

Word	Definition	Sentence
abscess	a fluid-filled pocket in or under an animal's skin	The abscess in the lamb's mouth needs to be drained before it becomes infected.
absorb	to drink up or take in	A plants roots absorb water from the soil.
abundant	plentiful	There was an abundant almond crop last year.
acorn	nut from an oak tree	The acorn was an important part of the Native American diet.
acre	a unit of land measure	The farmer planted one acre of corn.
acreage	the number of acres in a piece or pieces of land	Steve needed to know the total acreage of corn he farms before ordering seed this year.
aerate	to supply soil with air	Peanuts grow better in dry, aerated soil.
aerial	in the air or flying; a method of application	Rice farmers use aerial seeding to plant rice.
aggregate	a total of different parts	The aggregate nut crops grown in San Joaquin County mostly contain almonds, walnuts and pistachios.
agrarian	relating to land or the ownership of land	Farming is an agrarian life.
agribusiness	any business associated with farming	Our local feed store is an agribusiness.
agronomy	science of producing and using plants for fuel, food and fiber	A farmer needs to have a good understanding of agronomy to produce bountiful crops
alfalfa	a legume grown as feed for livestock	The rancher is feeding alfalfa to the lambs in the pasture.
almond	an edible nut, oval shaped and pointed at one end	There are many almond orchards in San Joaquin County.
amendment	any material added to soil to improve water retention, drainage, and overall structure	The farmer used compost as a soil amendment.
ammonia	a strong-smelling gas formed naturally when bacteria decompose nitrogen-containing compounds, such as manure	I wrinkled my nose because it smelled like ammonia as I drove by the cow pasture.
angora	a rabbit or goat with a coat about 3 inches long, raised for wool or meat	Jessica is raising an angora rabbit for 4H this year.
annual	a plant that lives for only one growing season	Mary planted many annual flowers in her garden this year.
anther	the male part of a flower that produces the pollen	The legs of the bee pick up pollen from one anther and take it to the next flower.
anvil	a block with a hard surface on which another object is struck	the blacksmith shaped the horseshoe on an anvil
aphid	a small insect that feeds on the juice of plants	I see an aphid on that plant.
apiary	for the purpose of breeding and supplying bees, honey and other bee products	The apiary reached its maximum number of bees.
apiculture	beekeeping	Study apiculture before you buy your bees.
aquaculture	the cultivation of aquatic animals; underwater agriculture, especially fish, shellfish, seaweed	The quality of young fish is important for successful aquaculture production.
aquifer	an underground layer of porous rock or sand containing water where wells may be sunk	The farmer located a large aquifer on his property.
arable	Suitable for producing crops	There is a lot of arable land in this valley.
arid	extremely dry	Crops need regular irrigation in arid regions of California.
artichoke	the flower of a thistlelike plant, cooked as a vegetable	Lemon juice will prevent an artichoke from turning brown.
asparagus	the tender shoots of a plant of the lily family, cooked as a vegetable	My favorite way to eat asparagus is to grill it.
assessment	an appraisal or evaluation	The assessment on my father's property was valued at \$150,000.
attractant	a chemical that lures insects or other pests by stimulating their sense of smell	The attractant worked well to confuse the crop's pests.

auction	a sale where bids are received and the item is sold to the highest bidder	The 4H hogs were sold at auction this summer.
auger	a tool or machine with a corkscrew-shaped bit for drilling holes	Dad used an auger to drill post holes
avocado	a green pear-shaped tropical fruit with a single large seed and buttery flesh that grows on a tree	You need an avocado to make guacamole.
bale	to pack into a large bundle	The baler machine will bale the hay into large rectangles.
baler	farm equipment that compresses and binds straw, hay, or cotton into a standard-sized bundle	The baler was attached to the tractor.
bark	the outer covering of tree trunks and branches	The bark of the tree was very rough.
barley	a cereal grass with seeds used as a food	Barley is a healthy addition to a vegetable soup.
barn	a building for storing hay, grain and often for housing livestock	Please bring the cows in to the barn tonight.
barometer	an instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure	A barometer can be used to forecast the weather.
bees	a four-winged insect used for pollination and honey production	Bees pollinate the flowers of many California crops
berm	a bank of earth	One side of our pond has a berm.
biodiesel	a fuel partially made from oily plant products for use in diesel engines	My family bought a truck that runs on biodiesel.
biology	the science of living organisms	We studied bees in biology class.
biomass	any living matter that can be changed into energy	We can burn plant biomass to produce steam for making electricity.
birthweight	the weight of an animal when it is born	The birthweight of the calf was 65 pounds.
blacksmith	a person who forges iron	Horseshoes can be made by a blacksmith
bleat	the cry of a sheep or goat	I hear the bleat of my new goat.
blight	any weather or soil condition, parasite, disease or insect that kills, withers, or stops the growth of plants	Late spring rains caused blight that ruined the cherries last year.
bloat	a severe swelling up of the abdomen, caused by gas; usually in animals that graze or over eat	If allowed to suddenly overeat in lush alfalfa pasture, sheep may suffer bloat.
blossom	the flower of a plant	The almond blossom's color is delicate pink.
bluegrass	a perennial pasture grass with a blue-green tint	Bluegrass is a nutritious plant that livestock feed on.
bluetongue	an insect-borne viral disease of sheep, cattle, goats and wild ruminant animals	Three of the farmer's sheep were taking medication for bluetongue.
boar	male or father pig	A boar is used in the breeding of pigs.
boll	a type of seed pod	When the cotton boll opens, it is getting ready for harvest.
bolt	to flower or produce seeds prematurely	As the season gets warmer, the lettuce will bolt.
bolus	regurgitated food that has been chewed	The cow was chewing on a bolus of food.
booted	pertaining to the feathers on chicken legs	A booted chicken is often raised as an ornamental breed rather than one for consumption.
borer	an insect or insect larva that chews or tunnels into the woody parts of plants	This sweet corn is genetically modified to protect itself from corn borer insect damage.
botanical	having to do with plants	We visited the botanical gardens in San Francisco last weekend.
botany	the study of plants	Having studied botany, Neil has always been a keen gardener.
bovine	pertaining to cattle, buffalo or oxen	Our neighbor's pasture is home to a large bovine herd.
branch	a limb or offshoot of any main stem	We sat on the tree's lowest branch.
brand	an identification mark burned into the hide of livestock	All the cattle had the AAA Ranch brand on them.
bridle	the headgear used to control a horse	I have a new bridle for my horse.
broccoli	a vegetable having dense clusters of green flower buds	Steamed broccoli is delicious when served with cheese sauce.

