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NATURE PROBE

Supplement to Nature Notes



SHEEP

The first few sheep to come to Australia were hairy and had long tails. They looked more like dogs, don't you think? Most of them died of disease.



LONG TAILED SHEEP



SPANISH MERINO

The Merino sheep originally came from Spain. This is a Spanish Merino as they were way back in 1835. Goodness - that's 150 years ago.... the same age as Victoria!

At that time a fleece (WOOL) weighed only 2½kg. Sheep breeding has improved so much since, that the Merino fleece weighs about 6kg.



The female sheep is called a Ewe and the male is called a Ram.



The lambs are born when there is a good supply of green grass.



MERINO HEAD



THE SHEARER

Shearing (cutting) the wool is done by men called shearers, using electric shears. They are careful not to hurt the sheep or cut the skin.

The wool is called fleece. It comes off in one piece.

The 'pick up man' tosses it onto the 'rolling table'. It is sorted into color, quality and length.



The wool is packed into large bales. Then taken to cities to be sold. Some sheep are used for meat, for us and over-seas countries.



WHEAT

wheat kernel

Look at Nature Notes this month and you will find out how to make Batter Bread using wheat flour.



Wheat plants grow very tall and are a golden yellow colour before they are harvested.

A machine called a "combine" does the harvesting by cutting, threshing and pouring the kernels into trucks. Threshing takes the husks from the grain.

The grain is stored in silos. A miller buys the grain and takes it to the mill where it is ground and sifted. The outside coat of bran is blown away and the grain is ground many times.

The flour is then packaged and some of it is placed on our supermarket shelves. Perhaps you could grind your own wheat seeds?

What can you make out of flour?

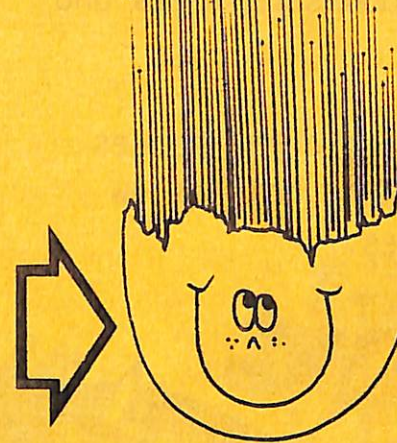
Why don't you share your favourite recipes with us?

Send them into Nature Notes, P.O. Box 28, Ringwood East, Victoria 3135.

LOOK AT A STEM OF WHEAT (PICTURE OR REAL) TO COMPLETE THIS DRAWING.



try this idea!



YOU WILL NEED:

Half an egg shell

Cotton wool

Water

Wheat seeds (from the pet shop)

Draw a face on the egg shell.

Place cotton wool in the base.

Sprinkle with a few seeds and keep moist.

Leave in a light place (near a window) and watch your egg shell persons's hair grow.

"Hi remember us?
I'm Bruce the Bandicoot.

This is my old mate Ernie the Echidna.
We're back at work again, helping with Nature Probe."



horses

Draught Horses are the tallest, heaviest and strongest group of horses.

They were used to pull ploughs on farms and transport goods to towns.

The five breeds of draught horses have long flowing hair below their knees.

Where have you seen horses?

.....

.....

