

My Life as a Farmer

Read the narrative by a farmer named Alicia and answer the questions that follow.



I grew up on a small farm. My parents and grandparents were all farmers. Growing up, I didn't want to be a farmer. My parents didn't take a day off from work, not even when they were sick! Farming isn't a job. It's a life.

I went to college and learned how farms like my family's help keep local economies strong. They give people jobs and fresh, healthy food to eat. After college, I came home and have been working on our farm ever since.

Farming is hard work! My muscles are always sore from heavy lifting. My mind is tired from studying our finances and making tough decisions.

The best part of my job is hearing how people enjoy the food the farm produces. I visited a school this week that serves food from our farm. A teacher told me that since they started serving food from local farms like mine, the students had been eating more vegetables. He said, "Kids often ask for seconds on salads!" That makes the hard work totally worth it.

-Alicia

1. Why did Alicia not want to be a farmer when she was growing up? Why did she change her mind?
2. Why do you think Alicia continues her life as a farmer, in spite of the hard work?
3. Do you think you could be a farmer? Why or why not?

DID YOU KNOW?

Cows are like snowflakes. No two are exactly the same. Each cow has a different pattern of spots.