broiler	a young chicken, usually 6-8 weeks old, that is raised for meat	Broiler chickens have been bred to gain weight rapidly.
broker	someone who is paid to negotiate contracts or who buys and sells products	My father works as a rice broker.
buck	a male goat or sheep used for breeding	Keep the buck in his pen until breeding season
burr	a chipped or raised surface of a metal object	A burr on a needle can cause pain to a pig when given an injection.
bushel	a dry volume measure of varying weight for grain and fruit	She used a whole bushel of apples to make her holiday pies.
butcher	person that cuts meat into pieces for purchase	Most of animals sold at the Fair Auction will go to the butcher.
butterfat	the natural fat in milk	The butterfat content in whole milk is higher than in lowfat milk.
butterfly	an insect with long, usually colorful wings, a slender body, and long antennae	The butterfly is an important plant pollinator.
byproducts	products made during the making or processing of something else	Lanolin is one of many sheep byproducts.
calf	a cow's offspring	The cow's calf was recently born.
cambium	a thin layer of tissue between the bark and wood of a tree	In a tree, the cambium layer repeatedly subdivides to form new wood and bark.
canal	an artificial waterway	We get our water for irrigation from the canal.
candling	shining a light behind eggs to check for cracks and other problems	Candling is a good way to check the health of a chick before it hatches.
canker	dead, discolored and often sunken area on a root, stem or branch	The farmer was worried that a canker had formed on the walnut tree.
canned	preserved in a metal or glass container	Some peaches from this orchard will be sent to the cannery to be canned.
cannery	a place where foods are canned	My brother works at the local peach cannery.
canopy	the leafy portion of a tree or shrub	It felt much cooler underneath the walnut tree's canopy.
cantaloupe	a melon having a tan rind with sweet fragrant orange flesh	Cantaloupe is one of my favorite summertime melons.
carding	combing the clean, dry wool to straighten the fibers	The farmer is carding his wool before it is used to make yarn.
carryover	a portion of the current year's crop that will be sold in the next year's crop	The large carryover of the 2008 rice crop made it difficult to sell the new 2009 rice crop.
casein	the main protein in milk	Casein is often removed from milk products and used in processed foods.
castrate	to remove the reproductive organs of a male animal	The rancher had to castrate some of his animals to make them more docile and to prevent disease.
caterpillar	a worm-like insect larva of a butterfly or moth	I put the caterpillar in a jar with a stick.
cauliflower	a garden plant grown for its compact edible head of usually white undeveloped flowers	My dad found caterpillars on our cauliflower seedlings.
cell	the hexagon-shaped unit which honeybees make for storage	Honeybees construct a special cell for the queen larvae.
certification	The act of making something official; official approval to do something professionally or legally.	Farmers must participate in a certification program in order to sell their crop as organic.
chaff	the husks of wheat, or other grain, separated in threshing	The chaff is used for fodder after sorting it from the wheat.
chevre	cheese made from goat's milk	I like to eat chevre spread on crackers.
chili	a pungent pepper related to the tomato	My mother added a hot chili to the barbeque sauce.
chlorophyll	the green colored matter of plants that functions in photosynthesis	Chlorophyll in a plant makes the leaves green.
citron	the lemon-like fruit of an Asian citrus tree	Dried citron is good in fruitcakes.
citrus	fruits of the lemon, lime, orange, etc., trees	Vitamin C is found in citrus fruits.
climate	typical weather in a certain region	It is wise to consider climate conditions before planting a crop.
cluster	A number of things of the same kind, growing or held together; a bunch	The grapes hung from the vine in a cluster.

clutch	the number of eggs produced or incubated at one time	A hen will wait patiently on her clutch.
coalition	combination of alliances, for example farmers, ranchers and agri- business	San Joaquin County has formed a water coalition to talk about water and environmental issues.
cockerel	a male chicken under one year of age	Every morning at 5:30am, the cockerel sits on the fence and crows.
cocoons	the silk coverings of pupae which are spun by larvae	There were two cocoons attached to the branch.
colony	a group of social insects having a queen and workers	A bee colony is very active in the spring.
combine	a self-propelled machine that cuts, threshes, and winnows a crop while moving across the field	The antique combine harvested the wheat at the Patrick Ranch.
commodity	basic items or staple products of agriculture	Wheat is a very important and versatile commodity.
compost	a mixture of decaying vegetable scraps and manure used as a fertilizer and soil conditioner	Many people use vegetable trimmings to create compost for their garden.
conifer	a cone-bearing plant with thin, needle-like leaves	A pine tree is a conifer.
conservation	management of human and natural resources to provide long-term benefits	Water conservation has been of great concern in our community due to lack of rain.
consumer	a person who buys goods or services for their own use	Farmers try to understand what the consumer likes to buy.
corral	an enclosure for confining animals	We keep the horses in the corral.
crimp	the natural waviness of sheep's wool	The crimp in this wool is extreme and making it hard to card.
crop	something that can be harvested	The pumpkin crop is ready for harvest in the fall.
crossbreeding	the mating of two different breeds within the same species	Ranchers often rely on crossbreeding of their livestock in order to improve certain characteristics in the animals.
cucumber	a long green vegetable used in salads and for pickling	A chilled cucumber was sliced and put into sandwiches.
cultivar	a variety of a plant selected for its specific characteristics	Beefsteak is a tomato cultivar.
cultivate	to prepare the ground for the growing of crops	We will cultivate this field before we plant corn.
cultivator	a tool attached to a tractor drawn between rows of growing plants to loosen the earth and destroy weeds	Fertilizer can be mixed into the soil using a rotary cultivator.
curd	milk solids used in cheese making	In cheese making, the curd is separated from the whey.
cutability	the estimated percentage of salable meat from a carcass	The cutability of top quality beef is higher than those of lesser quality.
dairy	a farm that is devoted to producing milk	The cows are milked at 5:00 AM at the dairy up the street.
dandelions	plants with bright yellow flowers on hollow stalks that produce fluffy white seed heads	Dandelions always sprout up in my lawn.
deadhead	to remove spent flowers or unwanted growth from a plant to encourage more flowering and/or bushier foliage	I need to deadhead my roses to keep them blooming all summer long.
deciduous	a type of plant that loses its leaves or needles in the fall and winter	Trees such as peaches and prunes are deciduous.
degree	a unit of measurement for temperature	If the temperature goes up one more degree, the bees might come out of their hive.
dehydrator	a machine that removes water from foods in order to preserve them	We used a dehydrator to make homemade fruit rollups.
dibble	a pointed gardening tool used for making holes in soil, especially for planting bulbs and seedlings	After tilling the soil, the gardener used a dibble to plant her flower seedlings.
dieback	progressive death of branches or shoots beginning at the tips	Insufficient watering and feeding can cause dieback in many perennial
disinfect	to kill bacteria with a chemical	Before and after collecting eggs, I always disinfect my hands.
disk	a tractor-drawn tool with circular plates used to prepare the soil for seeding	After the field was plowed, the farmer used a disk to break up the soil for planting.

