

Glossary

barn: a farm building used for storing grain, storing hay, or sheltering farm animals.

bovine: a group of animals, including cattle, buffalo, and bison.

bull: a male bovine, often dangerous if angered.

calf: a young cow is called a calf until it becomes older—when, if it is female, it is called a heifer, and if it is male it is called a bull. Calves are often called either **heifer calves** or **bull calves** according to their sex.

charge: a rush toward something, often with the intention of inflicting harm.

chicken: a fowl raised by farmers for the purpose of providing eggs or meat.

chicken coop: a farm building used to shelter chickens and provide them with places to lay eggs.

cow: a female bovine raised by farmers for the purpose of milking or providing meat.

creek: a natural stream of running water that is smaller than a river, but often large enough to present a challenge to cross.

chores: the duties done one or more times every day to care for farm animals.

dry cow: a cow that has given milk every day in the past, but is going through a dry resting period of 45–50 days during her pregnancy.

farm: a workplace with buildings and cultivated land where ground is tilled to raise food and animals are kept to produce food.

farmer: a person who operates a farm.

fence: a barrier made of wire and posts that is built to confine animals in an enclosed area.

gate: an intentional break in a fence where the wire can be moved to allow the passage of a tractor or large animal, and then closed again after the tractor or animal has passed through.

heifer: a young female cow, usually one that has not yet had a calf.

herd: a group of cows or cattle, which can include cows, calves, bulls, and all sizes of cattle.

hog: an animal raised by farmers for its meat, which is called pork, also called a **pig** or **swine**.

Holstein: a breed of dairy cattle from northern Holland. Today, the animals are usually black and white, but the original breed was also red and white.

manure: animal or plant material used to fertilize land.

milk: a white, nutritious liquid produced by cows for their young and used by humans for food. **To milk** a cow means to physically extract the milk from the cow, which is what farmers do two or three times each day.

milk cow: a cow raised to be milked, also known as a **dairy cow**.

milking: taking the milk from the cow. Dairy cows expect to be milked.

newborn calf: a calf which has been recently born.

pasture: grassland suitable for the grazing of cows or other livestock. The pasture is usually enclosed by a fence.

pen: an indoor or outdoor enclosure used for confining livestock on a farm.

pond: a small body of water or small lake, often in a pasture or wooded area.

poplar grove: a group of poplar trees, which are fast-growing trees with soft wood.

spreader: a machine formerly used to carry and spread manure on the fields. In the story, Nancy uses an old spreader that has been cleaned up as a trailer to haul other things besides manure.

stranded: left behind without any help or opportunity for aid.

straw: the stalk of oat, wheat, or some other grain. Straw is put under animals to keep them clean, dry, and comfortable when they lie down.

tractor: a farm tool with an engine and wheels that pulls other farm tools used for tilling, planting, and harvesting crops.