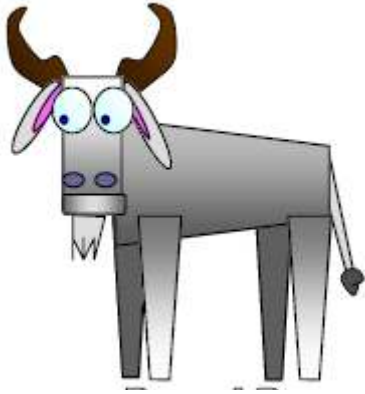


# Bacon and Wool: on the Farm

Story By: Andrew Frinkle



Bacon the pig was up early, earlier than the other animals in fact. He liked to get up and smell the morning manure. He was that kind of guy, an early riser. His friend, Wool the sheep, was not much of a morning sheep.

Wool was a bit of a night sheep, able to stay up until any old hour, discussing politics, philosophy, and quantum physics. No, not really. Mostly he talked about grass and flowers, the things he wanted to eat. Wool's lips smacked noisily, even in his sleep, as a leftover mouthful of grass from yesterday slowly dissolved into greenish paste that dripped from his sleeping mouth.

Bacon nudged Wool awake, and nodded toward the open barn door. Farmer Bob let the two of them out early in the morning. He believed in free range animals, and generally let them wander from pen to pen, so long as they didn't escape or squabble with the other animals.

They stopped to see Baaaad Boy first. He was a grumpy Gus, always smacking his horns into fences or ramming his head into unprotected flanks and thighs. He was a mean old goat, and even Farmer Bob couldn't quite figure out what the purpose of having him around was. He probably kept away wild animals, what with his noisy carrying-on and smashing into things. Currently, he was head butting an old rusty pail. Neither of them seemed to be winning.

Wool chewed thoughtfully as they watched, but Bacon shook his head (which was hard to tell with such a thick neck), and the two continued on to Cheddar's pen. Cheddar was a kindly milk cow. She never gave anyone any grief, and was sweet as could be. She did chew her cud loudly, though, which Bacon found gross, but Wool found reassuringly familiar.

Drumstick was waiting in the chicken coop just down the path from Cheddar's pen. She was hunched over a fresh egg, white and shiny. When she saw them coming, she started clucking wildly and flapping her wings. She had this thing about protecting her eggs, even though Farmer Bob stole them every day. Some people never gave up!



After that, they moved on to the pond, which was a small peanut-shaped affair complete with cattails and lily pads. Fillet the fish bobbed up at the surface as they approached, hoping for some sort of treat. They hadn't brought anything, though. Wool cropped some of the grass at the edge of the pond, enjoying the moist greens immensely.

Their last stop in their social rounds was over at the stable, where Saddlebags the horse was tied up. He had a feedbag over his face, and was munching oats loudly. Bacon's stomach growled jealously. He would kill for oats, something chewy between his teeth. All he ever got was mush and slops.

A feeding bell rang, and the two friends' eyes widened. They made some tracks, rushing back to the barn, the safe old barn, where they were fed. It was a simple life, and it was nice to stretch their legs now and then and say hello to everyone. If only they could go somewhere else for a change, but where would they go? What would they see? More importantly, where were breakfast and dinner come from?

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which animal wakes up first?
  - A. Wool the sheep
  - B. Bacon the pig
  - C. Drumstick the chicken
  - D. Fillet the fish
  
2. Which animal do Bacon and Wool visit first?
  - A. a cow
  - B. a goat
  - C. a chicken
  - D. a fish
  
3. Who is their second stop?
  - A. Cheddar the cow
  - B. Saddlebags the horse
  - C. Drumstick the chicken
  - D. Fillet the fish
  
4. Who is at their last stop?
  - A. Cheddar the cow
  - B. Saddlebags the horse
  - C. Drumstick the chicken
  - D. Fillet the fish
  
5. Which of these is not a question Bacon and Wool have about leaving the farm?
  - A. Where would they get food?
  - B. Where would they go?
  - C. What would they see?
  - D. How would they catch a bus?

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