

# Mystery in the Chicken Yard



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# Enviro Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

**[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)**

In 2014, the “Farming Families” Enviro-Stories program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about farming, farming communities and sustainable farming practices. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Research & Development Corporation, North West and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services.

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## *Cotton Research & Development Corporation*

Cotton Research & Development Corporation (CRDC) is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian cotton industry. CRDC invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and extension projects that seek to enhance the environmental, social and economic values associated with cotton production systems for the benefit of cotton industry participants, regional communities and the Australian people.

**[www.crdc.com.au](http://www.crdc.com.au)**

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## *Local Land Services*

Local Land Services delivers customer-focussed services to farmers, landholders and the community across rural and regional NSW. Local Land Services bring together agricultural production advice, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management into a single organisation. This program has been supported by both the North West Local Land Services and the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services.

**[www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)**

# Mystery in the Chicken Yard

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The “Farming Families” Enviro-Stories program has been proudly supported by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, North West Local Land Services and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services. This program was held in support of the United Nations 2014 International Year of Family Farming.



The “Farming Families” collection consists of the following books:

- A Farming Family
- Rearing Polly
- Eddie the Echidna
- Mystery in the Chicken Yard
- Mya and Jack’s Experience of Cotton
- Pest Troubles
- Farmer Matt Saves the Day
- A Sustainable Farm
- Going to the Cattle Yards

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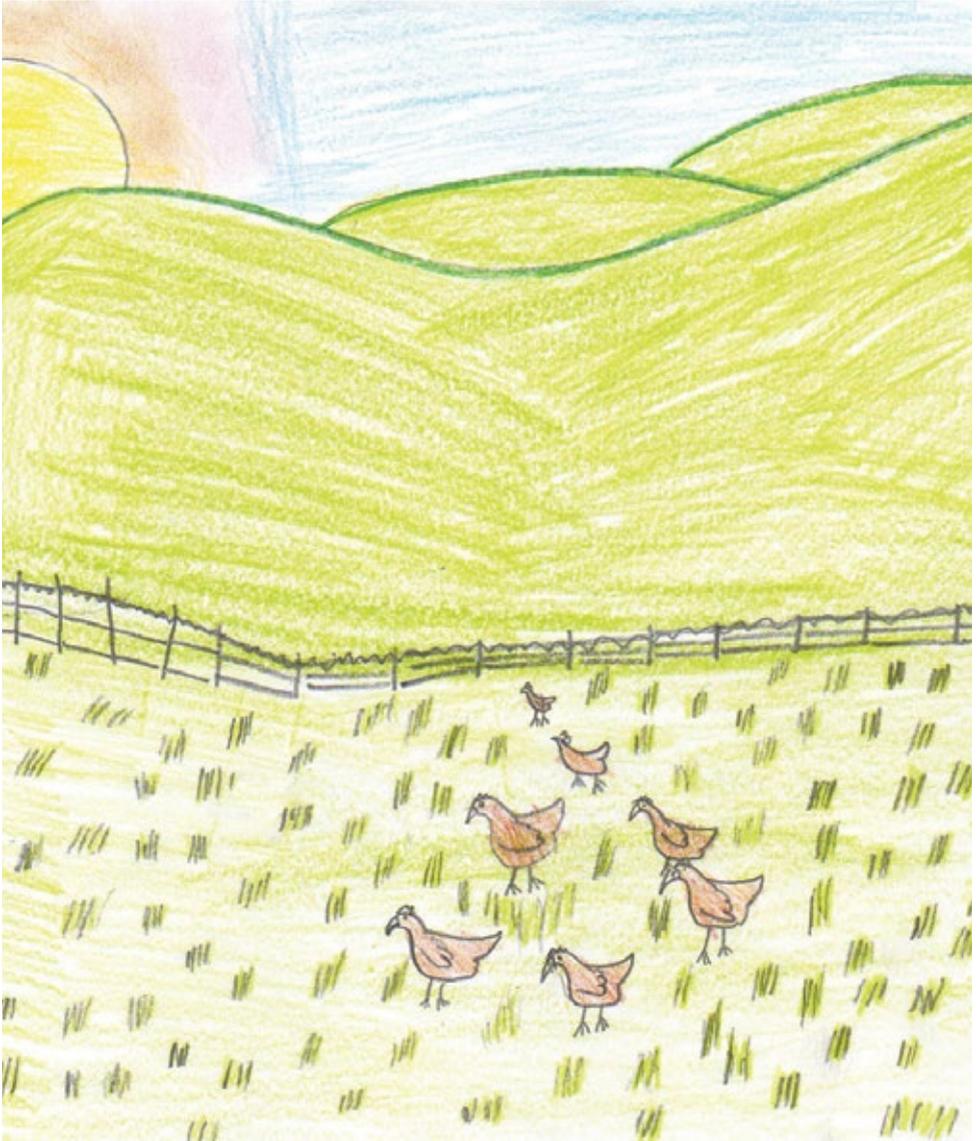
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In the spring time on a chicken farm there lived a farmer named James.

