

The Farm Charm

The farm is the source of most of the food that we eat, shelter and some of the clothes that we wear. The land that we depend on is a nonrenewable resource. Once it is gone it is very difficult to obtain more. People that own and work on the land are aware of the close connection between the land and the environment. They want to protect both the land and the environment for future generations.

This Farm Charm is to remind each of us of the importance of farms in our lives and the need to protect the environment. Drop a pinch of each of the following items into a small jewelry plastic bag with a hole punched in the top. Add a piece of yarn to make a necklace.

Soil is the basis for growing animals and plants. Healthy soil is important in agriculture. It needs to be protected from abuse of erosion, over farming, and too many buildings. (coffee)

Organic matter (O.M.) is old plant or animal material that is being broken down by composting or decomposing in the ground. OM helps insure that the soils will absorb water and provide a habitat for soil organisms. (peat moss)

Soil organisms are present in healthy soil. These plants and animals are important in the breaking down of organic matter and excessive fertilizers. (shredded paper)

Plants can be trees, shrubs, grass, or other crops. Plants provide food for humans and wildlife, help prevent the soil from washing away, and add to the beauty of our habitat. They are important in producing oxygen for us to breathe. (confetti trees)

Corn is a basic crop that feeds humans and animals. Many other products are made from corn (i.e. plastic, fuel, sweeteners, oil). Fuel made from corn helps conserve the fuel (gasoline) that cannot be renewed. (corn)

Soybeans are as important as the other grains in world food production. Modern technology has developed many uses for this crop. Soybeans are now made into building products and used as a diesel fuel. This crop contributes to the conservation of nonrenewable resources and helps decrease pollution of the earth and atmosphere. (soybeans)

Animals contribute to the welfare of humans. They provide power in some countries. Food and clothing are products that are used by humans. (confetti animals)

Fertilizer is necessary to produce plants. The result is healthy plants for human and animal consumption. All plants need nutrients. Many times the soil cannot supply enough for human growth so fertilizers are applied. Farmers have learned to use fertilizers properly. (rock salt)

Pesticides are used to control insects, weeds, and diseases. Farmers are using less pesticides than ever before in modern agriculture history. Most farmers are using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. These practices require much less chemicals than previously used. IPM uses many predators, insects, disease resistant varieties and genetically engineered plants. (whole wheat flour)

Water is necessary for plant and animal life. It must be conserved in order to have what we need. (blue confetti)

Sunlight is important in the process of photosynthesis that helps provide the oxygen that the animals need. Plant growth depends on sunlight. (gold confetti)