ditch	a narrow channel dug in the ground, usually used for irrigation or drainage	The farmer dug a ditch around his crop for easier access to water.
dock	the part of a tail left after cutting or clipping	The dock of the lamb was very short.
dockage	a factor in the grading of grains and oilseeds	The dockage reduced the overall price of the load of rice delivered to the mill.
domestic	of the home and family, made in one's own country	We purchased domestic cheese for the harvest party.
dormancy	a season in which a plant stops most growth activity	During the dormancy period the plant does not grow larger.
dosage	the amount of medication to be given at one time	The correct dosage of the lamb's medication will make sure it heals faster.
drainage	the removal of excess water from fields or crops	The farmer installed a pipe system to improve drainage in his fields.
drone	an adult male bee	The drone mates with the queen bee.
drought	a long period of time with no rain	Texas had a three year drought until it started raining this Spring.
dryer	a machine for drying nuts or rice by blowing heated air on them	After nuts are harvested, they will be transported to the dryer.
easement	an agreement between property owners to share the use of the land	The easement on the farmer's property allowed for his neighbor to drive their tractors to their own property.
ecosystem	a community of living organisms with in their surrounding environment.	Crops are grown in an ecosystem that consists of soil, water air and nutrients.
edible	fit to be eaten	The blueberry is the edible portion of the blueberry bush.
efficiency	the degree to which something is done well without wasted energy	A farmer must plan his day with efficiency in mind.
eggplant	a large fruit with purple skin, eaten cooked as a vegetable	I like to grill eggplant unpeeled, with salt and pepper.
elevator	tall warehouse facility using vertical conveyors to raise and elevate grain	The elevator at the almond orchard is used to load the trucks with almonds to take to the huller.
endangered	species threatened with extinction	farmers provide habitat that supports endangered species
entomology	the study of insects and their environment	We learned all about crickets in our entomology class.
epidermis	thin outer layer of cells on plant surfaces, bodies of animals and insects	The epidermis is like armor for your body, protecting your body from being attacked by germs.
erosion	the process of wearing away soil by the action of water or wind	Erosion by the Sacramento River caused the farmer to lose several acres of his land.
ethanol	fuel made from corn	Some vehicles run on ethanol rather than gasoline or diesel.
evaporation	the process in which water droplets are changed from a liquid to a gas	Due to warm weather increasing the evaporation rate, I need to refill the cow's water trough.
evergreen	trees or bushes that retain their leaves throughout the year	Having evergreens on our property allows for our landscape to be more colorful all year long.
export	to send goods to a foreign country for sale	Many farmers export seed around the world.
farm	a piece of land on which crops or animals are raised	Our family has a dairy farm.
farmer	a person who earns a living by managing or operating a farm	My dad is a farmer who grows cherries.
farrier	a person who shoes horses	Please call the farrier and set up an appointment for the pony.
farrow	the time when a sow gives birth to pigs	During farrow season, we ended up with fifty new piglets.
feedlot	land on which cattle are fattened for market	If you are traveling on I5 in the valley, you'll pass the Harris Ranch feedlot.
fertile	Producing or capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops.	The pasture grass grew very quickly because the soil is fertile.
fertilizer	any material, such as manure or chemicals, put on or in the soil to improve plant growth or plant quality	Grandpa added fertilizer in his garden to help his vegetables grow larger.

