



**DISCOVER
FARMING**

LEARNING ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME

To inspire and educate
children about food and
where it comes from



ACTIVITY TWO SILAGE

Farms around the country take advantage of the growing season and good weather in May/June to make silage that will feed their animals over the winter months. Silage is grass or other green fodder compacted and stored in airtight conditions where it can ferment. The two most popular methods for making it are: cutting grass and baling it into large round/square bales wrapped with plastic or putting the cut grass into a silo pit.

Have a look at the two different video clips of farmers/contractors making silage:

<https://www.discoverfarming.co.uk/discover-farming-at-home/learn-all-about-silage/>

- 1) Using a baler that picks up the grass and makes into wrapped silage bales
- 2) Using a forage harvester to cut the grass and blow into a trailer for transfer to the silage pit.

KS1:

A. Look at the clip with just one tractor pulling along another machine.

- What do you think it is doing?
- In the clip with the tractor and trailer cutting the grass, can you see the different parts of the tractor?
- How many wheels do you think there are altogether?
- Where is the exhaust? The axle? Levers? Sliders?

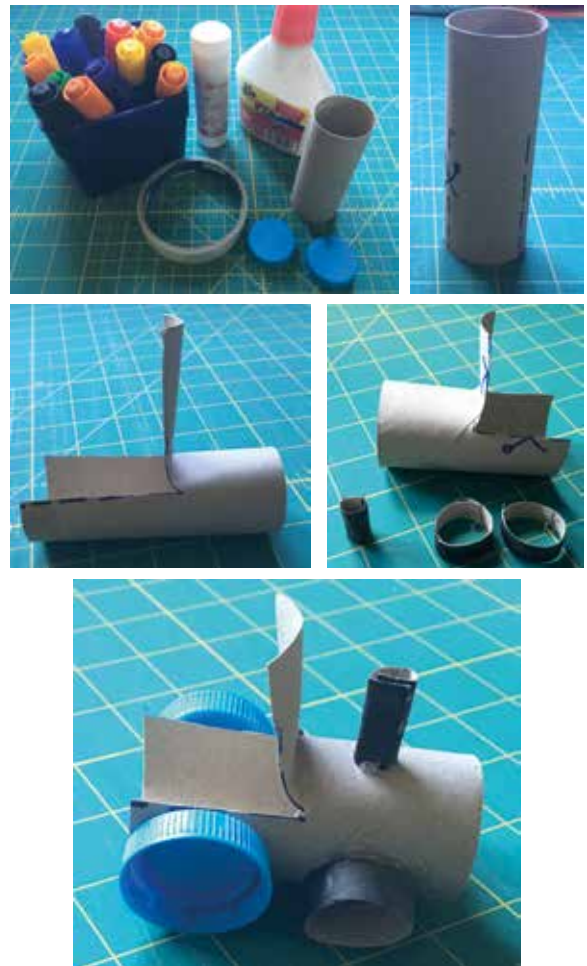


B. Toilet Roll Tractor

You will need:

A cardboard tube (an old toilet roll tube will do)
A couple of milk bottle lids
Glue or tape
Paint or felt tips
Scraps of paper to decorate.

1. Take your toilet roll tube and cut two slits, each 6cm long and about 4cm apart. Try and make the cuts in a part of the toilet roll tube that doesn't have any overlapping card.
2. Bend the flap upwards
3. Cut the top 2cm from the flap and coil this around to make the funnel. Paint or colour before you glue or tape it together.
4. From underneath the flap cut off two curved strips, each about 0.5cm wide. Paint or colour before you glue or tape together.
5. Coil these around and glue together to make the two front wheels.
6. Paint or use felt tip to colour.
7. Secure these parts with glue or sellotape.



KS2 :

Silage is grass that is cut, then covered and stored so that it ferments or pickles. The fermentation process keeps in all the nutrients which benefit the animals in the winter.

A. What is the difference between silage and hay?

B. Create your own silage. Have a look at the instructions and then recreate your own silage making plant!

Small Scale tub silage:

You will need:

a butter or spread tub (size is up to you)
freshly cut grass clippings, enough to tightly fill the tub
some cling film
elastic bands
some weights, something to push the clippings down. A stone would do it
a little patience



1. Gather together all the things you will need.
2. Clean out the tub that you are using.
3. Pack it tightly with the fresh cut clippings of grass.
4. Cover with a layer of cling film.
5. Add your weight or stones to squeeze out as much air as possible.
6. Place the lid on the top. 7. Just to be sure that the seal is tight, wrap a couple of elastic bands around the tub.

**C. Clamp silage - the grass is cut to 18-22mm lengths.
Investigate why this is.**

D. Some maths activities

1. How many hectares are in an acre?
2. The field that was being cut in the video clip is 5 acres. How many hectares is that?
3. The yield is 9 tonnes per acre. How many tonnes altogether?
4. If the trailer can carry 10 tonnes at a time, how many trailer loads did it need to move all the grass from this field?
5. The field that was being baled is 9 acres. How many hectares?
6. The yield was 54 bales per acre. How many bales altogether?
7. Each of the bales weighs approximately 600kg. What was the total weight of the bales?
in kg ,in tonnes

Want to find out more about technology used on the farm visit:

John Deere's website – they also have some fun activities to do too.

<https://www.deere.com/en/connect-with-john-deere/john-deere-for-kids/>

New Holland's website

<https://agriculture.newholland.com/eu/en-uk>

**Have a go at some of these activities and when you've finished email the results either
as a document or photo to katie@discoverfarming.co.uk**

In return you will receive a certificate and an illustration of the farming year.