

SLIDESHOW SCRIPT (TO BE READ ALOUD. PRINT BACK TO FRONT.)

SLIDE NUMBERS ARE LISTED IN SHOW (LOWER LEFT CORNER)

1. **Noah's Ark Today: Saving Rare Breed Farm Animals from Extinction**

Part 1. Why Farm Animals are Important

2. **Part 1. Title Slide**

3. **Woman with Ossabaw pigs**

People and animals have lived together for thousands of years.

4. **Two girls holding Leicester Longwool lambs**

We love and care for animals. They are useful partners and good companions.

5. **Milking Devon cow standing beside woods**

Farm animals are important in two ways. First, they provide food for people to eat. Cows, for example, produce milk.

6. **Hen on nest with eggs**

Chickens lay eggs.

7. **Eggs from chicken, duck, goose, and turkey in an egg carton**

Ducks, geese, and turkeys lay eggs too. All of these eggs are good to eat.

8. **New Hampshire rooster looking for food in the grass**

Farm animals are also important because of the jobs they can do. Chickens, for example, eat weeds, insects, and other pests.

9. **Two Guinea Hogs in a pasture, with small turkeys in the background**

Pigs are recyclers, eating many different foods – such as acorns, insects, roots, mice, kitchen scraps, fruit, and sour milk. Pigs eat small snakes too. Not so long ago, people would have a pig in the yard to keep snakes away!

10. **Pigs in garden space**

A pig's nose is called a snout. Pigs use their snouts for digging up roots or "rooting." These pigs have been put into a garden after harvest to dig up roots, eat insects, and turn the soil for spring planting.

11. **Herd of Tamworth pigs in a pasture**

These pigs are looking for grasshoppers to eat in their pasture. You can hear them "crunch, crunch, crunch" when they find some!

12. **Cotswold ewe and lamb in pasture**

Sheep are useful animals too. Most sheep have a coat called wool. Wool can be made into sweaters, blankets, and rugs.

13. **Woman shearing Dorset Horn sheep in a historic setting**

Most sheep can't shed their wool. Every spring, the wool must be clipped, or "sheared," off. Shearing doesn't hurt the sheep; this full-body haircut keeps it cool all summer.

14. **Fleece and shorn Dorset Horn sheep in a historic setting**

The wool is sheared off in one large piece called a "fleece." Do you see the sheep? It looks "sheepish" (or kind of shy) because it just got a haircut! The sheep's wool will grow back in the fall, and it will have a thick, warm coat by winter.

15. Children washing fleece in a wooden bucket

These kids are washing the fleece in a bucket. When it's dry, it will be spun into yarn and knitted or woven into clothing.

16. Girl with Cotswold sheep

This girl is wearing a scarf made of this sheep's wool. Everything wool started with a sheep!

17. Angora goat

Some goats' coats are valuable too. For example, this Angora goat has a soft, strong coat called "mohair" that can be made into sweaters, hats, and other clothing.

18. Pair of Pilgrim geese, with white male and gray female

These Pilgrim geese, like all birds, are covered with feathers. The smooth outer feathers are like a raincoat to keep the geese dry. The small fluffy feathers next to the skin – called down – keep the geese warm. We use feathers inside mattresses, pillows, and even "down" coats for people to wear.

19. Two white Chinese geese in the grass

Geese love to eat grass in yards and around ponds. They are alert, too, and will hiss and honk if strangers come.

20. Donkey guarding flock of sheep

You probably know about guard dogs, but this is a guard donkey. She is protecting a flock of sheep. If coyotes threaten the sheep, the donkey will stomp, kick, bray, and chase them away!

21. Woman driving a team of Suffolk horses

Horses are strong, and they can do many jobs on a farm. These horses are pulling a disk harrow to loosen the soil and get a field ready for planting.

22. Cowboy feeding hay to two horses

This cowboy rides horses as part of his job herding cattle. He's feeding them some hay after a hard day's work.

23. Boy riding Florida Cracker horse

Kids can ride horses, too, just for fun!

24. American Cream Draft horses grazing

Horses and other grazing animals are natural lawn mowers, helping us take care of pastures and other grasslands.

25. Rear view of horse with droppings

Farm animal droppings, called manure, make excellent fertilizer for fields and gardens.

26. Group of goats eating salmon berries, blackberries, and other brambles

Goats love to eat pest plants – bushes and vines such as poison ivy, kudzu, and honeysuckle. These goats are at work clearing out this thicket.

27. Girl and boy with goats

Goats are fun to be with too. They make good companions for people and other animals. Now you know why goats and other farm animals are important to people. Our lives would be very different without them.

Part 2. Farm animal breeds

28. Part 2 title slide

29. Group of Tunis and other sheep running

There are many species of farm animals in America. Besides sheep (like these), there are cattle, horses, donkeys, goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys.

30. Jacob ram, showing black and white fleece and black horns

All of these species are divided into different kinds, or "breeds." This is the Jacob breed of sheep.