fever	a body temperature above normal for the species	The lamb had a fever so we called the veterinarian to check its health.
field	a piece of cleared land for raising crops	This field is planted with melons.
flat	a shallow box for growing seedlings. Also: A single-layered carton of picked fruit	The seedlings were taken from the flat and planted in the garden.
fleece	the wool coat of sheep	After shampooing, the sheep's fleece was white and fluffy.
flock	a group of sheep or chickens	The flock needs to be led up to the new pasture.
floriculture	the cultivation of flowers, especially those to be cut and sold	Many people at the farmer's market are in the floriculture business.
flourish	to grow vigorously	Her rosebushes will flourish in the sunny part of her backyard.
fodder	feed for livestock, especially coarsely chopped hay or straw	Maize is a variety of corn used as fodder.
foliage	leaves of a plant or tree	The foliage of a plant takes in sunlight.
footrot	a disease affecting the hooves and feet of cows, swine and sheep	That cow is limping because she has footrot.
forage	food provided for animals, especially taken by browsing or grazing	almond blossoms are a good forage for honeybees
foreman	a person who is in charge of a group of workers	George is the foreman of the ranch.
forestry	management and protection of forest resources for human benefit	Because of his love for mountains, John thought he might study forestry when he went to college.
forklift	a device for lifting and stacking heavy loads with projecting prongs that are slid under the load and raised or lowered	The forklift operator stacked the peach bins three high.
frass	solid feces produced by insect larvae	The frass was from a navel orange worm.
fruit	any plant product, such as grain, flax, vegetables	Peaches and oranges are two types of fruit grown in Yuba County.
fungicide	any chemical used to kill fungus	We spray fungicide on our crops to prevent mildew.
galls	growths on plants caused by insects or insect larvae	There are many galls on the oak trees.
gelding	a castrated male horse	The gelding has a shiny mane and tail.
germinate	to sprout, as from a seed, spore, or bud	I will germinate seeds on the windowsill before setting them outside to grow.
gestation	length of pregnancy	The gestation of a lamb is five months.
giblets	the edible organs of poultry, such as the heart, gizzard and liver	Some cooks like to add the giblets to turkey stuffing.
gilt	a young female swine that has not produced a litter	The 3-month old gilt laid close to her mother to sleep.
girdling	the formation of a ring of dead or damaged tissue around the stem or root of a plant	A shaker can sometimes harm the tree trunk, which may cause girdling.
gizzard	a chicken's organ located between the stomach and intestines that grinds its food	The bird's gizzard has a thick lining and often contains bits of grit and sand.
gondola	a flat-bottomed car with low sides, pulled by a tractor and used in the harvest of crops such as tomatoes and grapes	The picked tomatoes were placed in the gondola and taken to the grading station.
gopher	a burrowing rodent that feeds on plant roots and leaves	Even though I set a number of traps, that darned gopher got away and
grading	rating a crop according to a quality standard	My summer job is grading peaches.
graft	to unite two plants by placing a bud of one into a cut in the other, then allowing the two plants to grow together	We can graft a nectarine bud to a peach tree.
grain	cereal seeds in general: wheat, rice, corn rye, etc.	Wheat is a type of grain grown in San Joaquin County.
grapefruit	a large, round citrus fruit with pale yellow or pink rind	I ate half a grapefruit for breakfast today.
graze	to feed on growing grass	The cows graze in the pasture.

greenhouse	a building made mainly of glass, in which temperature and humidity may be controlled for the cultivation of plants	In England, many tomatoes are grown in a greenhouse because of the colder climate.
groundwater	water within the earth that supplies wells and springs	In some places there is not enough groundwater, so the farmer must get irrigation water from a river or stream.
grow	to increase in size or substance	New shoots grow on the plants.
habitats	the external conditions which surround, influence, and affect the life and development of an organism or population	The egret, bullfrog, and crayfish all thrive in watery habitats.
hardpan	a layer of hard matter, especially clay, that lies beneath soft soil, through which plant roots cannot get through	The farmer was unhappy to find hardpan in several of his fields.
harness	the straps and metal pieces used to fasten a horse or mule to a plow	The farmer put the harness on his mule so it could pull the plow.
harrow	a frame with spikes pulled by a tractor to break up soil, cover seeds, or root up weeds	The tractor pulled the harrow through the field.
harvest	gathering a crop from a field or orchard	Almond harvest is in the fall.
harvester	farm machines used for harvesting crops	The harvester cut down the winter wheat crop.
hayloft	upper story in a barn where hay is stored	Putting hay in a hayloft keeps it dry.
hazardous	full of risk; of potential danger	The diesel fuel that spilled into the creek will be hazardous to the fish.
heartwood	The dense inner part of a tree trunk, yielding the hardest timber.	The heartwood of a tree acts like a steel beam, providing strength to endure harsh wind.
hedge	a close-set row of bushes forming a border or boundary in a garden, field or yard	A privet hedge makes an excellent boundary between the grass and the vegetable garden.
heifer	a young female cow	The boy led his heifer to the stall at the County Fair.
hemisphere	half of the Earth, usually divided into northern and southern	In the winter, most of our produce comes from the southern hemisphere
herb	an aromatic plant used fresh or dried for seasoning food	Basil is the traditional herb used in pesto.
herbicide	a chemical substance used to kill weeds	Round Up is an herbicide.
herd	a number of animals living, feeding, or traveling together	We need to round up the herd of cattle for branding.
hide	the skin of an animal, especially the tough thick skin of a large mammal	The bull's hide was very tough.
hive	a box or other shelter for a colony of domestic bees	We could hear a buzzing sound in the hive.
hock	a small cut of meat, especially ham, from the front or hind leg directly above the foot	A ham hock is often used to flavor pea soup.
honey	a thick, sweet, syrupy substance that bees make as food from the nectar of flowers	Honey is used to sweeten some beverages.
hoof	the horny covering of the foot of some livestock animals like horses and cows	The front left hoof of that cow looks cracked.
horticulture	the science of growing plants, especially flowers, fruit, and vegetables	The gardener received extra training in horticulture before planting the garden.
host	the animal or plant on which, or in which, another organism lives	The almond tree is a host for the shothole borer, a tiny black beetle.
hull	the outer covering of a seed on fruit or nuts	The hull of a walnut is green.
huller	a machine that separates the hulls from the nuts	After harvesting, the nuts go into the huller.
humus	the organic part of soil that is made up of decomposed plant and animal remains	Fallen leaves decompose to provide rich humus for orchard trees.