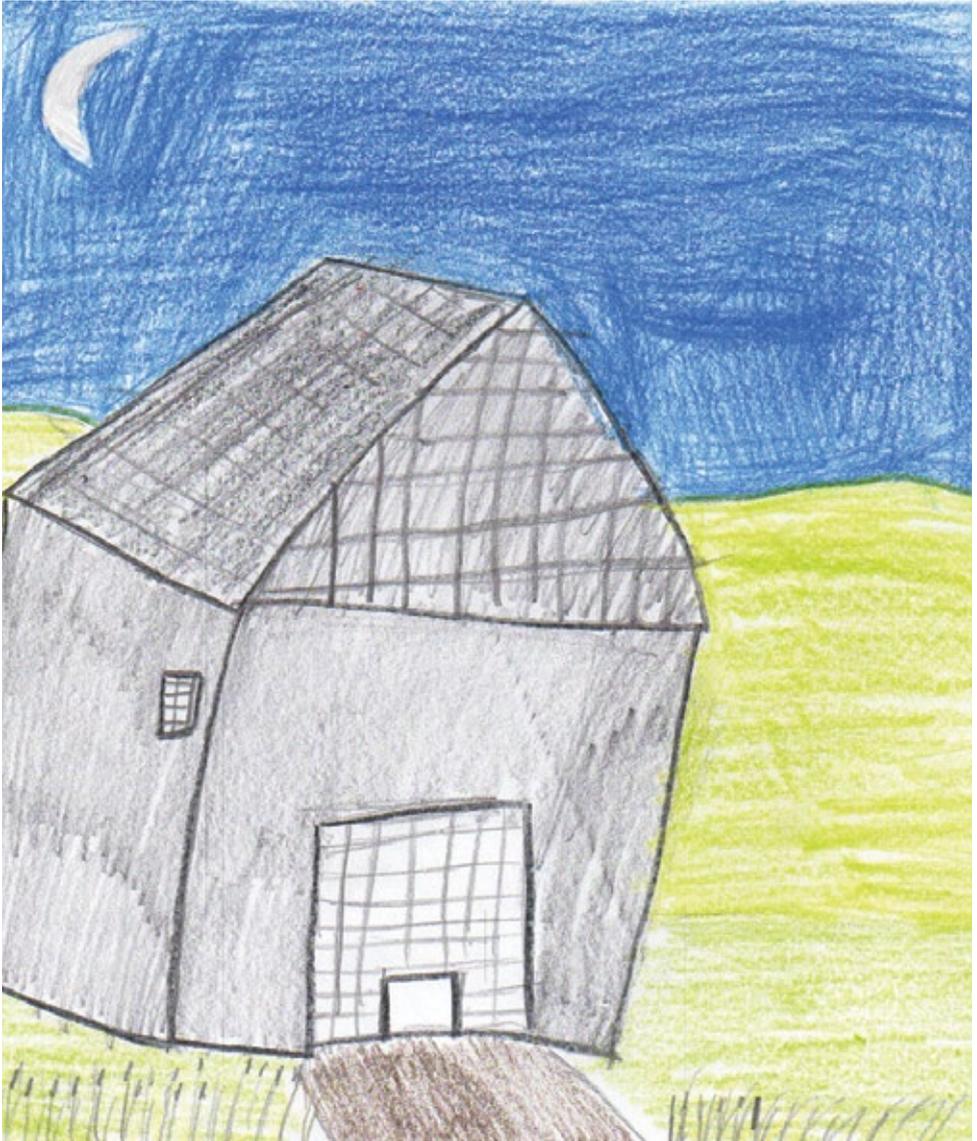


James had a wife named Tahlia. She collected over 1000 eggs every day. Tahlia would package up all the eggs into cartons and send them to the local shops.