31. Black and white Jacob ewe and triplet lambs

Jacob sheep are black and white spotted with black horns. This mother sheep (or ewe) has three lambs.

32. Flock of Tunis sheep in the snow

Tunis sheep have reddish brown faces and legs with cream colored wool. The name Tunis comes from Tunisia in Africa, where this breed lived before coming to America.

33. Flock of Rouen ducks

Ducks are also divided into different breeds. These Rouen (pronounced ROO-en) ducks have big bodies on short legs.

34. Flock of Indian Runner ducks

Indian Runner ducks are tall with slender bodies.

35. Man holding black Shire draft horse

The biggest breed of horse in the world is the Shire. It's a lot taller and stronger than a man! This horse has been brushed and decorated to be in a show. Doesn't it look sleek?

36. Boy with Exmoor pony

The Exmoor is a pony that's just the right size for a boy or girl. This breed comes from England, and it has a furry coat to keep it warm and dry in winter.

37. Adult Dexter cow beside adult Milking Shorthorn cow

Cattle breeds can also be large or small. Both of these cows are adults. The black cow is a Dexter, and she is only half as big as the Milking Shorthorn. A Dexter cow is about three feet tall, the same height as your kitchen counter.

38. Dexter cow and calf

The Dexter breed was used for milk, butter, cheese, and beef on family farms in Ireland. Every family needed a cow, but farms were small. The Dexter breed was perfect, since it needed only half as much pasture as other kinds of cows. Sometimes small breeds can be more useful than big ones.

39. Highland cow eating hay in the snow

Cattle breeds are also different depending on the climate where they live. The Highland breed is "adapted to" – or used to – cold weather. This cow has a thick, heavy coat and stays warm even on the coldest winter days.

40. Herd of Belted Galloway cattle in pasture

Belted Galloway cattle also have thick coats for cold weather. The cows' white stripes are called belts. Can you guess why?

41. Herd of Florida Cracker cattle in tall grass

Florida Cracker cattle like it hot! With their smooth coats and short hair, Cracker cattle stay comfortable even when the weather is too hot and humid for other breeds. The name "Cracker" comes from the crack of the cowboys' whips in the air during roundups.

42. Man with Florida Cracker cow

This man has raised Cracker cattle all his life. They are special to him because they are found only in Florida. Each breed of cattle fits different environments and the needs of different groups of people. That's why having many breeds of farm animals is so important.

Part 3. Why some farm animal breeds are rare

43. Part 3 title slide

44. Front view of a Florida Cracker cow

Some breeds of farm animals are rare. There are so few Florida Cracker cows, for example, that the breed may even become extinct. It is not threatened by wild animals, pollution, or hunting, but it is in danger of being forgotten.

45. Pastel illustration of a Lincolnshire Curly Coat pig

This is a drawing of the Lincolnshire Curly Coat pig, which is now extinct. It was developed in England to be used in cold, wet climates. When farmers began to raise pigs inside barns, however, they didn't need or want the Lincolnshire Curly Coat anymore. The breed became extinct 20 years ago.

46. White Leghorn chickens in cages at an egg production facility

This is the White Leghorn breed of chicken. Almost all farmers in the U.S., and around the world, use this breed to produce white eggs. Each of these hens will lay over 300 eggs per year – more than any other chicken breed. The hens are kept in cages where they eat special feed and their eggs can be easily collected.

47. Four Dominique chickens walking along a path

Here's a different breed of chicken, the Dominique (or "Dominecker"). This breed was popular when families raised their own chickens and eggs on the farm. The chickens had to live outside, find their own food, and raise their own young. That's what the Dominique does best.

48. Dominique rooster crowing in the woods

The Dominique's color pattern acts like camouflage in the woods, giving it some protection from predators. Survival qualities like this aren't important, however, when chickens are raised indoors. Since the Dominique doesn't lay as many eggs as other breeds, it has become rare.

49. Group of Dominique chicks

A few people still raise their own chickens and eggs on their farms. They think that the Dominique is valuable and beautiful, and they want to keep the breed alive.

50. Four Bronze turkeys

The Bronze turkey, like the Dominique chicken, is an historic breed that is nearly extinct. Almost all farmers today raise Large White Turkeys that grow faster and are easier to process.

51. Milking Devon cow swishing flies with her tail

While many breeds of farm animals are rare, some of them have been saved from extinction. The Milking Devon is an example. This cattle breed is important because it can be used for three jobs – milk, meat, and work.

52. Two teams of oxen plowing a field in an historic setting (Milking Shorthorn in front and Milking Devon in back)

When cattle are trained to work, we call them "oxen." Oxen can plow fields, pull wagons, and drag logs out of the woods. People have been using oxen in America ever since the Pilgrims brought the first Devons to the New World in the 1620s.

53. Blue tractor in field

When tractors were invented, most farmers started using these machines, which were faster and more powerful than any animal. The Milking Devon ox lost his job.

