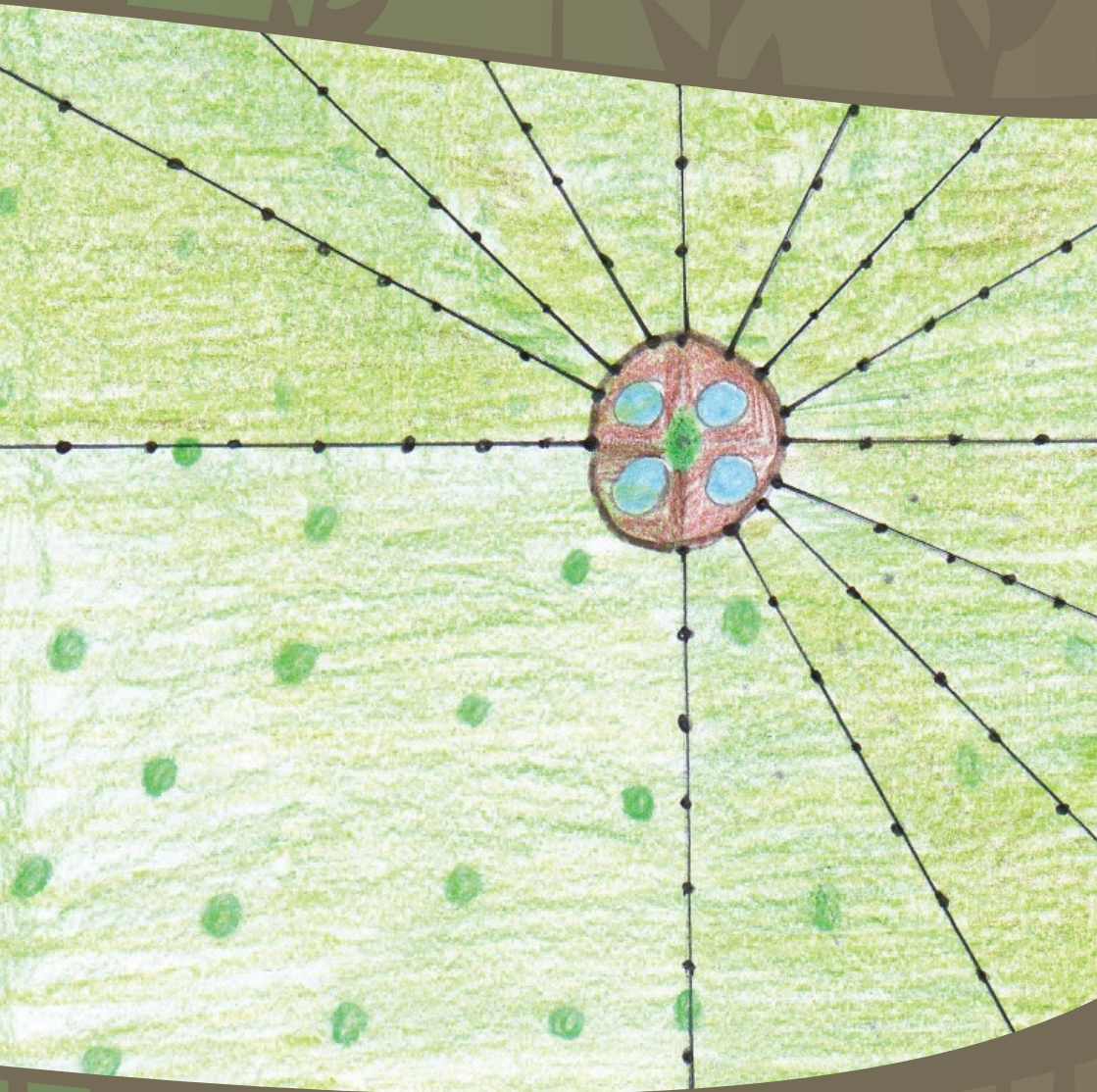


# A Sustainable Farm



Felix Johnson  
Narrabri Public School



# 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)**

# A Sustainable Farm

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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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The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

