

Our Farms are Our Future



Year 3-6 Class
Boomi Public School



Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for primary schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2012, the “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about life on the farm. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Australian Government’s Caring for our Country, Central West and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authorities and Cotton Australia.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Australian Government’s Caring for our Country

Caring for our Country is one way the Australian Government funds environmental management of our natural resources by supporting communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia’s natural environment and sustainability.

www.nrm.gov.au

Central West CMA

The Central West CMA is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA strives for balanced production and conservation within resilient landscapes. The catchment is located in northern New South Wales, just west of the Great Diving Range.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia’s cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in New South Wales and Queensland.

www.cottonaustralia.com.au

Our Farms are Our Future

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School: Boomi Public School

The “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program consists of the following books:

Sponsored by Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and Caring for our Country

- Fluffy’s Getting Shorn
- A Great Turnaround
- The New Farm
- The Farmer Changes His Ways
- I Own it All
- Drought and Flooding Rains

Sponsored by Central West CMA

- My Life on a Sheep Farm
- A Weekend on our Farm
- Farm Animals
- Life on the Farm

Sponsored by both the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and the Central West CMA

- Euchareena School Gardening

Sponsored by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

- Hoot the Owl Saves the Day
- Our Farms are Our Future
- Life as a Sheep
- What we have on Farms

Sponsored by Cotton Australia

- Cotton on ‘Koramba’

ISBN: 978-0-9808669-6-4

The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeekKdesigns initiative.
Graphic design by PeekKdesigns, www.peekkdesigns.com.au
Printed by Greenridge Press, www.greenridgepress.com.au

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Citation: Year 3-6 Class Boomi Public School. 2012. *Our Farms are Our Future*. Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority, NSW.



In our Year 3-6 class at Boomi Public School we all have something to do with farms.

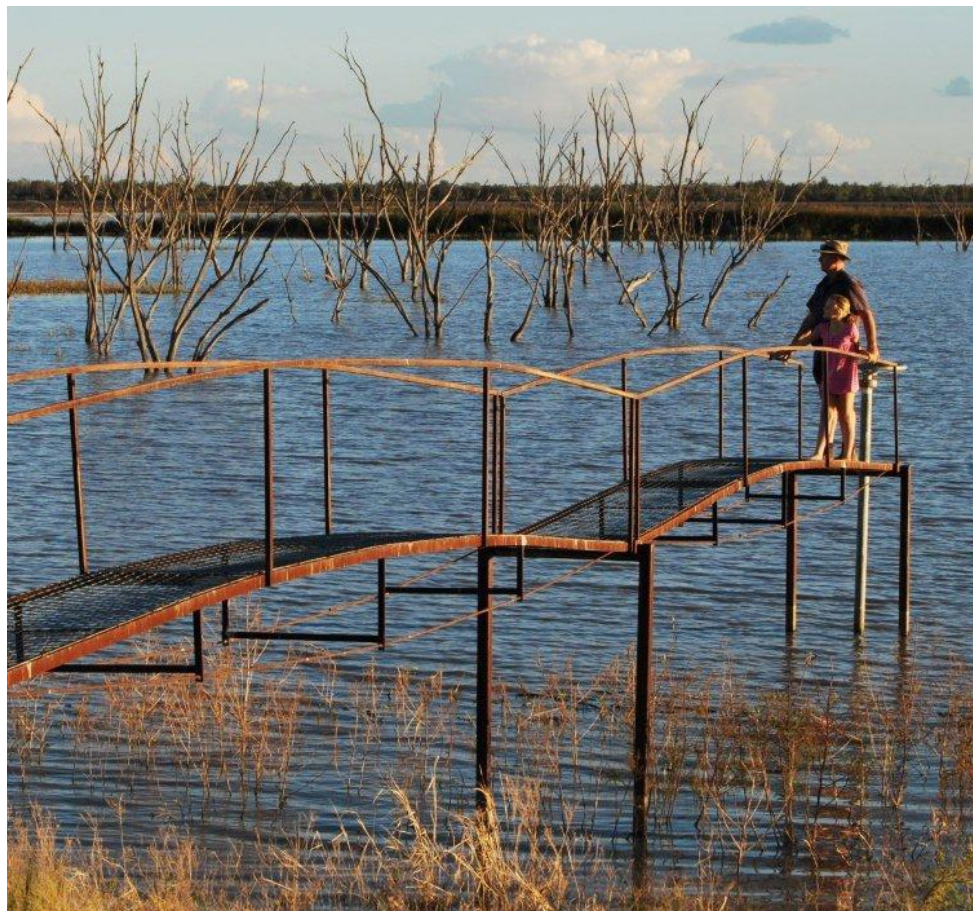
Our families know the environment has to be taken care of in order to have successful farms.



Cotton is a major industry in the Boomi area and employs a lot of people.

Half of the families in our class have something to do with the cotton industry.

It is very important we take care of our environment so we can grow healthy cotton.



Having water is a vital part of growing cotton.

We must conserve our water and use it wisely.
Some ways we do this are by building water
storages, regulating water licences and some
water is used more than once - it is recycled.



Boomi has a cotton gin and this employs many people, generating a lot of money.

Did you know that the fibre from one 227 kg cotton bale can produce:

215 pairs of jeans
750 shirts
2,100 boxer shorts
4,300 pairs of socks

250 single bed sheets
1,200 t-shirts
3,000 nappies

A quarter of the families in our class are involved in the wool industry.

The wool industry is an old Australian and Boomi industry and is very important to Australia.



Sheep need open pastures so they can eat grass and some crops. We need to manage our pastures by keeping out introduced weeds.

Sheep also need to be drenched and dipped to get rid of worms, lice and other nasties.



The main product we get from sheep in our area is wool. Wool is used to make many products that you wear every day.

Shearing time is busy and you need shearers, wool classers, wool pressers and rouseabouts to do all the work.





Beef cattle are another important industry in the Boomi area. In our class about ten percent of the families farm beef cattle. The beef industry is also an old industry in Australia and in our district.



It is important to manage the impact the cattle have on the environment by not letting them overgraze our native vegetation. In winter we help the native grasses recover by growing oats, chick peas and barley for the cattle to eat.



Once the cattle reach a certain weight we muster them, load them onto trucks and send them to the saleyards. Two of our families sell cattle to Woolworths and Coles supermarkets.

In our class fifteen percent of the families main farming practice is growing food crops for animals and humans. Some of these crops include wheat, sorghum, lucerne, barley, oats, cotton, pigeon peas, lab lab and faba beans. Boomi farmers help feed the people of Australia and the world.



The soil is very important to our farmers and the environment. It provides a foundation for crops, trees and grasses to grow. The soil provides a home for earthworms that are very important to soil health. Our soils also provide homes to many other creatures that make up our diverse ecosystem.



Harvest time is a very busy time. We harvest crops to sell so people can eat. Sometimes crops are affected by the environment through floods, droughts, storms and introduced feral animals such as pigs and goats.



The four industries (cotton, sheep, cattle, and crops) create a future for the kids and families of our community. Our farms are our future!

Some of our families have been farming in Boomi for four generations. Farming is our future, and the health of our environment and how we manage it, will enable us to continue this tradition.





Here are some of the many pictures students sent in for our book. We were unable to fit them all in but thank the students and families at Boomi Public School for helping make our book.

“Our Farms are Our Future!”



Year 3-6 Class
Boomi Public School, 2012

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CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Central West



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Border Rivers-Gwydir



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**