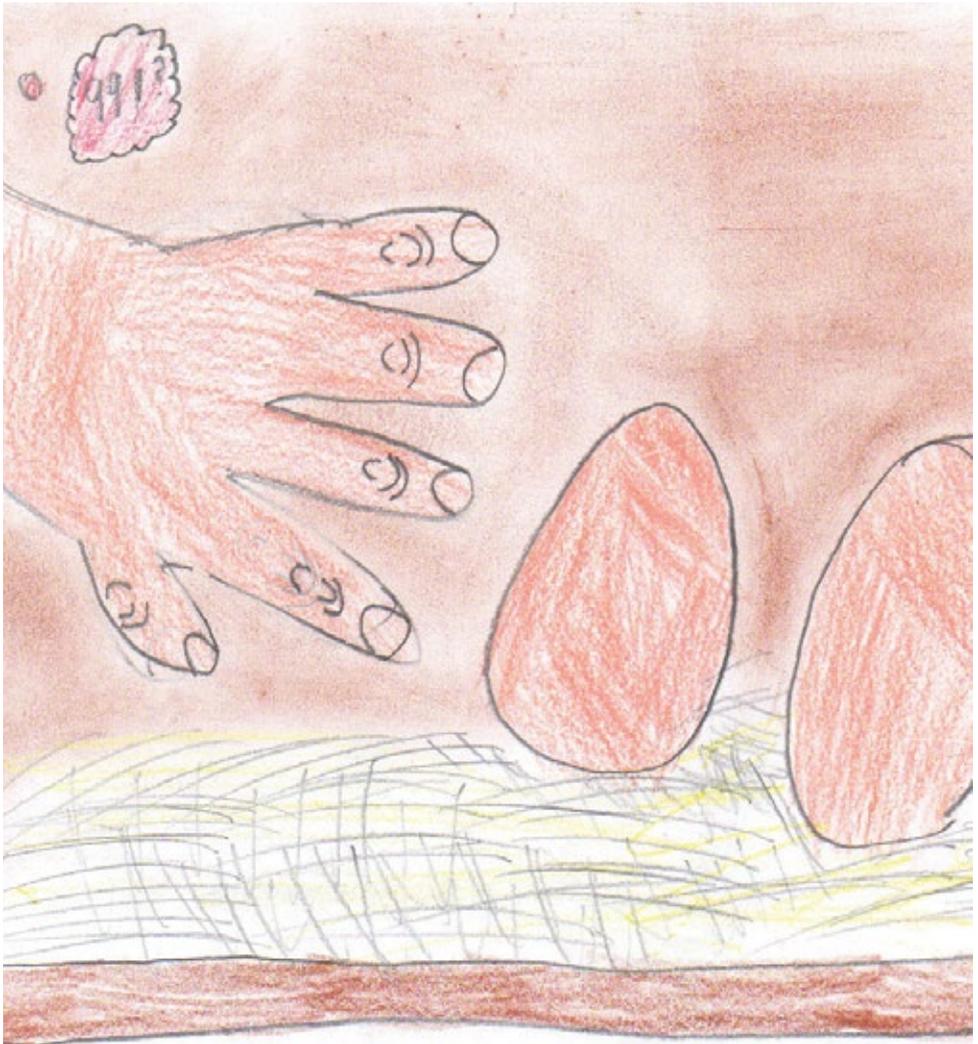


The chickens on their farm were free-range and not caged. During the day they enjoy the fresh air and scratch for bugs grass and seeds in the paddock.

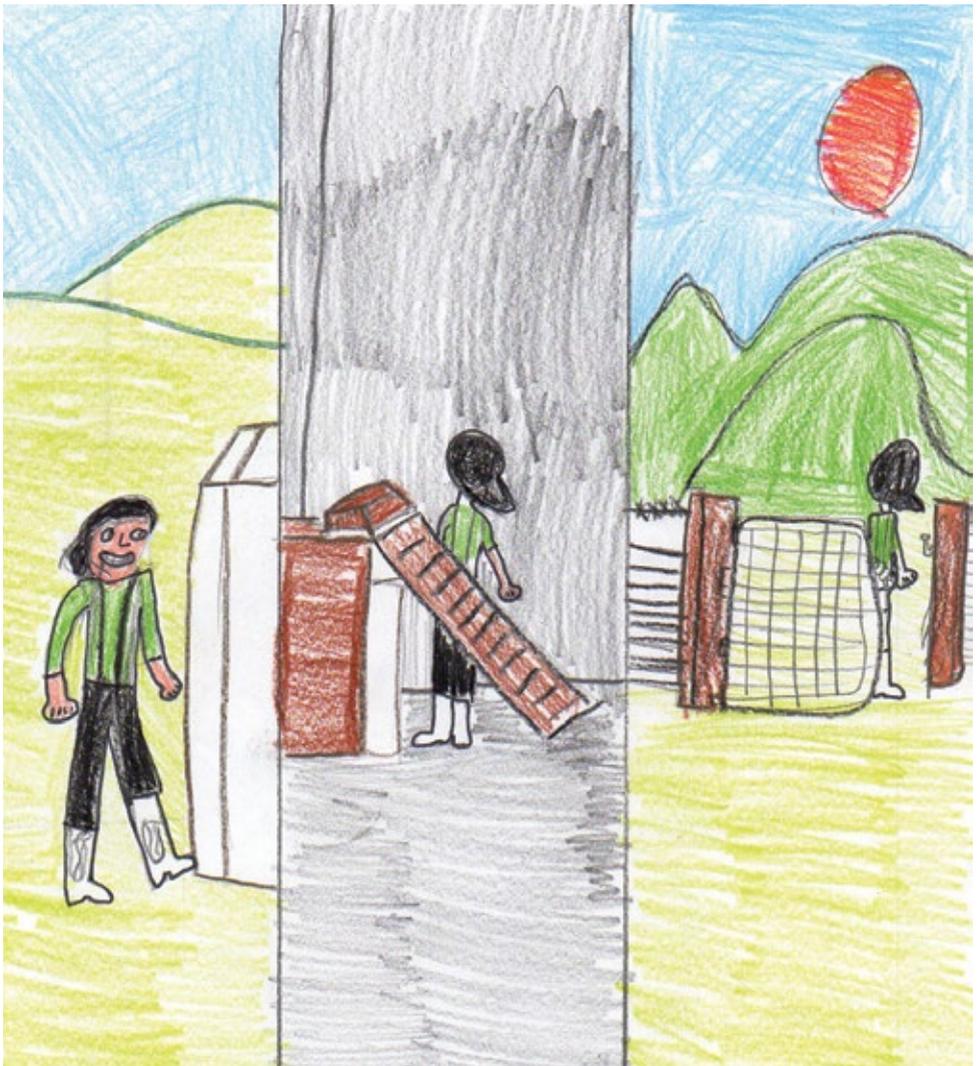


Each night James rounded the chickens into an enormous chook house for them to sleep in. They had boxes inside where they laid their eggs.

