



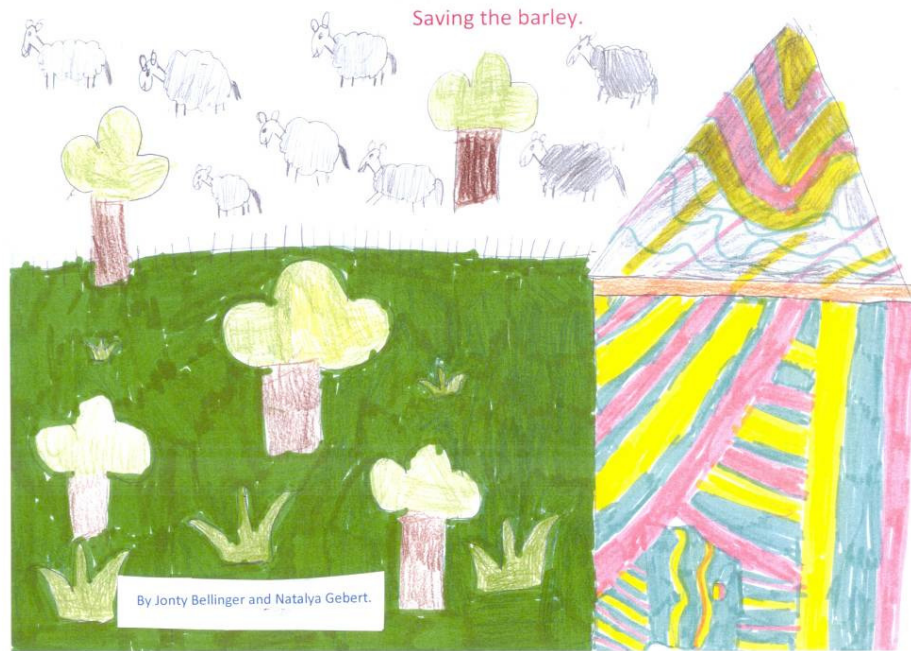
Farms grow food as crops and stock from the land. There is wildlife (native plants and creatures) on many farms too. This story is about a pest problem. How should farmers look after the land and wildlife when they are dealing with pests?

- 1 a Which are the two crops shown in the picture on page 3? (How did you tell?)
b Do you know what foods are made from these three crops?
- 2 a What sort of wildlife (native animals) lived in their Black Box Swamp?
b What did they all eat?
c Was this a help to the farmer? Why/not?
- 3 On page 2, it says that the farmers were away in winter. So why
a wouldn't the snakes have been eating so many mice,
b and the shingle backs have been eating the weeds then?
- 4 What did the farmers do so that they could get rid of the pests, but not harm the wildlife?

5 *Sustainable farming* is looking after the land so that crops and stock grow well, and caring for the native wildlife that lives there too.

Do you think the farmers in this story did this well? Why/not?

(for more on this see the 'Key Science Ideas page' at the end of the story.)



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- 1
 - a What is around the fences of the paddocks?
 - b What wildlife might live there?

- 2
 - a What sorts of stock grow on this farm?
 - b What sorts of crops grow on this farm?
 - c Which of these crops is not shown in the drawing?

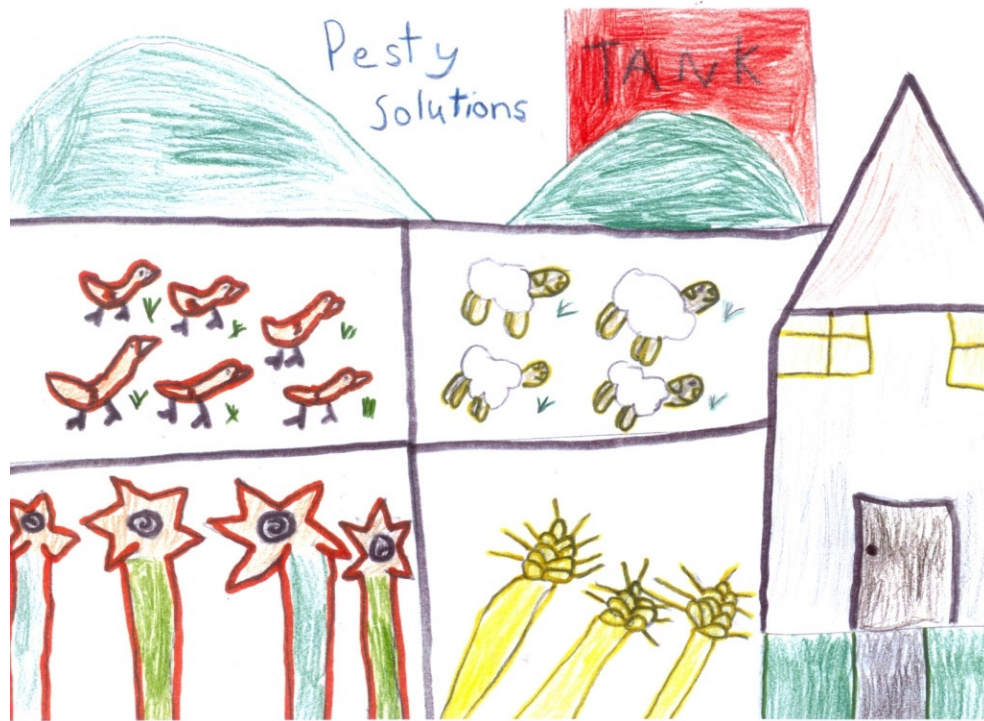
- 3
 - a What problems are the kangaroos doing to the crops?
 - b What problems are the rabbits doing to the crops?
 - c What problems are the foxes doing to the stock?

- 4
 - a How does the farmer protect his stock from the foxes?
 - b How does the farmer protect his crops from the rabbits?
 - c How does the farmer protect his crops from the kangaroos?

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- 1 a From where does the irrigator in the picture get its water?
- 2 a What problem are the rabbits making?
b How does shooting the rabbits look after the eagles?
c What use is made of the rabbits that are shot?
- 3 a What problem do the wild dogs make for the sheep?
b What use is made of dead rabbits for the wild dog problem?
- 4 a What problems do paddy melon make?
b What do they look like?
c How does the farmer get them out of his crop?

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- 1
 - a What crops is the farmer growing on the sand dune country?
 - b Can you tell which is which in the picture? (How?)

- 2
 - a What pest is eating the wheat?
 - b What are the bats eating?
 - c What time of the day do they come out to feed?

- 3
 - a Where do bats like to sleep?
 - b How many bats can you count sleeping in the trees?
 - c When do bats sleep?

- 4
 - a Why did the farmer need to protect bats from people?
 - b Why did the farmer need to look after his old gum trees?

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