54. Herd of Holstein cows grazing

Milking Devon cows lost their jobs to other breeds, such as the Holstein, that produce more milk. There were only one hundred Milking Devon cows alive in 1970.

55. Milking Devon cow and calf with hay

A few farmers in New England kept raising Milking Devons. Gradually, other people became interested again, and the number of cattle began to increase. Today there are about 400 cows alive, and many new calves are born every year.

56. Boys with team of 6-month-old oxen

Kids have helped save the Milking Devon from extinction. These boys learned to train calves in their 4-H club. When they take their teams out to parades and shows, they tell people about the Milking Devon breed. The more people who know and care about a breed, the better chance it has to survive.

Part 4. Why save rare farm animal breeds from extinction?

57. Part 4 title slide

58. Man with dark brown Navajo-Churro sheep

Why do people want to save rare breeds of farm animals from extinction?

59. People herding sheep (and a few goats) in the Southwest

One reason is adaptation. Adaptation means that animals are used to the climate, foods, and other conditions of a place. Rare breeds are often well adapted to specific environments, such as the southwestern U.S.

60. Navajo-Churro ewe and lamb

The Navajo-Churro sheep breed has lived in the Southwest for 400 years. Navajo-Churros are better adapted to this place than any other kind of sheep. They thrive on the desert plants and raise healthy lambs every year.

61. Close-up of Navajo-Churro ram with long, curving horns

The Navajo-Churro has a double-coated fleece. The long, coarse, outer wool protects the sheep from rain and dust. The dense, fine inner wool keeps it warm, even in bitterly cold weather. The horns, of course, protect the sheep from predators.

62. Flock of recently shorn Navajo-Churro ewes showing different colors

Navajo-Churro sheep are found in many different colors. Can you find black, white, gray, tan, and reddish-brown sheep – all in this one flock?

63. Navajo woman in traditional clothing with flock of Navajo-Churro sheep

The Navajo-Churro sheep got its name from the Navajo people. For centuries, the Navajo, as well as other Native American and Hispanic peoples, have raised this breed. They used its unique wool for rugs and other weavings. The people believe that they must save the Navajo-Churro sheep from extinction because it is so important to their traditions.

64. Farmer with three Tamworth piglets

A second reason to save rare breeds is because they can be very useful. This farmer keeps his pigs in a pasture. He likes the Tamworth breed because the pigs' golden red color keeps them from getting sunburned like light-colored pigs do.

65. Tamworth sow and piglets in a pasture

Tamworth pigs like to "forage," or go out and find their own food. This Tamworth mother (or sow) is teaching her piglets how to take care of themselves in the pasture.

66. Three Light Sussex chickens foraging in a pasture

Rare breeds of pigs, chickens, and other animals can be good foragers, eating insects and weeds in pastures, gardens, and orchards. These Light Sussex chickens are doing an important job.

67. Karakul ewe and lamb

Many rare breeds make excellent mothers, and this trait is valuable. If mothers can't care for their own babies, then people have to – and that can mean a lot of time and expense. This Karakul ewe will take good care of her lamb.

68. Dominique hens with four yellow chicks

Dominique hens are also excellent mothers. Can you find the four baby chicks in this picture? Chicks love to sit on their mother's back and then hide underneath her feathers to feel warm and safe.

69. Flock of several kinds of goats in a pasture

A third reason to conserve rare breeds is to increase scientific knowledge. Scientists study rare breeds of goats, for example, to learn more about the goat species. They can also use the rare breeds to develop new breeds in the future.

70. Two girls holding Hereford piglets

A fourth reason to save rare breeds is so that people in the future can learn about them and enjoy them the same way we do. These girls have a 4-H project with Hereford pigs because they want to raise a rare breed.

71. Man and boy with team of young oxen pulling a wagon

This boy and his father are training Milking Devon calves to work as oxen. The boy started training the calves when they were a few weeks old. He's taught them voice commands for left, right, start, stop, and back. When the calves are adults, they'll still remember what they learned when they were small.

72. Girl with Jacob sheep at a show ("The Big E")

This girl raises Jacob sheep, and she has taken one of them to the sheep show at a fair. The girl is wearing a suit made from a blend of the black, white, and gray fibers of the sheep's fleece. You can see that she is proud to have won a ribbon.

73. Girl riding a Cracker horse

Using rare breeds today keeps them alive for tomorrow. This girl has given a home – and a job – to a Florida Cracker horse. This is her way of helping protect the breed from extinction.

74. Man, woman, and girl watering horse at historic site

The first step in saving rare breeds is to learn all you can about animals. You can see different kinds of animals at farms, fairs, shows, museums, zoos, and historic sites like this one in Kentucky.

75. Kids observing rabbits in their classroom

Even if you don't live in the country, you can learn about animals at school and from books. These second graders are studying how quickly baby rabbits grow up.

76. Boy hugging White Park calf

Just from watching this program you know more than most kids, and adults, about farm animals. You've learned why farm animals are important, and how people are saving rare breeds from extinction.

The end.

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