

## Mystery Solved!

Emma was anxious to get to school. She wanted to tell her class about how she spent her day off. When morning meeting started, she waited for the right time.

“Any class news?” asked the teacher.

Emma was the first to raise her hand. She was so excited she could hardly stay in her seat.

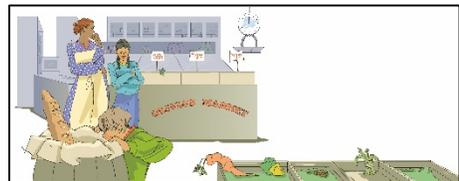
“Emma,” said the teacher, “you must have something special to share.”

“I do,” said Emma. “Yesterday my brother and I solved a market mystery.”

“Wow! It sounds like you had a very interesting day off. Please take my chair and tell us all about it.”

The class quietly gathered around to hear Emma tell her story.

Yesterday Dad let Robby and me go to Olivia’s Market after breakfast. We just needed a few things, but when we got there most of the shelves were empty. Olivia told us that the food delivery trucks never came. But, she didn’t know why. We got permission from Dad to spend the day with Olivia and help her figure out her market mystery.

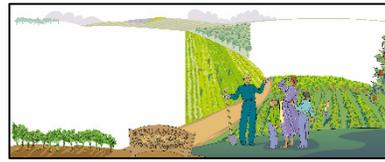


Olivia had a plan. We’d go to each of the farms that grow food for her market and talk to the farmers. We’d also go to the ranch that raises cattle and chickens.

We had a great trip! We talked to the farmers and the rancher. Each had a special problem that prevented food delivery to Olivia’s Market.

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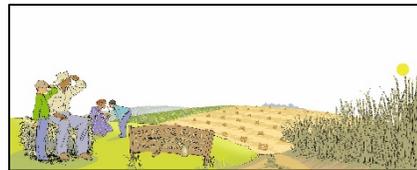
The fruit and vegetable farmer didn't have enough plant food to grow his fruits and vegetables.



The rancher didn't have enough grain to feed the cattle and chickens.



The grains farmer needed a hay field harvested. She needed more space to grow different grains.



The dairy farmer needed more hay to feed the cows so they could produce milk.



By the time we got to the dairy farm, it was lunchtime. Robby and I had a nice picnic lunch under a big tree. We discussed what we learned from the farmers and the rancher. All of a sudden, the solution came to each of us at the same time. We were so excited that we ran to find Olivia. "Olivia, Olivia!" we shouted. "We solved your market mystery!"

When Olivia heard the solution, she was thrilled. We explained that the farmers and the rancher can help each other. If they work together, there will be enough food for her market and all the markets in the city! Here's how they can do it.

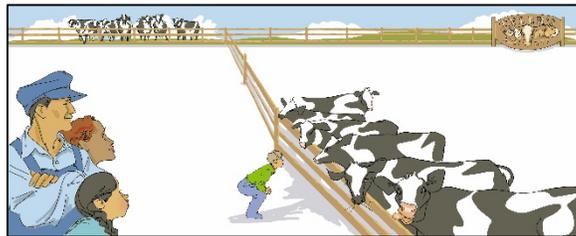
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The grains farmer can send his harvested hay to the dairy farmer.

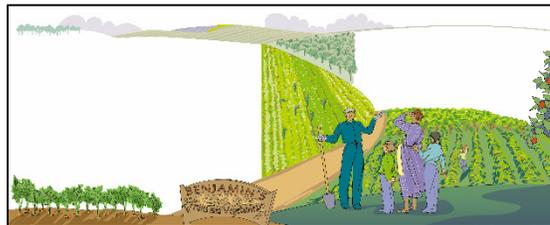


That way the cows will have enough hay to eat and will produce more milk. With the hay gone, the grains farmer will have more space to grow different grains.

The rancher can get the right grains from the grains farmer to feed her cattle and chickens.



The rancher can then provide more manure to the fruit and vegetable farmer for plant food.



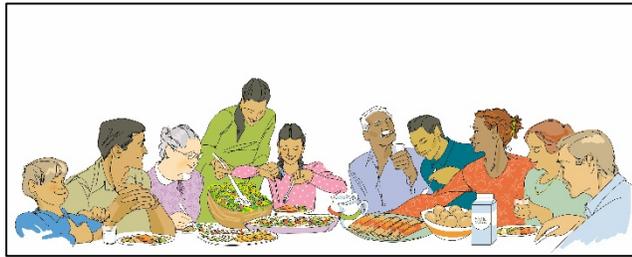
We're all connected! Olivia depends on the farmers and rancher to produce and deliver food products to her market. And we depend on them, too!

On the way home, we stopped at the bakery. The baker missed getting food from the farmers to make her desserts. We told her we solved the food delivery problem. Soon she would get the food she needed to make her bakery treats.



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When Dad heard our story, he invited some special guests for dinner. Robby and I helped Mom and Dad fix a healthy meal with foods from the farms and ranch we visited. Soon the doorbell rang.



When I opened the door I got a big surprise! There stood Olivia, three farmers, the rancher, and the baker. It was the best day off I ever had!



When Emma finished her story, the class clapped loudly. Her teacher was impressed. “Emma, you and Robby are very good problem solvers. Thanks for sharing your story with us.”