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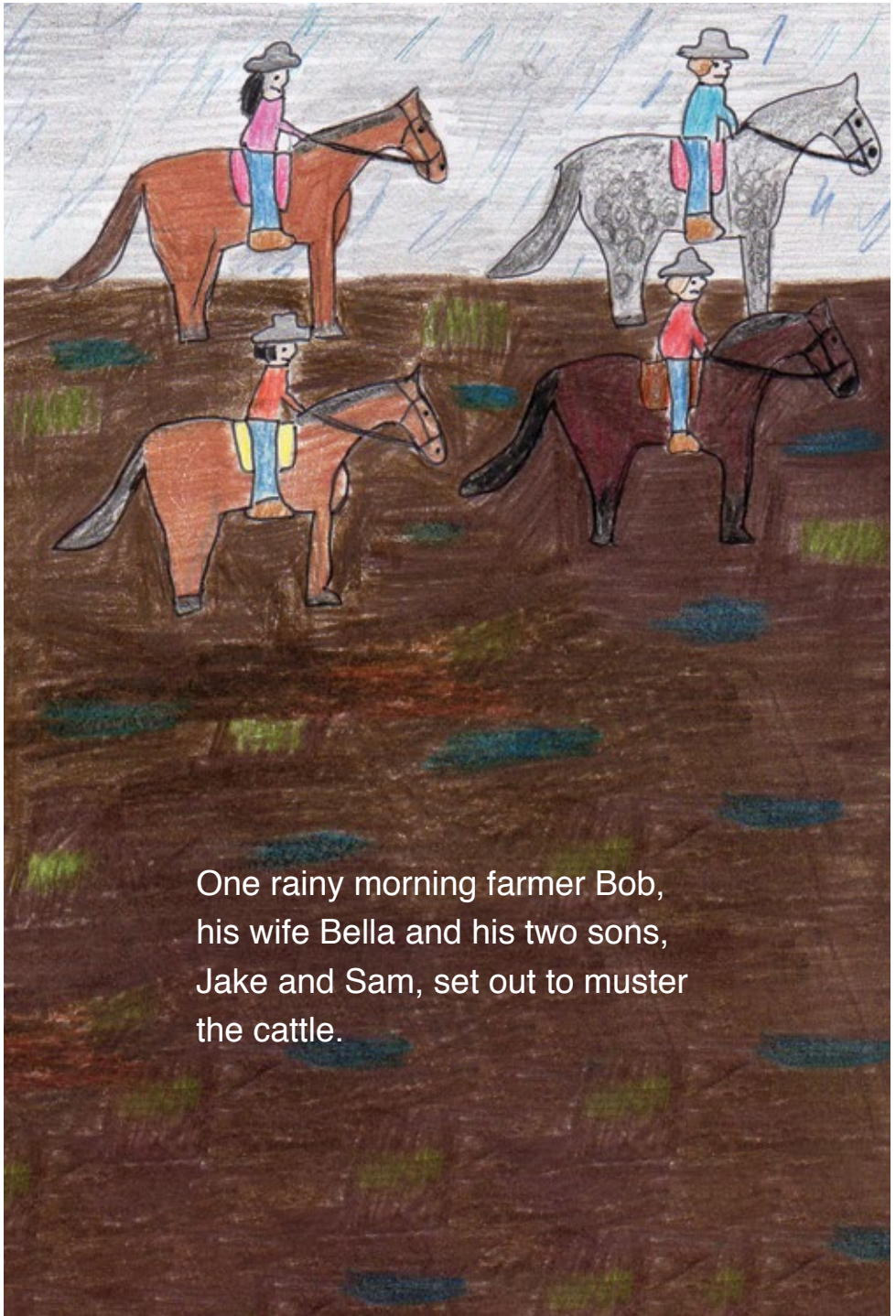
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On a daily basis Bob looked for new, better ways to manage his farm. This was so his family could earn enough money to pay for all the expenses on the farm.



One rainy morning farmer Bob, his wife Bella and his two sons, Jake and Sam, set out to muster the cattle.