husbandry	The care, cultivation and breeding of crops and animals.	If you cultivate the land or breed animals, you are practicing husbandry.
hutch	rabbit house	The hutch is made of wood and wire.
hybrid	the offspring of two plants of different varieties	Pluots are a hybrid of a plum and an apricot.
hydrology	study of the movement, distribution or quality of water	it is important for a farmer to know the hydrology under his farm
hydroponics	the science of growing plants in nutrient-rich liquid solutions instead of soil	The study of hydroponics can help us find more ways to grow our food.
immature	Not fully developed.	In May the young walnuts are still immature and not ready for harvest.
incubator	machine used to keep eggs warm so baby chicks will hatch from them	Mrs. Davis borrowed the incubator from the 4H office for her chicken lesson in her 2nd grade class.
infestation	The state of being invaded or overrun by pests or parasites.	There is a total infestation of white flies on the lettuce in my garden.
injection	insertion of a substance into the body by means of a needle	cattle are given an injection to prevent and treat disease
insectary	a place to keep or raise insects	The Smith Insectaries Company produces thousands of good bugs such as praying mantises, ladybugs, and lacewing flies.
insecticide	a substance used to kill insects	My mother sprayed insecticide on the ants.
intercropping	the growing of two or more different species of crops at the same time, as in alternate rows in the same field	Intercropping is frequently done with seed crops, as in planting melons alongside cucumbers.
invasive	involving unwanted, aggressive intrusion and spreading	Weeds are invasive plants that deprive crops of water, space, and sunlight.
irrigate	to supply crops with water by means of ditches, sprinklers or drip systems	Most orchards have an irrigation system to irrigate the trees.
kernel	a seed or a nut	The peach kernel is not edible.
labor	physical or mental work done that provides goods or services	The cost of labor is much higher than the cost of parts to fix the tractor.
laborers	People who do hard physical work for money.	The harvest of cherries was slow due to the lack of farm laborers.
lactation	the time when a female animal produces milk for its young	The lactation period for a cow is usually about ten months.
lactose	A type of sugar that is found in milk.	Some people are allergic to the lactose in dairy foods.
lamb	a young sheep under 1 year of age	The lamb bleated out for its mother.
landowner	an owner of land	A right of a landowner is to choose to grow whatever crop he or she desires.
landscape	visible features of an area	the landscape is changing as northern California farmers plant more walnut trees
lanolin	grease that is on the fleece of sheep	Lanolin from sheep is used in hand lotion to heal dry skin.
lard	rendered fat from swine	Lard is still commonly used to make soap.
larva	in insects, an immature form not resembling the adult	The bee larva is also called a grub.
lease	a written agreement allowing someone to use your land	The farmer has a lease on the orchard from his neighbor for 25 years.
legume	a type of plant with seeds that grow inside pods and adds nitrogen to the soil	The lentil is a type of legume that provides protein and fiber to your diet.
lemon	a small, egg-shaped citrus fruit with a yellow skin	I like to add a slice of lemon to my ice water.
lettuce	a garden plant with crisp leaves used especially in salads	There are many types of lettuce, including Bibb, Romaine, and Iceberg.



leveled	having a consistently even surface throughout	The field needed to be leveled before planting.
limnology	the science that deals with the physical, chemical, and biological properties of fresh water, especially lakes and ponds	Research on limnology assists us in keeping irrigation water pure.
lint	the fibers removed from cotton seeds at the cotton gin	The lint is packed into 500 pound bales and taken to the textile mills.
listeriosis	a bacterial disease affecting wild and domestic animals which can cause death	The cattle rancher lost two calves due to listeriosis.
livestock	horses, cattle, sheep, and other useful animals raised on a farm or ranch	The livestock on the ranch broke out of their pens.
loam	fertile, workable soil with a mixture of sand, silt, and clay	The farmer was lucky to have rich loam in which to plant his crops.
lodging	the falling over of a grain crop due to bad weather	The rice in the field was lodging.
loin	muscle (meat) from the back of an animal	The loin is a tender cut of meat.
loppers	a pruning tool with long handles	The farmer used loppers to prune the peach trees.
macadamia	a nut, native to Australia, now grown in California	Macadamia nuts have a soft buttery texture.
magnesium	one of the many mineral elements necessary for good health	Almonds are an excellent source of Vitamin E and magnesium.
manzanita	an evergreen bush or tree with drooping clusters of pink or white flowers	Manzanita is the earliest blooming plant for honeybee production
marbling	small amounts of fat found in meat that adds flavor when cooked	The steak was delicious due to the amount of marbling.
mastitis	an infection of a cow's udder	The dairy farmer couldn't sell the milk from the cow that had mastitis.
maturity	the state of being fully grown and developed	The maturity of the lamb can be judged by its teeth.
measure	a standard unit used to express size, amount or degree	farmers rely on an accurate measure of temperature during bloom
medication	something that treats, prevents or reduces the symptoms of a disease	We needed to give the pony some medication before his illness became worse.
melon	round edible fruit of vines belonging to the gourd family	Honeydew melon is my favorite summer fruit.
microbes	Microscopic organisms; (micro-organisms)	Microbes are so tiny that you would find a million of them in one teaspoon of soil.
microbiology	the branch of biology that deals with microscopic animal or vegetable organisms	Through the study of microbiology, we learn more about improving the production of the food we eat.
microclimate	the climate of a small, distinct area	California has a wide range of microclimates.
microorganisms	living creatures of microscopic size	Millions of microorganisms can be found in just a handful of soil.
migration	movement to another region with change of season	The duck migration has started in northern California.
mildew	a fungal disease that leaves a furry white coating	Mildew damaged the crop.
milo	an early-growing, usually drought-resistant feed grain which resembles millet	Milo, also known as grain sorghum, is primarily used for animal feed in the U.S.
moisture	wetness	The moisture in the air on a hot summer day makes you feel very sticky when you go outside.
mold	a growth of fungi associated with decay	There is mold on the peaches.
mole	a small burrowing rodent that feeds on insects, and whose tunnels can cause problems in farm fields and gardens	I found a mole hole right in the middle of my lettuce bed!
monitor	to watch carefully and continually for a specific purpose	A beekeeper must closely monitor the number of unhealthy bees in a hive.
mottling	a series of blotches, streaks, or spots on fruit or leaves of a plant	Leaf mottling is typical of many viruses, such as the watermelon mosaic virus.
mulch	protective ground cover, often nutshells or compost	This flower bed has a mulch of walnut shells.

