



The Farm Charm

The farm is the source of most of the food that we eat. Some farms grow materials used to shelter us or make some of the clothes that we wear. Farms depend on the land - it is a non-renewable resource. Once land is gone, it is very difficult to create more. People that own and work the land are aware of the close connection between the land and the environment. By using resources wisely, they protect both for future generations.

Materials:

- Jewelry size resealable bag
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Coffee (ground)
- Peat moss
- Dry noodles
- Green confetti
- Corn kernels
- Soybeans
- Animal crackers
- Rock salt
- Sugar
- Blue confetti
- Gold confetti

This farm charm reminds 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 items listed into a small jewelry-size 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 pollution, erosion, over-farming, and too much development. (Coffee)

Organic Matter (O.M.) is old plant or animal material that is being broken down by composting or is decomposing in the ground. OM helps insure that the soil absorbs water and provides a habitat for soil organisms. (Peat moss)

Soil Organisms are present in healthy soil. These plants and animals are important in breaking down organic matter in the soil. (Dry noodles)

Corn is used to feed humans and animals. Many products are made from corn – plastic, sweeteners, fuel, vegetable oil, etc. Fuel made from corn helps conserve fuels such as gasoline that cannot be renewed. (Corn)

Soybeans are a very valuable crop. Thanks to modern technology, they are now used to make building products, newspaper ink, and diesel fuel, as well as for food. These new uses contribute to the conservation of non-renewable resources and help decrease pollution. (Soybeans)

Plants may be trees, shrubs, grass, or other crops. Plants provide food for humans and wildlife, help prevent soil erosion, & add to the beauty of our environment. They produce oxygen for us to breathe. (Green confetti)

Animals contribute to the welfare of humans. They provide power in some countries. Humans use some animals for food or to make clothing. (Animal crackers)

Fertilizer is necessary to produce healthy plants for human and animal consumption. All plants need nutrients, but often the soil cannot supply enough nutrients for proper, abundant growth, so fertilizers are applied. Farmers have learned to use fertilizers safely and effectively. (Rock salt)

Pesticides are used to control insects, weeds, and diseases. Farmers today use fewer pesticides than ever before. Many farmers now use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, which reduce the number of chemicals used on their crops. IPM uses beneficial insects to control a crop's pest population, and often uses plants which have been genetically-engineered to resist disease. (Sugar)

Water is necessary for plant and animal life. The human body is 75% water! (Blue confetti)

Sunlight provides warmth and light. Both contribute to the chemical and biological processes that help plants and animals grow. (Gold confetti)