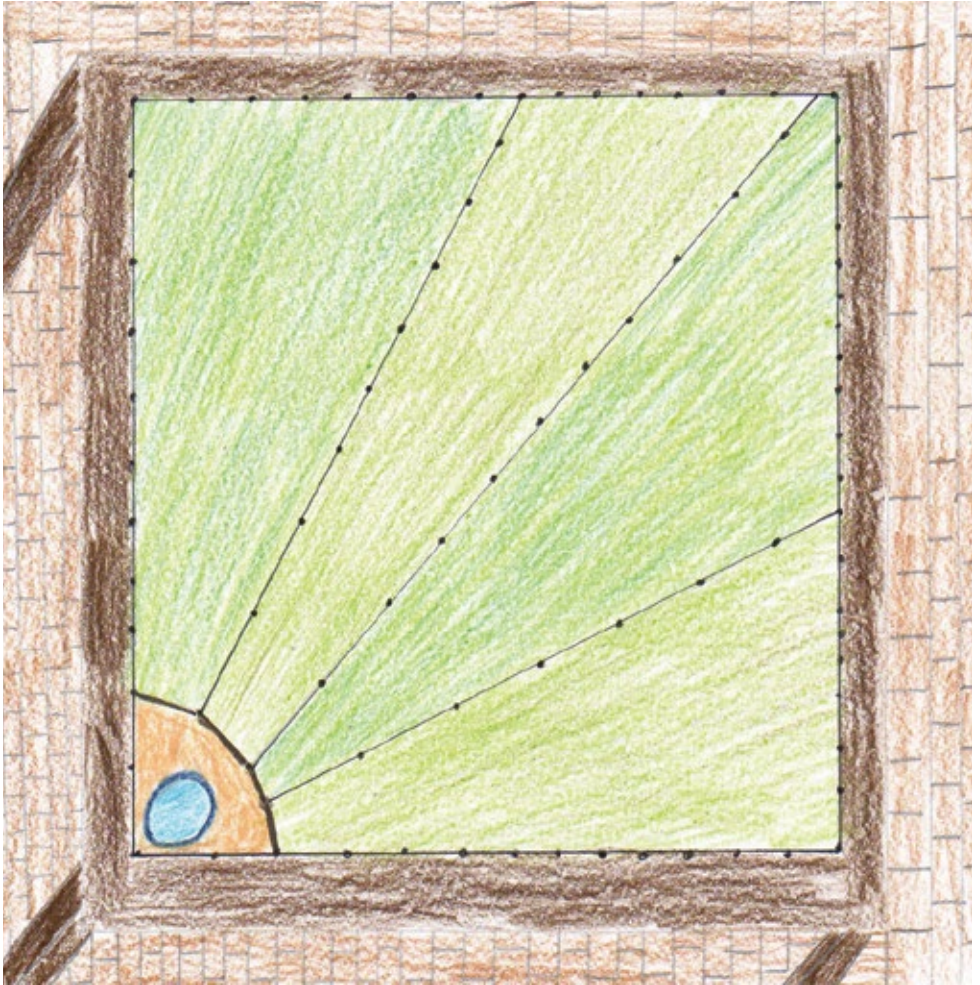
When they arrived at the huge cow-grazing paddocks they noticed a big problem.

Bob and the dogs rounded up all the cows, then checked the surrounding paddocks. The cattle had chewed out all of the grass from both of these paddocks. Bob's other paddocks still needed to recover from previous grazing.

He discussed the problem with his family and they decided to manage their grazing pastures better.

First, they would have to reduce their cattle numbers. This would help decrease the amount of grass they needed to sustain the herd. The cattle they kept would also be bigger and stronger as they had more food to eat.





Bob's family decided to put up lots of fences to divide the bigger paddocks into smaller ones. The cattle would be split up into groups and rotated through the new, smaller paddocks. By making smaller grazing paddocks, the grasses would have more time to recover after the cattle fed on them.





Bob rang up the Farm Supplies Centre and ordered the reels of wire, metal posts and other materials they needed for the fencing.

