wife

The successful reality TV series follows six single 60 farmers from various parts of rural Australia as they try to find love with someone from the city. The boys first come face-to-face with 36 potential wives. They are each given five minutes to get to know them. Only three will join them 65 on the farm for a 10-day stay to sort out who is indeed made for life as a farmer's wife. The series, based on a UK reality TV format, originally ran on the *Nine Network*. The Aussie version of the show has produced more 'happily-ever-afters' 70 than any other TV dating show. There have been nine marriages and 20 babies.

6 A Chef's Life

A Chef's Life is a half-hour documentary and cooking series about the life of chef Vivian 75 Howard, who left the big city to open a fine

dining restaurant in rural North Carolina. Each episode follows Vivian out of the kitchen and into cornfields, strawberry patches and hog farms as she hunts down the ingredients that

inspire her seasonal menus. In the current season, Vivian publishes her first cookbook, discovers whiskey in Kentucky or fishes for trout in the North Carolina mountains.

This series ...

- A** is only popular among female viewers.
- B** approaches the subject of farming from a new perspective.
- C** has broken a record in North America.
- D** tries to solve a problem a lot of farmers are confronted with.
- E** deals with a disorganised family who fails in farming.
- F** deals with the challenges farmers are confronted with – even if not all of the details are correct.
- G** is watched by people who are interested in state-of-the-art machinery.
- H** explains how you can make a living by working for other farmers.
- I** presents local specialities.

Please note: sorghum (BE) = milo (AE)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
G						



3

Step 1: Get into pairs and think of an idea for a farming series that you would like to watch. Use the questions below as guidelines. Take notes.

- What is the series about?
- How long is an episode?
- Who are the main characters?
- Who is the target audience?
- When will it go on air?
- Why will a lot of people watch it?

Step 2: Present your series in class. Speak for about three minutes. Use the phrases from the LanguageBox.

LanguageBox

You should really watch ... / You ought to catch up on our new farming series which is called ...

It is about ...

It is very realistic / entertaining / funny / suspenseful ...

Each episode is ... minutes long.

The main characters are ...

The show is aimed at young people / people living in the city / people who are interested in ...

This is the perfect show for people who are into ...

It will be on air every Wednesday / every other week / every third Friday of the month ... at ... (time).

The best / most interesting aspect of the show is ...

Viewers will love / like / enjoy ... because ...

I'm sure that our viewers will appreciate ... the most.



4

Step 4: Look up information about another TV series about farming on the Internet. Then write a short paragraph in which you explain why you like/do not like the show.

Write about 80 words.

Doing chores

chore – Routinearbeit, lästige Arbeit
 dull – langweilig
 monotonous – eintönig
 tedious – mühsam, ermüdend
 to be responsible for – verantwortlich sein für
 to do the laundry – die Wäsche waschen

to keep records – Aufzeichnungen machen
 to mind sth. – etw. dagegen haben
 to pick apples off the ground – Äpfel aufklauben
 to pull up weeds – Unkraut jäten
 to sweep the yard – den Hof kehren

Agricultural competitions

cider tasting – Mostkost, Mostverkostung
 clay pigeon shooting – Tontaubenschießen
 contest – Wettbewerb
 debate – Redewettbewerb
 dirt bike race – Motocrossrennen
 firefighting competition – Feuerwehrwettbewerb

mechanical bull riding competition – mechanisches Bullenreiten, mechanisches Rodeo
 ploughing match – Wettpflügen
 sheep shearing competition – Schafscherwettbewerb
 stock judging – Preisrichten
 tractor run – Traktorenausfahrt, Konvoi
 tug of war – Tauziehen

Taking part in competitions

award – Preis
 competitive – kompetitiv, wetteifernd
 goal – Ziel
 referee – Schiedsrichter/in
 spectator – Zuschauer/in
 to aim at – abzielen auf, anstreben
 to cooperate – zusammenarbeiten

to extinguish – löschen (*Feuer*)
 to shear – scheren
 to showcase skills – Fähigkeiten präsentieren
 to succeed in – Erfolg haben bei
 to take part in – teilnehmen an
 tough – hart, schwierig

Organising a charity event

charity event – Wohltätigkeitsveranstaltung
 disability – Beeinträchtigung, Behinderung
 donation – Spende
 good cause – guter Zweck
 to raise awareness for – Bewusstsein schaffen für

to raise money – Geld sammeln
 to schedule – planen, festlegen
 to spread the word – etwas weitersagen, Mundpropaganda machen

Measurements in the English-speaking world

acre – Joch (4046,86 m²)
 bushel – Scheffel (36,4 l)

foot – Fuß (0,304 m)
 gallon – Gallone (3,78 l)

Agricultural inventions

reaper – Erntemaschine
 stepless – stufenlos
 three-point hitch – Dreipunktaufhängung

to invent – erfinden
 to replace – ersetzen
 transmission – Getriebe

Virtual farming

crop failure – Ernteausfall, Missernte
 gross income – Bruttoverdienst
 growing season – Vegetationsperiode
 hail – Hagel
 manufacturer – Hersteller/in
 ranch hand – Farmhelfer/in
 seasonal – saisonal
 tax – Steuer

tenant farmer – Pächter/in
 thunderstorm – Gewitter
 to afford – sich leisten
 to estimate – schätzen
 to haul – transportieren, befördern
 to overcome – überwinden, meistern
 to own – besitzen



► Vocabulary reference