mutton	the meat from sheep that are more than one year old	Mutton has a strong flavor and is not very tender.
mycology	a branch of botany dealing with fungi	Growers use information learned from mycology to produce bigger and better mushrooms.
native	born or originating in a particular place or region	Oak trees are native to Northern California.
natural	as found in nature with no changes made by man	This fabric is made from a natural fiber.
nectar	sweet liquid in many flowers, used by bees in making honey	The worker bees gather the nectar from many flowers.
nematicides	chemicals that destroy nematodes	The farmer treated his infected beet crop with nematicides.
nematodes	parasitic worms with long, cylindrical, unsegmented bodies which may infest animals or plants	The farmer's beet crop was infested with nematodes.
niche	a distinct segment of a market, focused on a particular service or product	With his unique crop of melons, he was able to carve a niche in the marketplace.
nitrogen	a chemical element essential for plant growth and reproduction	Because growing plants use up the nitrogen in the soil, farmers use several ways to return nitrogen to the soil.
nodule	a small knot or lump on the stem or root of a plant	Bacteria enter the root hairs of a plant, and as they multiply, a nodule forms.
nursery	a place where plants are grown to a usable size	It is wise to visit a nursery before ordering trees from them.
nutrients	a substance or ingredient that provides nourishment	Fruit that is eaten raw gives the body many nutrients.
nutrition	the science or study of a healthy diet	She wanted to learn more about nutrition in order to become more healthy herself.
offspring	An animal's young	A lamb is the offspring of a ewe and a ram.
orchard	an area of land devoted to the cultivation of nut or fruit trees	We have an orchard of almonds and a grove of pines on our property.
organic	grown without chemical fertilizers or sprays	The organic apple farmer grows very sweet and juicy apples.
organism	any individual living body	A tree is one example of an organism.
ornamental	a plant grown for its beauty rather than for food	The fruit of an ornamental plum tree isn't good to eat, but the purple foliage is lovely.
parasite	a plant or animal that lives on or in an organism of another species, usually with harmful effects on the host	Mistletoe is a parasite that lives on trees.
parturition	the act or process of giving birth	The cow will experience parturition soon, and we hope the calf will be healthy.
pasture	grass-covered land used for grazing livestock	The rancher had hundreds of cattle grazing in his pasture.
pathogen	an organism that causes a disease	The veterinarian is trying to find out which pathogen caused the lamb to die.
payment	An amount paid	The bank has loaned us money to buy property, so we make an annual payment to the bank.
peach	a round, juicy orange-yellow fruit with a fuzzy skin	I like to add a juicy peach to my breakfast smoothies.
pecan	an oval-shaped nut with a smooth, thin shell	Pecan pie is my favorite pie to eat in the fall.
pedigree	a paper showing an animal's forebears or lineage	Cindy's dog's pedigree showed ancestry dating back over 100 years.
penicillin	an antibiotic made from a specific mold	Some people are allergic to penicillin and must take a different medicine.
pepper	a fruit that is hollow with firm walls containing the seeds and pungent flesh, can be eaten raw or cooked as a vegetable	The pepper I ate in my salad was crunchy.

perennial	a plant with a life cycle of more than two years	My perennial flowerbed has begun to bloom again this spring.
pesticide	a specific chemical used to kill pests	We use a pesticide around the foundation of our house to kill ants.
phloem	the food-conducting tissue of plants	Aphids suck on the phloem of plant tissues.
phosphorus	one of the 17 mineral elements essential for plant growth and reproduction	All plants require phosphorus during periods of rapid growth.
photosynthesis	the chemical process by which green plants make energy-producing carbohydrates	Photosynthesis occurs in the leaves of the plant.
pickling	the preservation or flavoring of food in a solution of brine or vinegar	My aunts are in the kitchen pickling green beans.
pipeline	a line of pipes for transporting water, gas, or oil	The pipeline brought water from the river to the fields.
pistachio	an edible nut with a green kernel	The pistachio tree was developed for commercial use in Chico in the 1930's.
pitchfork	a large, long-handled fork used for lifting and tossing hay or straw	A pitchfork can be used to clean out stalls on a dairy farm.
plant	vegetation that grows by using sunlight, water, and nutrition in a process called photosynthesis	The process of photosynthesis makes the plant grow.
plow	a farm implement used to cut, turn up, and break the soil	The old plow is dented from hitting rocks in the soil.
pollard	to cut back the branches of a tree to its trunk	The rancher chose to pollard the trees in his meadow to increase sunlight for the pasture grasses.
polled	having no horns; as with sheep or cattle	His cattle are polled.
pollen	fine, dustlike particles in the blossom of a plant	Bees collect pollen from flowers.
pollinate	to place pollen on a flower so that fruit will grow from the blossom	Bees pollinate the flowers of many plants.
pomace	the pulpy residue remaining after the juice has been pressed from fruit	The smell of pomace from Concord grapes reminds me of Fall.
pomologist	a person who studies the science of fruit cultivation	The pear farmer's daughter wants to become a pomologist after going to college.
potassium	one of the 17 mineral elements essential for plant growth and reproduction	Farmers often apply potassium as fertilizer for optimum plant growth.
predator	an animal that survives by eating other animals	The coyote is a natural predator of sheep.
production	the creation of something of economic value	California almond growers are responsible for 100% of the commercial supply of almonds in the United States and 80% of the worldwide production of almonds.
productive	Producing or capable of producing. Producing abundantly; fertile	As the walnut trees grow older, they become more productive.
progeny	the offspring of animals	The progeny of the prize ram will grow to be champions of the show ring.
propagate	To produce a new plant.	Some flowers are easy to propagate from cuttings.
prune	a plum preserved by drying	This prune is delicious!
pruning	removing parts of a plant to increase fruit or flower production	By pruning the trees, we have more fruit.
pullet	a young female chicken who has never laid an egg	A new pullet was purchased for the chicken yard.
pump	a machine that forces water through a pipe	We use pump irrigation for our orchard.
pupa	in insects, a resting stage between larva and adult, when no feeding takes place	The pupa is enclosed in a cell inside the beehive.
ranch	a large farm devoted to the raising of livestock	My uncle has a cattle ranch.
ration	feed fed to an animal in a 24 hour period	The animals were fed a daily ration of hay and grain.
reaper	A machine for cutting standing grain.	The invention of the horse-drawn reaper in 1831 brought about large increases in food production.
recycle	to reuse or make available to reuse	Many farmers recycle the metal from their old farm equipment.