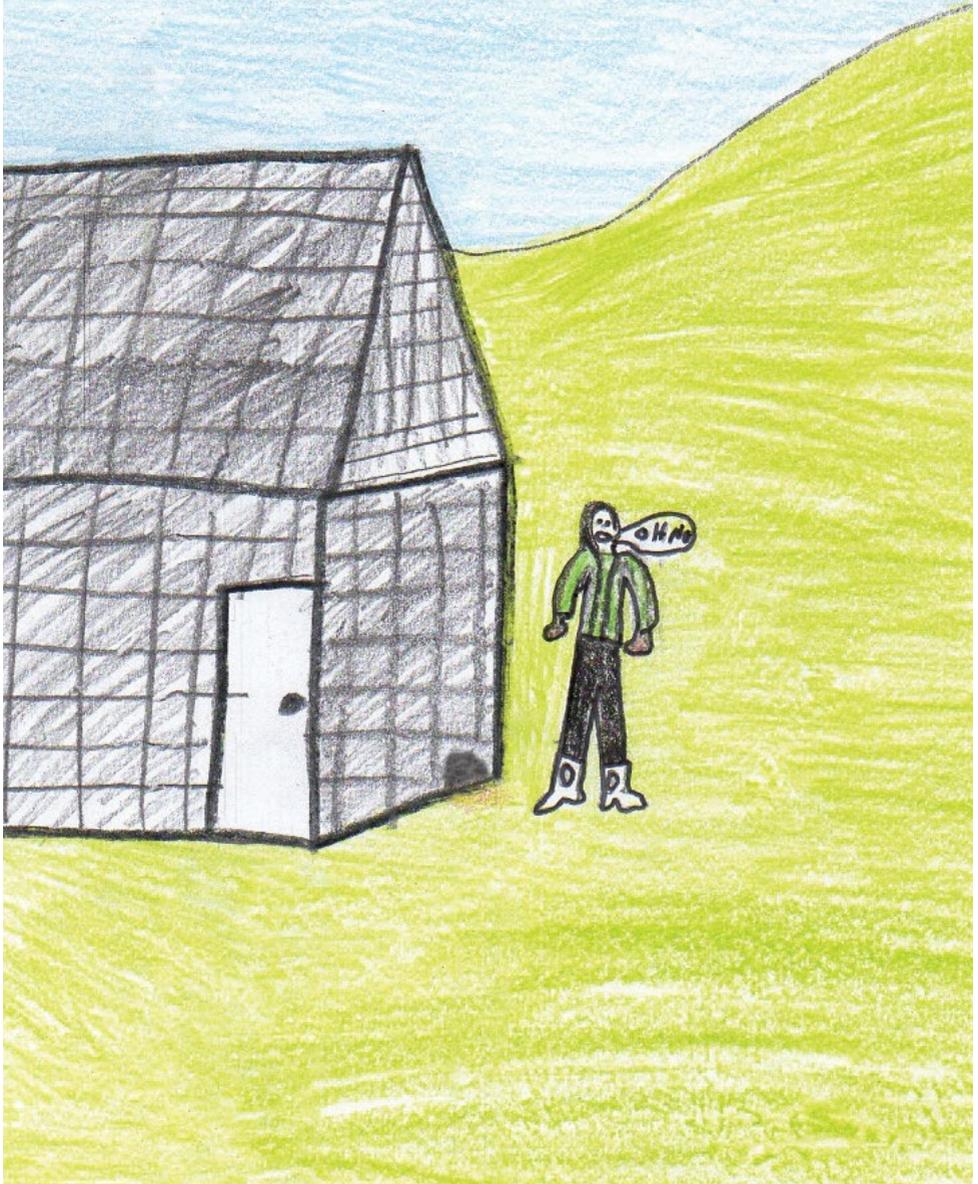
One morning Tahlia went into the shed to let the chickens out. She checked the eggs and was confused about why there weren't as many eggs as usual.