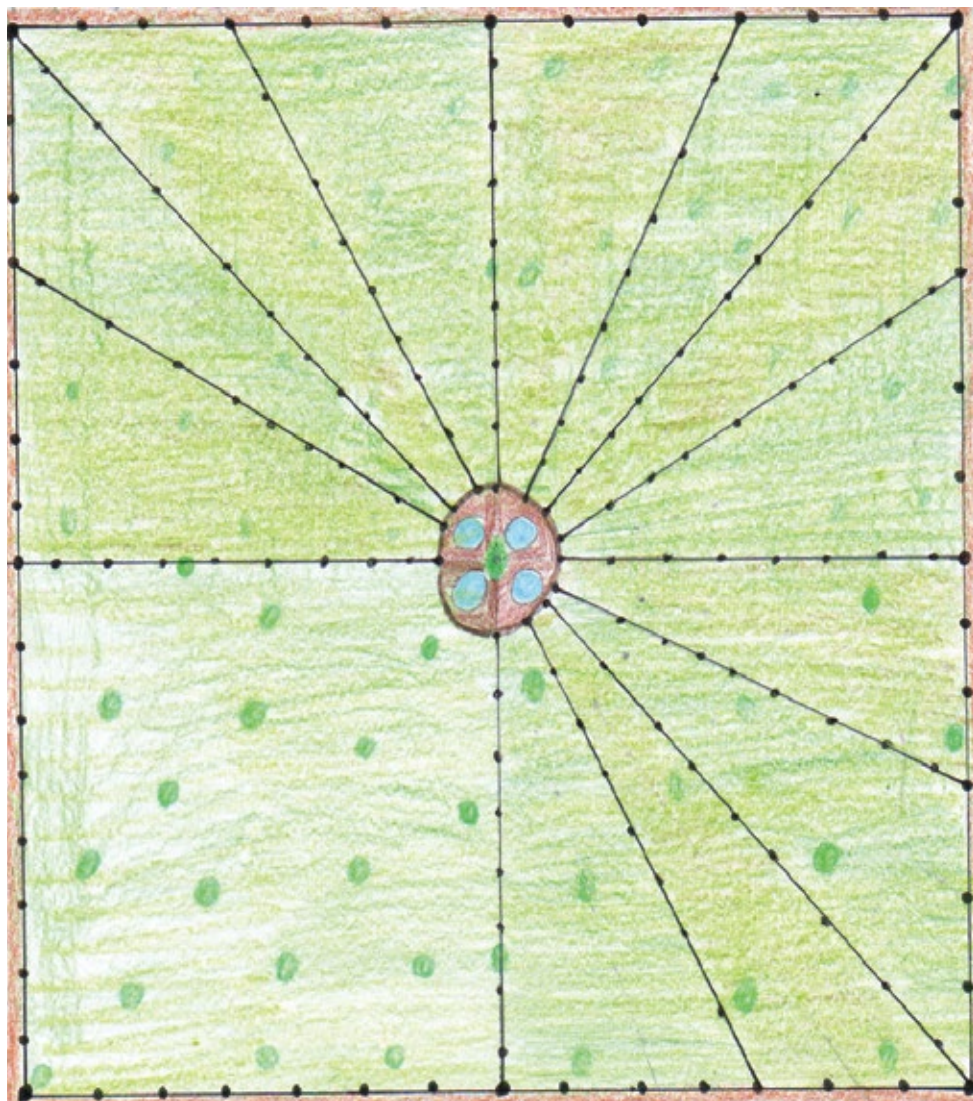
He then rang up his friends John, Tony and Pete to help with fencing, which he wanted to start straight away.

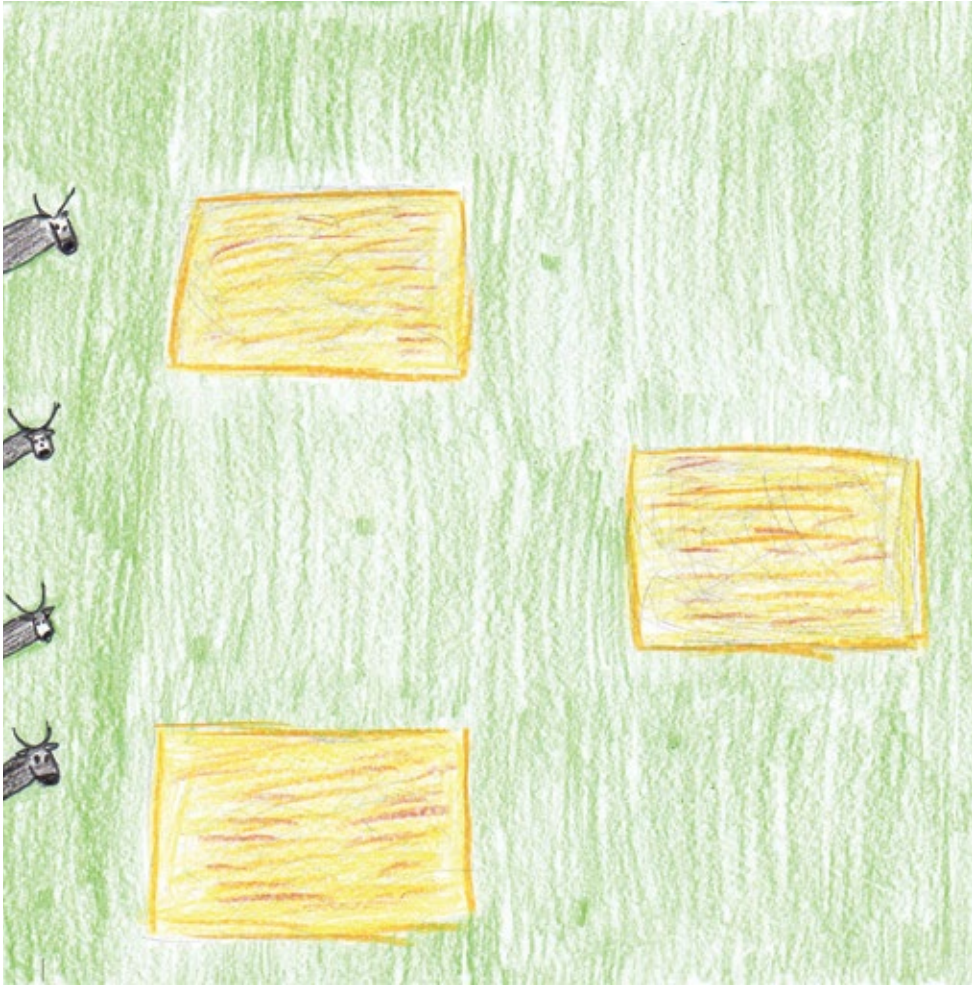
The next day Bella ordered three truckloads of hay to feed the cows until the paddocks were ready.