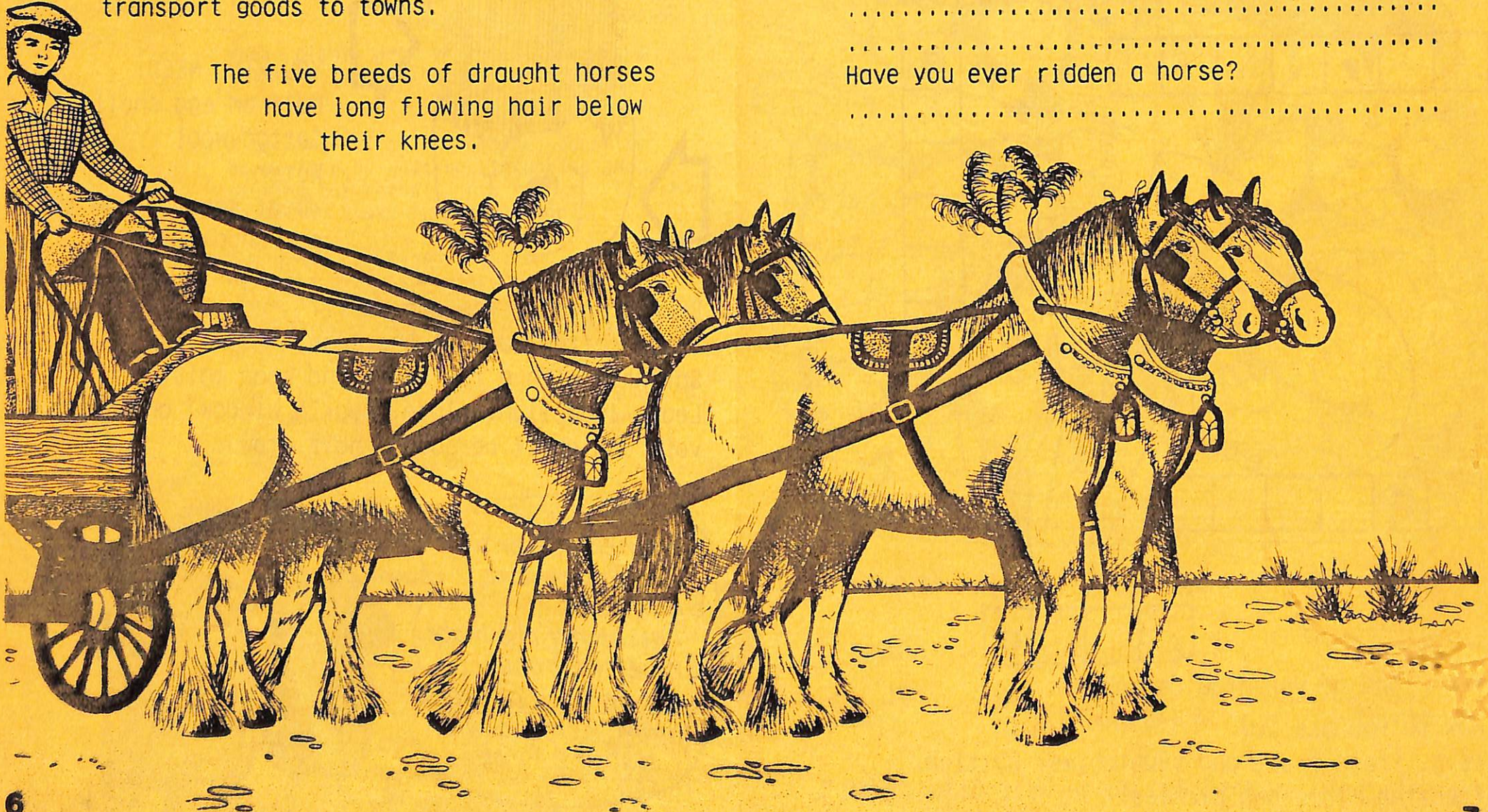
How were they used?

.....

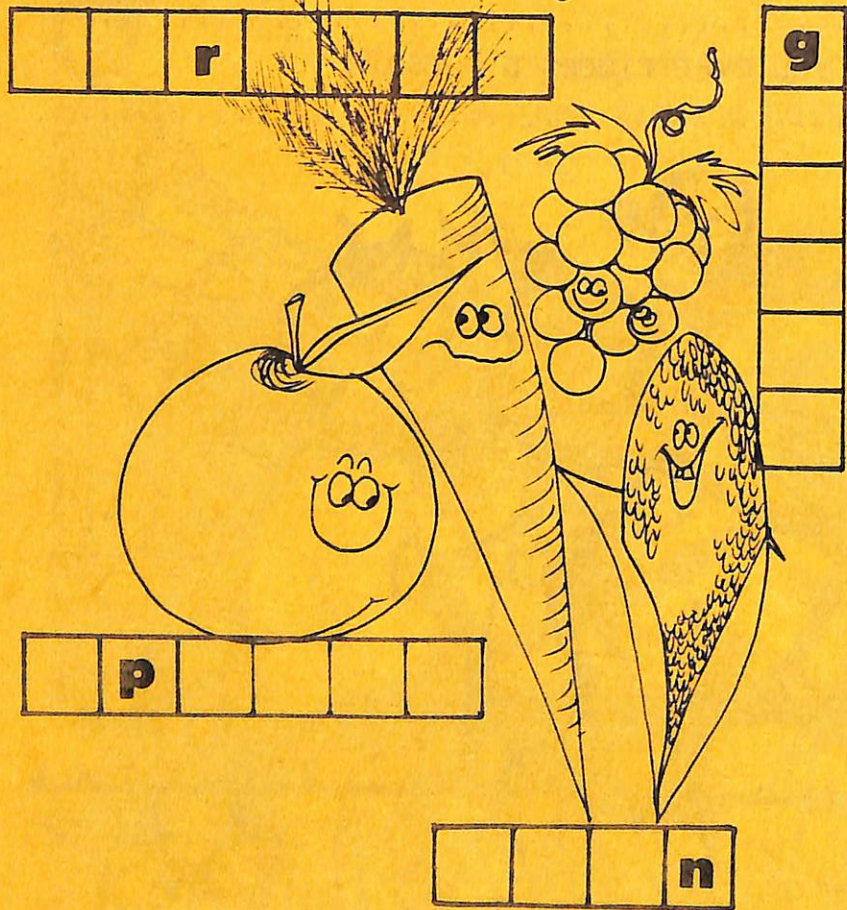
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Have you ever ridden a horse?