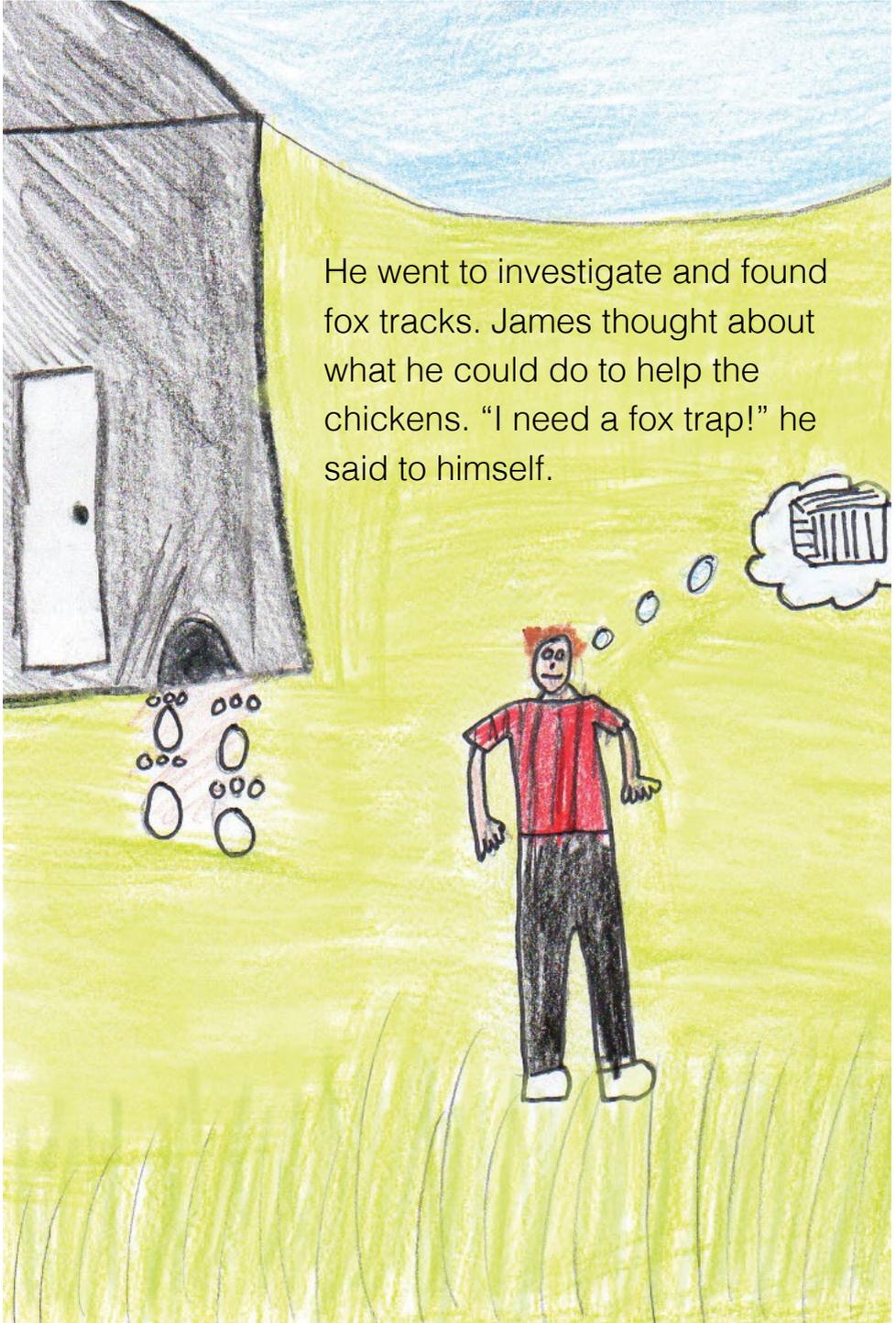


Tahlia went on a search for the missing eggs. She went around the corner, past the chook laying boxes and through the gate into their paddock. She looked, and looked...but found no more eggs. "What could have happened to the eggs?" she thought.

