

## Animal farm comparison to russian revolution

If there's one trait that distinguishes humans from animals, it's the ability to grow food. But you might be surprised to learn that humans evolved as a species. There are insects that practice husbandry, fish that farm, and even jellyfish horticulturalists. Farming was once believed to be a feat reserved only for big-brained hairless apes, but it turns out that animals don't need a central nervous system to tend crops. Here's our list of seven amazing animal agriculturalists. Leaf-cutter ants aren't just farmers; they are factory farmers. They gather leaves to cultivate a fungus that grows on the leaves, Leaf-cutter ants protect the crops from pests and mold. They then feed the fungus, not the leaves they collected, Instead, they farm and sometimes, like humans, have difficulty with crop failures. David Siu / Flickr / CC BY 2.0 Much like leafcutter ants, many termite species are fungus farmers. The gigantic mounds built by some termite colonies are complex, temperature-controlled structures are essential for maintaining the plant material and feeding it to the fungus. The fungus then grows into mushrooms, creating a food source for the termites. Though considered household pests, termites form some of the most complex societies in the animal kingdom. Greg Grimes / Flickr / CC BY-SA 2.0 These feisty farmers are the only fish known to engage in agriculture. Damselfish are algae-growers. They are so protective of their crops that they have attacked other creatures that swim too close — even human divers. The algae they prefer is a species that is weak and quickly over-grazed, compared to other species of algae. If it weren't for such dedicated farmers, the algae would be challenging to find. It tends to survive only within the protective territories of the damselfish. Henrik\_L / Getty Images Named after the fungus they cultivate, ambrosia beetles are bark borers that grow their crops within decaying trees. A common misconception is that they eat. Once a chamber is complete, the beetles carefully tend to their crop, which feeds both adults and larvae. The beetles often leave a ring of what looks like sawdust around the tree as they push the wood shavings out of the holes they bore. Joshua McMichael / Flickr / CC BY-SA 2.0 Several ant species herd aphids in much the same way that humans keep cattle for milk. Instead of milk, aphids excrete a sugary liquid called honeydew that the ants devour. Ants go to great lengths to care for their aphids, often training them to defecate in a way that makes it easier for the ants to gather and eat the honeydew until they are stroked and "milked" by ants. Even more fascinating, ants will typically carry their aphids to new pasture lands and protect them from predators. In extreme cases, ants will clip off their domesticated aphids' wings to prevent them from flying away when they mature. They even encourage a mix of aphids, so they have a balance between types. Mary Hollinger, NESDIS/NODC biologist, NOAA / Flickr / CC BY 2.0 Marsh periwinkles (Littoraria irrorata), a type of snail typically found throughout the Southeastern United States, prefer to feast on a fungus that they farm in wounds on cordgrass leaves. These wise snails use their rough, tongue-like radula to cut grooves into cordgrass leaves, creating the perfect growing environment for their favorite fungus. Scientists have even spotted snails have fertilizing their fields by defecating in the grooves, further helping the fungus grow. Brian Gratwicke / Flickr / CC BY 2.0 Spotted jellies, grow algae food inside their tissues. During the day, spotted jellies typically orient themselves bell side down and tentacles up. This position ensures the photosynthetic crop in their tentacles gets enough light. They spend most of their time chasing the daylight and tending their internal gardens. Shane Ahyong / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY 2.5 Yeti crabs farm bacteria on their hairy claws. Geological researchers found the crabs when looking for methane seeps in the ocean off of Costa Rica; the bacteria get their energy from the inorganic gases coming from sea vents. The crabs wave their claws to create movement in the water — this, in turn, feeds the bacteria with the oxygen and sulfide it needs to grow. When the crab is ready to eat, it uses comblike mouthparts to harvest its meal from the bristles. In order to use Sutori, you must enable Javascript in your browser. You can find instructions on how to do this here. If you want to raise goats on your farm, the first thing you need to do is find good goats to buy. Here are a few tips that'll get you started on your search for your first goats. What Kind of Goats Do You Want? The first thing to decide is what type of goats you're looking for, as different breeds of goats are used for different purposes. For example, the very popular Boer goat is a meat goat, and will typically be much larger than any breed of dairy goats are the way to go. Or, if you're the crafty type, you might like to raise fiber goats. Fiber goats have much longer hair than meat or dairy goats, and that hair can be spun into yarn. What if you want to get both milk and meat from your goats, they're also good milk producers. Keep in mind your main purpose for buying goats when you begin your search, and that will help narrow down the choices. Find a Reputable Breeder who can help you find the right goats for your farm. Ask breeders if their goats are vaccinated and if they've been tested for serious goat diseases like CAE (caprine arthritis encephalitis), Johne's disease and CL (caseous lymphadenitis). Breeders should be able to provide test results to prove the goats you want to buy are healthy. Not all farms test their goats, but it's a great place to start to make sure your goats are healthy and come from a disease-free farm. If you find goats that haven't been tested, you can always ask for them to be tested before you buy them. Look at the Goats Before You Buy...If possible, try to visit the farm you want to buy from so you can see their goats in person. This can be very helpful in determining the condition of the goat, its conformation (how well it conforms to the breed standard), and its personality, too. Observe the goats you're intending to buy and watch them moving around. Keep an eye out for anything that looks 'off', such as a scruffy coat, runny nose, obvious injuries or lameness....Or Ask for PicturesIf you can't visit the farm in person, be sure to ask plenty of questions about the health and condition of the goats you want to buy. Ask for pictures or video where you can see the goats from different angles. Enjoy Your GoatsOnce you've found happy, healthy goats that meet your needs, you can bring them home to your farm and get started on your goat-raising journey. Finding the right goats is the perfect beginning. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET Everyone has to start somewhere, and for the beginner or hobby farmer, starting the process of obtaining farm machinery might be challenging. Do you try to buy used machinery first? If so, where do you start looking? Let's briefly explore some of these questions. Is Used Really a Better Value? A beginner farmer — or a farmer who isn't necessarily farming for profit, but doing it has a hobby — might not have a large budget for purchasing farm machinery, so buying used might seem like the best value. In some cases, this can be true. Some used farm machinery that is in good working condition may continue to function properly for many years to come, and may cost much less than similar brand new equipment. However, inexpensive used equipment may not be such a good deal if it needs extensive repairs, repainting, new tires, etc... In these cases, used machinery can eventually cost much more than the initial purchase price. Also, older machinery may lack certain modern safety features. Weigh all of these considerations and more before making a purchase. Ask Other Farmers are there other farms in your area? This can be a great place to start your search for used machinery to your farm, and also makes it easy to inspect the machines in person before buying. It isn't always easy to transport farm machinery long distances, so beginning the search locally can help make this process simpler. Attend Nearby farm auctions will again make the transportation process easier. There may be an inspection time offered before the auction starts, to give you a good chance to look over all the machinery before bidding. Watch Classified Ads and CraigslistYour local newspaper's classified ads may be a source for used farm machinery, particularly if you live in a rural, farming region. Additionally, online sites like Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace may have used farm equipment for sale. On Craigslist, check the "Farm & Garden" pages. Ask the seller if you can view and inspect the machines before purchasing. Go Long Distance If you can view and inspect the machines before purchasing. search. Doing this might open up larger implement dealers in bigger towns to you, or you can watch online sites like eBay or others. One helpful tip is to try to find an operators manual of the machine you purchase, and follow its directions for use. Always be careful when working with and around farm machinery, and enjoy your work. MORE FROM **OUESTIONSANSWERED.NET** 