.....



Many farmers grow their own fruit and vegetables.



What food do you grow at home?

How do you use it?

(e.g. fresh fruit and vegetables, bottled, freezing, jams and pickles)

Home Grown Food

List the vegetables you can see.



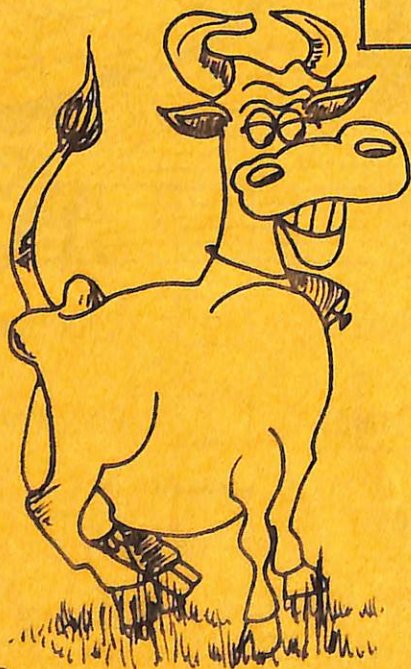
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrots | <input type="checkbox"/> Silverbeet | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabbage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pumpkin | <input type="checkbox"/> Cauliflower | <input type="checkbox"/> Potatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leek | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomatoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Turnip |

Farmers also grew herbs for perfume, medicine and flavour in cooking.

try these riddles out on your friends!

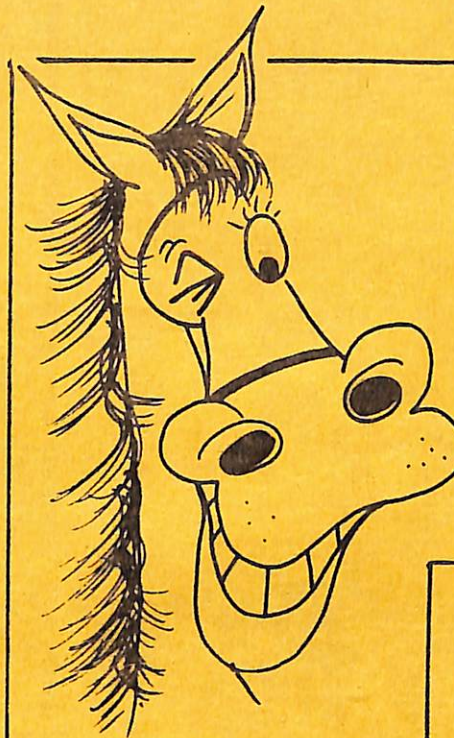
Why does a cow wear a bell?

Because its horns don't work!



What can run all around a
sheep station without
moving?

A wire fence!



A horse goes on 4 legs,
a man on 2. What goes
on 1 leg?

A sock!

On which side does a
chicken have the most
feathers?

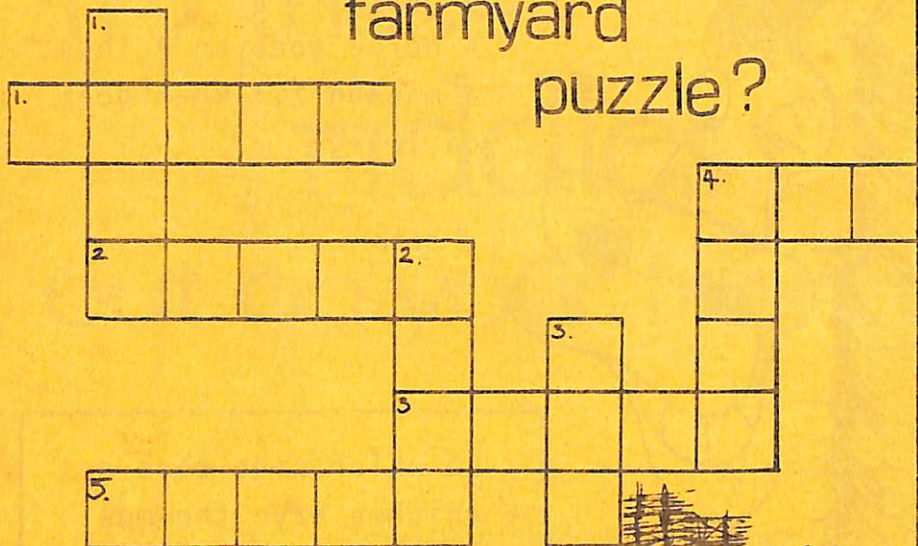
On the outside!

Why does a cabbage make a good friend?

Because it has a good heart!

Make up your own farmyard riddles.

Can you complete this farmyard puzzle?



cows goats trees pigs horse sheep cat. hens. hay