Bob, Sam, Jake, Tony, Pete and John got to work putting up the fences in the paddocks.



After two days of hard work, Bob, his friends and his sons had finished fencing three of the paddocks.

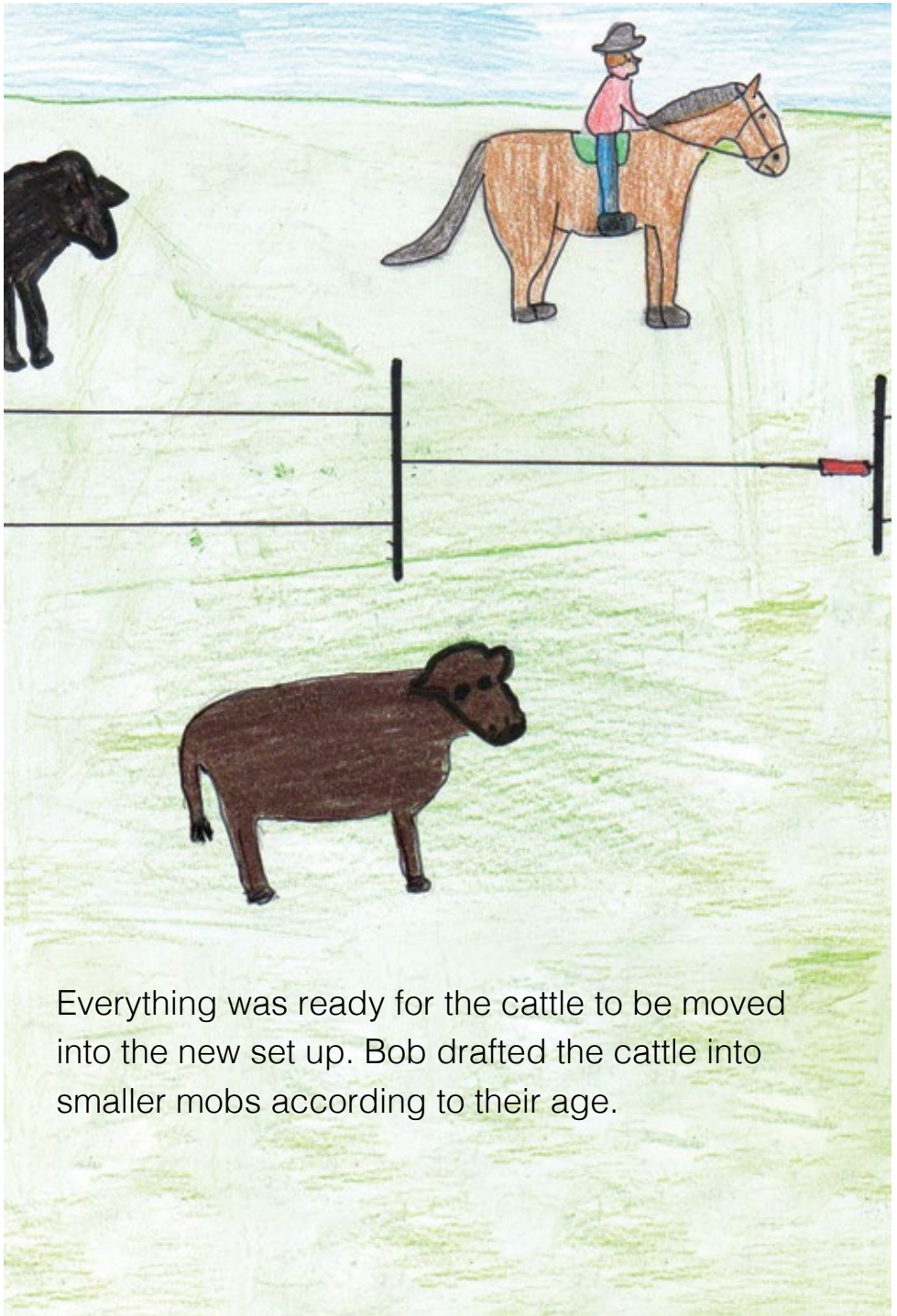




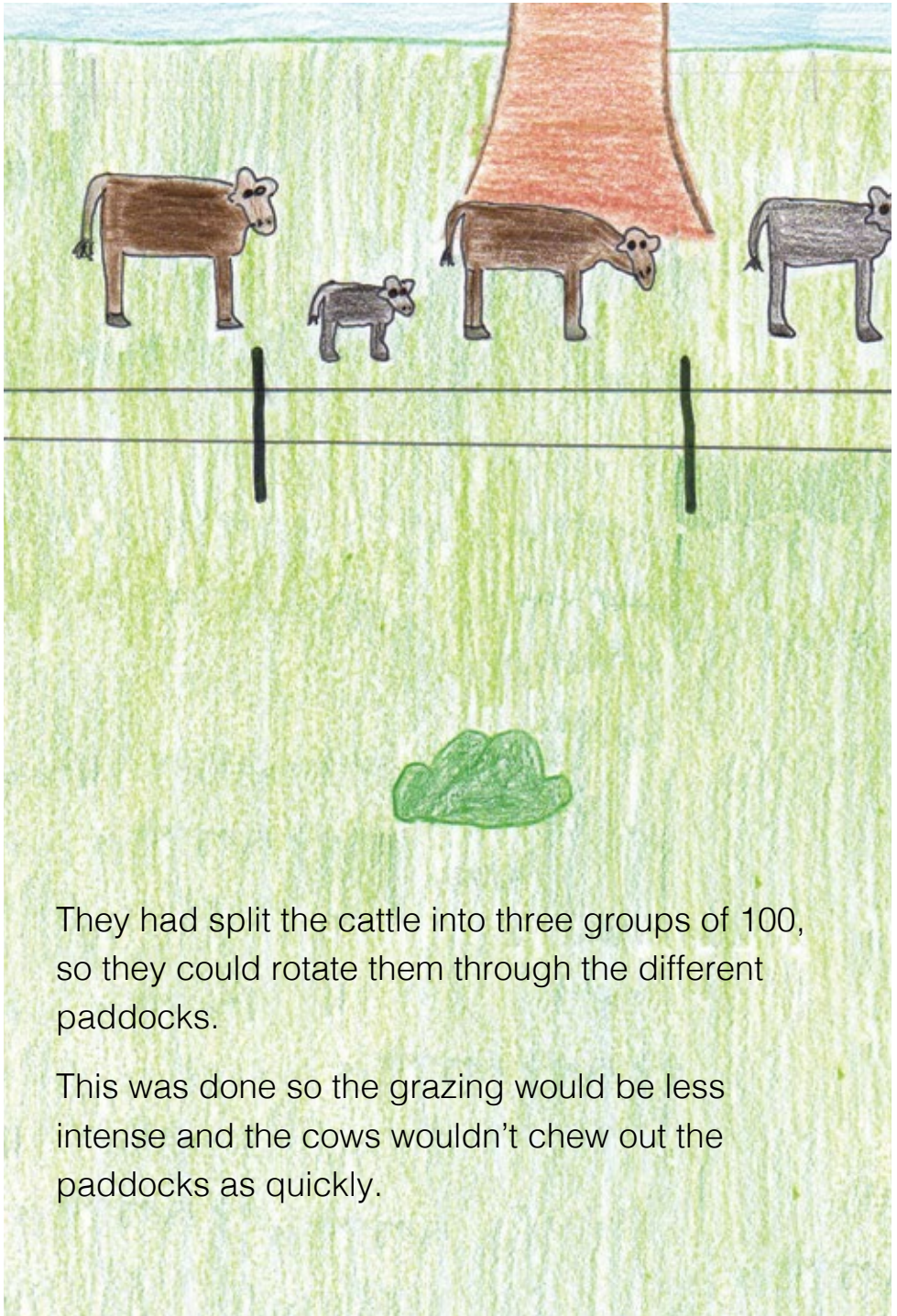
The next day, Bella again fed the cattle before they started fencing. Meanwhile, Bob went into town to get some more wire and posts. When he got home he drove out to the paddock and unloaded the fencing materials. He looked at the work they had already done and could see it all taking shape.



