Bacon and Wool: Farmer Bob

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Farmer Bob was not the smartest man. In fact, he was downright forgetful. He would have forgotten which way to put on his shirt if he could button up the back of a shirt, but his arms didn’t reach that way very easily. So, when it came to his farm, he had trouble remembering what animals were good for. He came up with the surprisingly clever idea to name his animals after what he could get out of them!

His favorite animal was a pig, which he named Bacon. Bacon was his favorite pork product, even more than ribs or pork chops. Every time he saw that fat, pink pig, his mouth started to water, thinking about the delicious breakfasts he would be someday. Bacon was a large and energetic young pig, quick to run and play.

His sheep, he named Wool. It was fuzzy and sloppy-looking, with one ear that drooped. He never seemed to stop chewing grass or being stubborn. He liked to wander through tall grasses, eating the seeds off the top of the grass and the flowers, too. This had the unfortunate side-effect of getting every manner of grass, weed, and burr caught in his wool. It was not attractive.

Farmer Bob had other animals, too. Just like Bacon and Wool, he named them after what they were used for. The cow, he named Cheddar, because she made milk, and cheese came from milk. The horse was named Saddlebags, because he helped carry things. The chicken was named Drumstick, obviously, as that is the most fun part of a chicken to eat, or at least Farmer Bob thought so. Then there was a goat named Baaaad Boy, because he was horribly troublesome and had a tendency to try to head butt you with his horns. Finally, there was a big ole’ fish in the pond, which he’d named Fillet, because one day, he was going to be just that.

Farmer Bob was a hungry and simple man. His animals were anything but simple. If only he knew the crazy things they could get up to on his farm, he might think of them differently. Would he ever find out?
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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Farmer Bob’s problem?
   A. He’s hungry.
   B. He can’t remember things very well.
   C. He’s cruel.
   D. He’s losing his farm.

2. How does he solve this problem on his farm?
   A. He made his animals wear nametags.
   B. He sold his animals.
   C. He hired a helper.
   D. He named the animals after what they are used for.

3. How did the pig get his name?
   A. Bacon is Farmer Bob’s favorite kind of pork.
   B. The pig saved his bacon once!
   C. The pig squeals and snorts and seems to say, “Bacon.”
   D. There is no reason for the name.

4. What did Farmer Bob name the sheep?
   A. Sheep
   B. Sheep #2
   C. Wool
   D. Fur

5. Which of these animals is not matched correctly with its nickname?
   A. Pig = Bacon
   B. Goat = Baaaad Boy
   C. Fish = Fillet
   D. Cow = Milk
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