refuge	a place providing protection or shelter	Rice wetlands become a refuge for migratory birds.
region	a large land area which is naturally suited for particular plant and animal life	Our region, the Central Valley, is ideal for growing almonds.
registered	having recorded an animal's birth and ancestry through a registry association	We registered Jason's dog through AKC.
regulations	Official rules or laws that say how something is to be done.	You need to know the county regulations before you apply a tree spray.
renewable	having an endless supply	Solar power is a renewable resource used for electricity in pumps on farms
reservoir	a place to store water	The Woodward resevoir provides irrigation water supply to farmers.
ridges	long narrow raised strips of soil which direct the flow of irrigation water in an orchard	The entire orchard was watered by using ridges.
riparian	pertaining to the area along the banks of a river, stream, or lake	Because of riparian erosion, the farmer's field was getting smaller.
ripe	fully developed and ready for harvest	I picked a ripe apple from my tree in the backyard.
rootstock	a plant onto which another is grafted as a new top	Most varieties of apple trees are grafted onto a particularly hardy rootstock.
rotation	the growing of different crops, in differing seasons, on the same land	Crop rotation helps preserve the fertility of the soil.
roughage	feeds that are made of grass, hay or silage	Livestock need plenty of roughage to eat.
rumen	the largest compartment of the ruminant's stomach that digests fiber	The cow's rumen has a capacity of over 20 gallons.
ruminant	animal that has a stomach with four sections	A cow is a ruminant.
rural	of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the country.	The region is rural in appearance, with well-farmed land on all sides.
saddle	a seat for a rider on the back of a horse	Will you put the saddle on the horse so I can ride it?
sagebrush	a bush that grows in dry regions with silvery wedge-shaped leaves and large flower clusters	Sagebrush is an excellent forage for honeybees.
sapling	a young tree	The sapling needs to be transplanted so it has more room to grow.
saturated	to be completely soaked with liquid	The rainstorms caused the ground to be fully saturated.
scaffold	a larger branch growing from the central portion of a tree trunk	Tommy climbed far out onto the scaffold of the old oak tree.
scarecrow	object for scaring birds away in a field or garden	I want to put a red hat on my scarecrow.
schedule	to plan for a certain date	I schedule irrigation according to the soil's moisture levels.
season	a traditional division of the year based on distinctive weather conditions	We usually end the harvest season with a moonlight bonfire.
sediment	soil particles that settle to the bottom of water or liquid	She took a stick to stir up the sediment in the river.
seed	the plant part that contains the embryo and produces another plant	A watermelon seed can be black or white.
sell	offer a product in exchange for money	The farmer will sell his asparagus at the Farmer's Market.
serrate	Having a saw-toothed edge.	The serrate pattern on the leaves helped me to identify the plant.
shaker	a machine that shakes fruit off the tree	When the shaker works in the orchard, I can feel the ground shaking.
shank	the lower part of an animal's leg, between the bottom and middle joints	The cow limped from a bruised shank.
shear	to trim the wool of sheep	The farmer will shear his sheep so he can sell the wool.
shepherd	A person whose job is to care for sheep.	Sheep know their shepherd by his voice.
shovel	a tool with a long handle and a broad scoop or blade for digging and moving loose material, such as soil	The farmer used a shovel to dig holes for planting his new trees.
siblings	two or more animals having the same parents	My dog has two siblings, one brother and one sister.

silage	fodder preserved through fermentation in a silo	Instead of making hay, alfalfa was wrapped in plastic to produce silage.
silt	a fine-grained sediment	The farmer felt fortunate to have a loamy soil made of equal parts of sand, silt, and clay.
siphon	a bent tube used for carrying liquid from a reservoir over the top edge of its container to a point below the surface of the reservoir	The peach farmer uses a siphon to transfer water from one ditch to another.
sire	the male parent	The sire to that calf is an Angus bull.
sorghum	a cereal grass used mainly for feed or silage	Sorghum is able to withstand dry weather conditions.
sow	an adult female pig.	Our two-year old sow had eight piglets in her litter.
sprinkler	a device that sends out a spray of water, used for irrigation	The sprinkler kept all areas of yard moist throughout the dry season.
sprout	to begin to grow from a seed	It won't take long for the bean seeds to sprout.
squirrel	small, bushy-tailed rodent	The walnut farmer considers the squirrel a pest.
stalk	a plant stem	I love to eat the crunchy stalk of the celery.
stallion	adult male or father horse	We hope the new stallion will be a good breeder for our mares.
stamen	the pollen-producing male part of a flower	Bees were bouncing from one stamen to the next on that beautiful flowering shrub.
steer	a castrated male bovine	A steer cannot breed.
stewards	persons responsible for the planning and management of resources	Farmers are the best stewards of the land.
stomata	the pores in a plant leaf or stem	Potassium regulates the opening and closing of the stomata in plants.
straw	dried plant matter used as bedding	Dad laid straw down in the chicken coop.
subcutaneous	beneath the skin	He gave the cow a subcutaneous injection
sucker	a secondary shoot coming out of a limb, the base or roots of a woody plant that gives rise to a new plant	A sucker formed where the tree limb had broken off.
sunlight	Light from the sun.	Sunlight is one of the main ingredients for plant growth.
survey	to find the borders and measurements of land	Special instruments are needed to accurately survey the creek that runs through our property.
sushi	Japanese delicacy consisting of cooked rice and vegetables, seafood and/or egg	California grows nearly 85% of America's sushi rice.
sustainable	capable of being continued with minimal long-term effect on the environment	Integrated pest management is a sustainable farming practice.
swather	a machine which cuts the hay crop a few inches above the ground and places it in windrows where it dries in the sun	The farmer used a swather to harvest his alfalfa crop.
swine	A pig.	I prefer the Hampshire breed of swine.
tailgate	a gate at the back of a wagon or truck	My dad's new pickup truck has a removable tailgate.
tallow	Fat from cattle and sheep that has been boiled, strained, and allowed to cool into a solid.	Tallow is one of the many useful byproducts of cattle, used chiefly to make candles and soap.
tangerine	a variety of mandarin orange with a deep reddish-yellow color and segments that are easily separated	Peeling and eating a tangerine is very easy.
taproot	the main root of a plant, growing straight downward from the stem	Some weeds have a long taproot, making them difficult to pull out by hand.