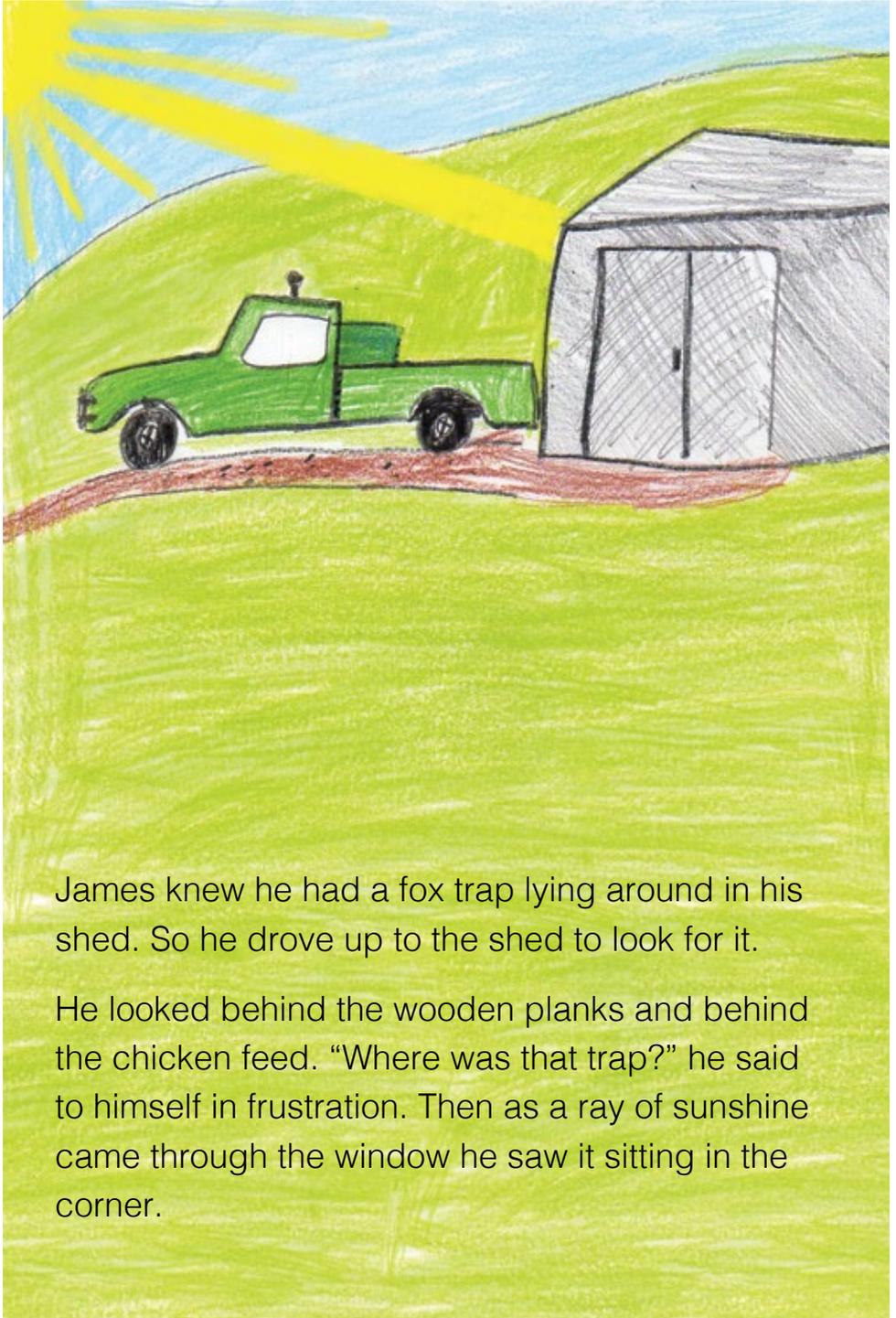


On her way back, Tahlia found something much worse...a hole in the shed! She immediately got in the car and raced up to the paddock towards the house. She told James the problem.





He went to investigate and found fox tracks. James thought about what he could do to help the chickens. "I need a fox trap!" he said to himself.

