

Machinery for sale

A display of machinery that visitors can look around to see the variety, size and technology of modern farm machinery. Each piece of machinery should have a description on a board next to it. This activity takes a good deal of time and effort to set up. It could be a good starting point for your farm tour or you could make it part of your 'grand finale'.

If you allow children to sit in or on the machinery make sure it is safe, secure one door open, lock the other and remove keys! You may need handrails, but all the health and safety issues must be dealt with as you think appropriate.

You will need

- To organise as much farm machinery on view as you can
- Group the machines according to task e.g. all the hay making equipment together
- Each machine should have a large sign beside it with a brief description of what it is and what it is used for. Perhaps with a picture of it at work
- You could include the price, or perhaps make this into a quiz. If you have farming magazines, the children will love looking through them to find the prices

For example:

FOR SALE
Second hand PZ Hay Bob
(Made in Germany)
Hay Turner
Good condition £ ???

VALUATION
New Holland TL 80 Tractor
(Made in Italy)
5 years old
Good condition well maintained
£??,000



Variation

If you have older school groups visiting you could send them out with a shopping list to buy a certain number of items. They will be astounded at the amount of money they need! They could use the information gained to take back to school to do a real accounts exercise - income and expenditure. It has been known for farmers to open up their accounts for A level students who are doing Business Studies. Brave people!

Suggested messages

- The amount of investment in equipment that farmers have to have in order to do the work on the farm
- The increased use (and size) of tractors and machinery over the last two decades has led to a reduction in farm labour force
- A range of skills is needed to manage modern methods of farming
- World Trade link – international companies producing the equipment rather than local and UK Global market You could indicate on the sign where the machines were manufactured