tare	the weight of a container deducted from the total weight to determine the weight of the contents or load	What is the tare on that truckload of nuts?
tattoo	identification of animals using ink that permanently stains the skin	The rabbit has a tattoo on his ear.
temperature	the degree of heat in an object or living organism	Bees come out of their hives if the temperature is warm enough.
tensiometer	an instrument for measuring the surface tension of a liquid	A tensiometer can help the farmer to know when to irrigate and for how long.
testa	the outer coating of a seed	The testa of a pumpkin seed is white.
threshing	separating the grain from its plant by some mechanical motion	The threshing machine knocked out the grain from the ears of corn.
till	to prepare land for planting crops by plowing, fertilizing, etc.	My dad will till the field before planting potatoes.
tilth	the physical condition of soil in relation to plant growth	The farmer improved the tilth of his fields by using a cultivator.
timber	the wood of growing trees suitable for structural uses	The timber was cut and used to build the house.
tissue	a group of cells that perform a specific function	Leaf tissue is usually green.
tomato	a round fruit, typically with bright red skin and pulpy flesh, can be eaten raw or cooked as a vegetable	I grew my first tomato plant this year!
ton	a unit of weight equal to two thousand (2,000) pounds	One ton bags of rice seed were placed on the truck for shipping.
tractor	a powerful vehicle used for pulling farm machinery	Jack bought a new tractor for his farm this year.
traits	distinguishing characteristics or qualities of something	Only sheep with desirable traits are kept for breeding.
transit	an instrument used for surveying land	I used a transit to determine the land's elevation.
transpiration	the passing of moisture through the surface of a leaf	Transpiration, evaporation and condensation are all parts of the water cycle.
transplant	to lift and reset a plant in another soil or situation	I need to transplant these daisies since they have become completely rootbound.
trellis	a structure made of open latticework, used to support plants or to provide shade	Jackie built a trellis over our patio.
tropical	very hot climate and often combined with a high degree of humidity	Our climate here is too dry to be considered tropical.
trough	A long, narrow open container for animals to eat or drink out of.	The water trough needs to be cleaned at least once a week.
trowel	a hand tool with a short handle and a curved blade used for light digging	A trowel is perfect for making holes to plant garden seedlings.
tuber	a swollen, fleshy underground stem with multiple buds which produce new growth	A potato is a good example of a tuber.
turnip	a roundish, light-colored fleshy root used as a vegetable	I pulled up a turnip from the garden and added it to my soup.
udder	the bag-like milk gland on the underside of a cow's body	The cow's udder is full of milk.
urban	of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a city or town	Compared to rural areas, urban areas contain the largest amount of people.
vaccine	something given to stimulate antibody production and provide immunity against a disease	The lambs were all given the same vaccine.
vacuum	to pick up by suction	We vacuum the orchard for fallen nuts.
vegetate	to grow or sprout like a plant	The plants grow when the seeds vegetate.
ventilation	a system to provide fresh air without causing drafts	Dad needed to adjust the ventilation in the shop since it was so hot inside.
vermiculture	the raising of earthworms for use as bait or composting	We are learning about vermiculture by using a worm bin in our class.

veterinarian	a person who practices the branch of medicine dealing with animal diseases and injuries	The veterinarian examined the dairy cattle to be sure they were healthy.
vine	a plant with a long, thin stem that grows along the ground or climbs a wall or other support	Melons and grapes grow on a vine.
walnut	a deeply wrinkled nut that is enclosed in a hard shell and leathery husk	A walnut tastes a little better if it is toasted.
water	a liquid needed by all living things, including plants	Drinking water is better for your body than soda.
weaning	time when young mammals are taken away from their mother and not allowed to drink her milk	During weaning I was busy separating the calves from their mothers.
weather	state of the atmosphere with regard to temperature, rainfall, wind and other meteorological conditions	Summer weather in Stockton is hot.
weed	a plant growing in an unwanted place, often hindering the growth of other desirable plants	No matter what I do, I cannot kill that weed growing in my lawn!
weevil	an insect that feeds on cotton, fruits, and grains	Mother found a weevil in the cornmeal box in the cupboard.
welding	a process of joining pieces of metal by using a torch	Jennifer enjoyed welding and made a new trailer to carry farm equipment.
wether	a castrated male sheep	The wether cannot be used for breeding.
wetlands	swampy, marshy land mass; lands saturated with water	Wetlands are habitats for ducks, snow geese and cranes.
wheat	a cereal grain	Wheat is ground into flour and used in bread and biscuits.
wheelbarrow	a shallow open box with a single wheel and two handles	He uses a wheelbarrow to carry compost to the garden.
whey	the watery substance left after the cheese making process	The whey was drained away after making the cheese.
whitefly	a group of small insects that are harmful to plants	To get whitefly off my basil plants I hose them off.
windbreak	something that breaks the force of strong wind, such as a wall or a line of trees	the pasture to shield the animals from the northerly winds.
windrows	rows of grain, hay or other harvested plants such as beans, raked into rows and left to dry before further processing	That field of lima beans is in windrows.
wool	short, thick fiber of sheep	After shampooing, the lamb's wool was white and fluffy.
wound	a break in the skin	My dog had a wound on his leg from cutting himself on the barbed wire.
xylem	the woody vascular tissue of a plant that carries water and minerals in the stems, roots and leaves	Bark and xylem are different parts of plants.
yarrow	a plant in the daisy family with leaves like ferns	I grow bright yellow yarrow in my flowerbeds.
yield	the quantity or amount produced	The yield on that acre of walnuts was about 1200 pounds.
yolk	the round yellow portion of an egg	The yolk broke when I dropped the egg.
zucchini	a variety of summer squash, which can have different shapes and colors	Grandpa grows zucchini in his garden every year.