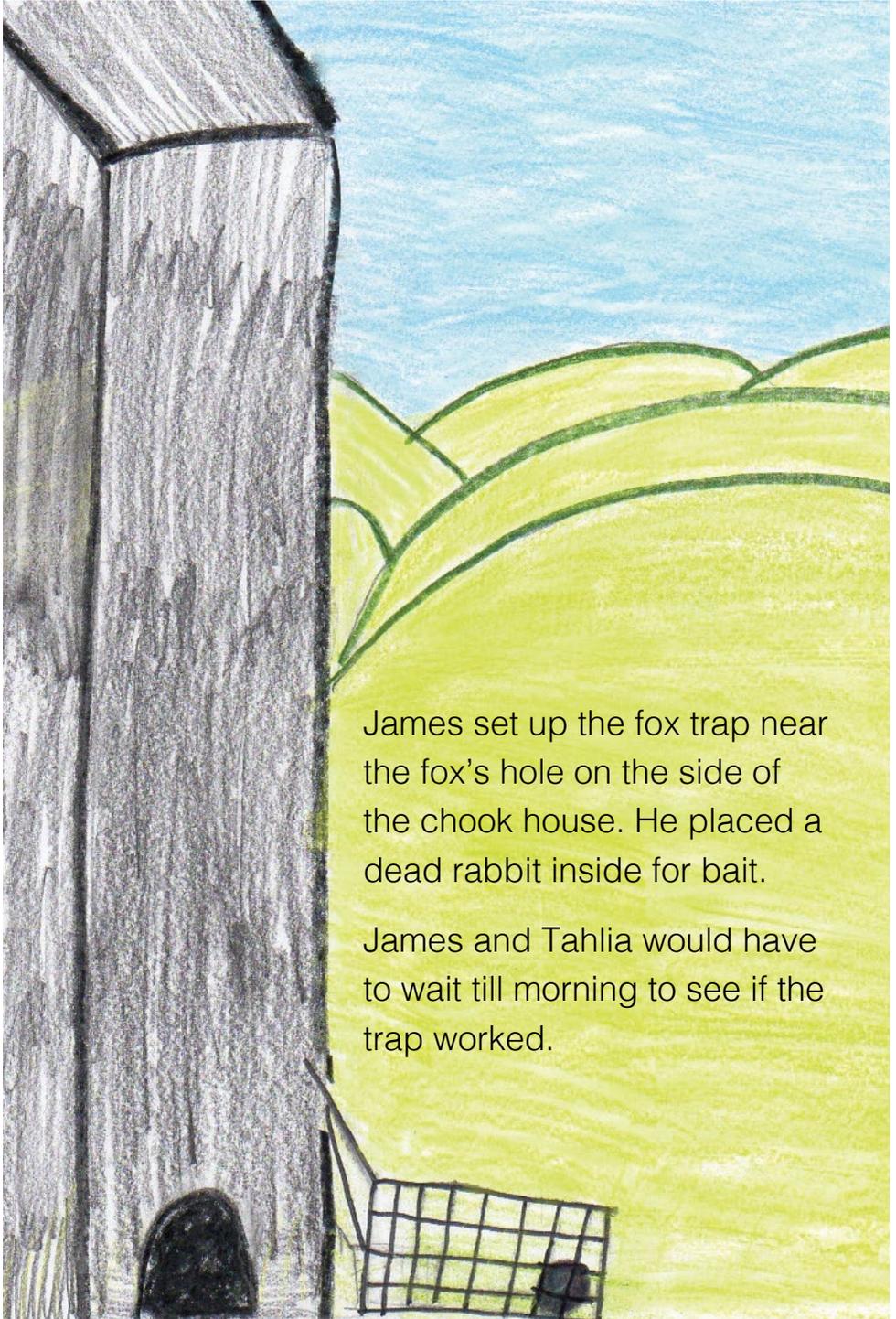


James knew he had a fox trap lying around in his shed. So he drove up to the shed to look for it.

He looked behind the wooden planks and behind the chicken feed. “Where was that trap?” he said to himself in frustration. Then as a ray of sunshine came through the window he saw it sitting in the corner.

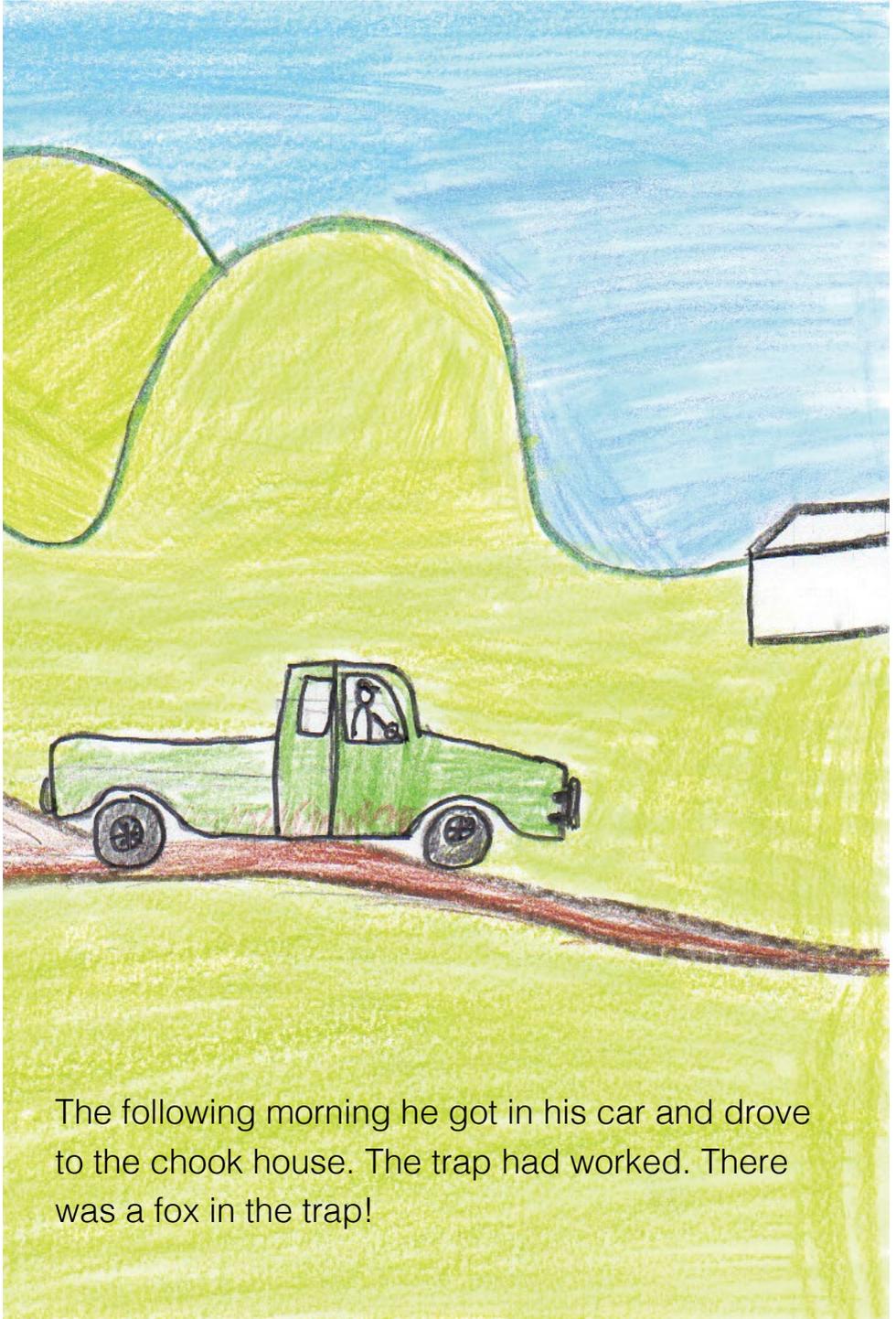
James put the fox trap in the boot and went back to the chook house to set it up.



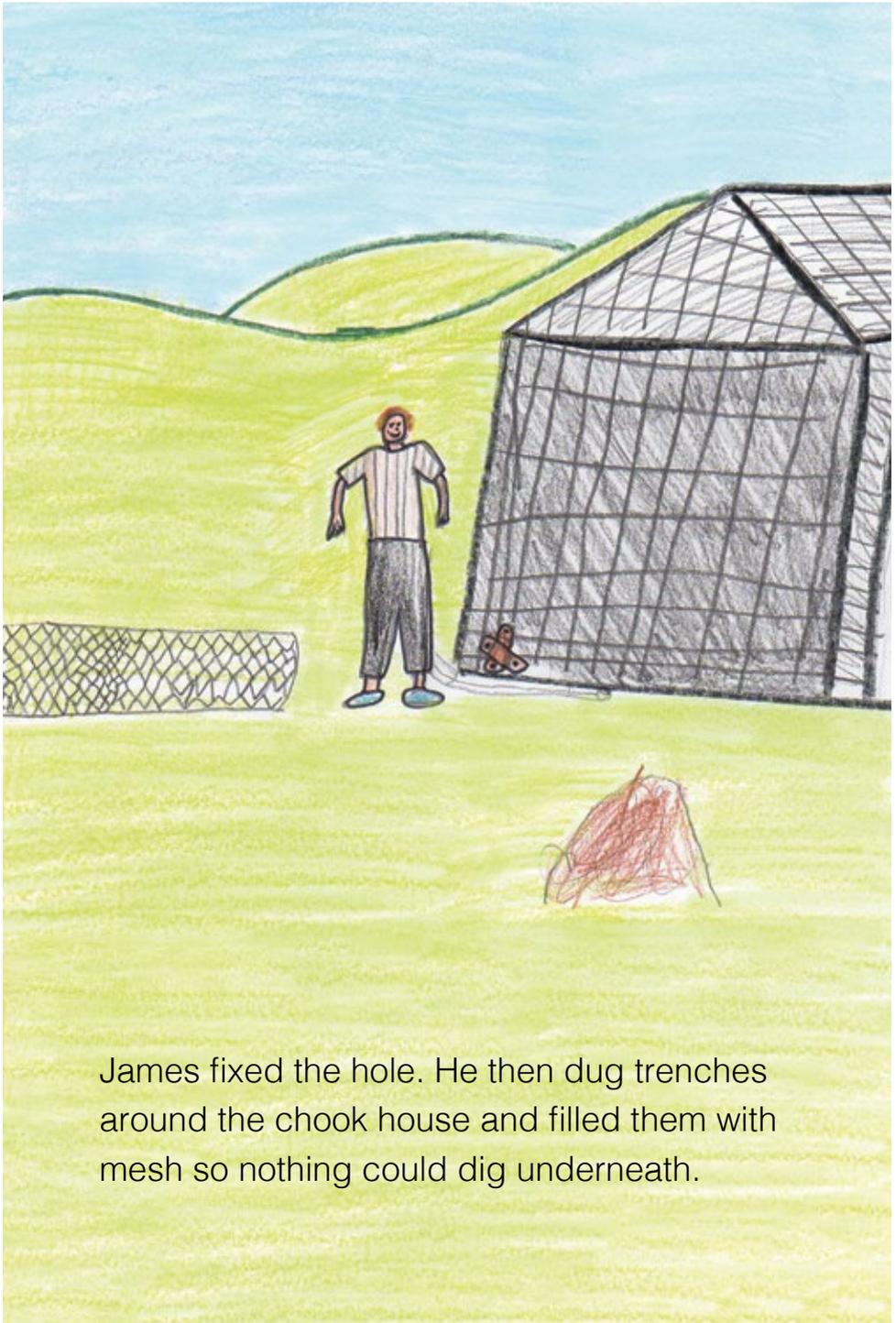


James set up the fox trap near the fox's hole on the side of the chook house. He placed a dead rabbit inside for bait.

James and Tahlia would have to wait till morning to see if the trap worked.



The following morning he got in his car and drove to the chook house. The trap had worked. There was a fox in the trap!



James fixed the hole. He then dug trenches around the chook house and filled them with mesh so nothing could dig underneath.

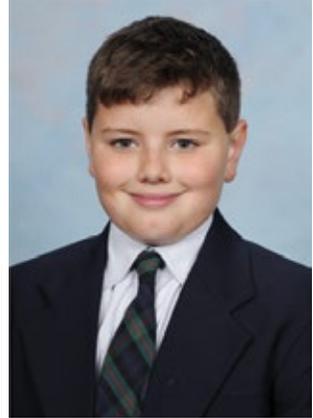


Once everything around the chook house was completed, James and Tahlia were happy. They could relax because they knew their chickens were safe. The chook house was never invaded by foxes again.



Feral animals like rabbits, foxes, pigs, goats, dogs, cats and deer can cause a lot of damage to farms. They prey on the livestock, compete for food or damage the crops and pastures. By managing feral animals, farmers can protect their livestock and crops from unnecessary damage.





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**Australian Government**  
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Development Corporation**



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