Soon the fencing was finished and the water troughs were all working well. The paddocks were set out like part of a wheel and Bob was very happy. Hopefully by protecting the pastures they would have a more sustainable and profitable farm.

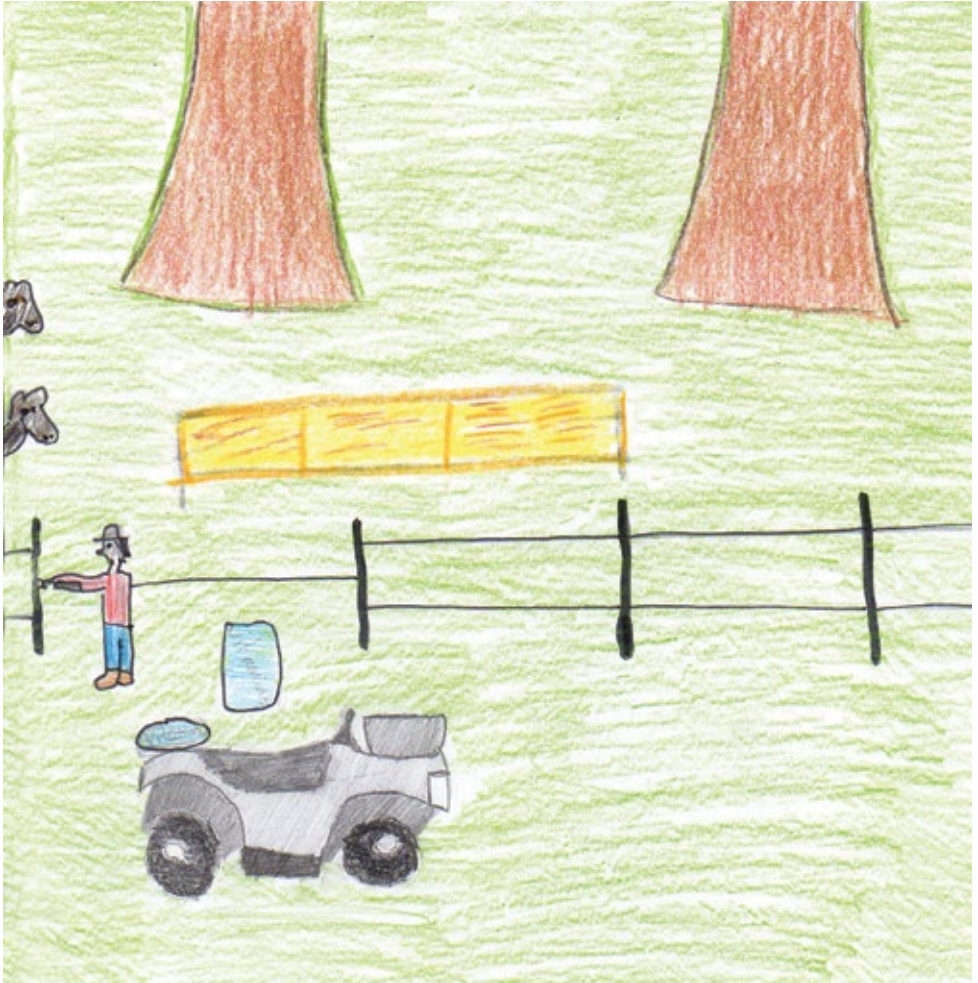


Everything was ready for the cattle to be moved into the new set up. Bob drafted the cattle into smaller mobs according to their age.



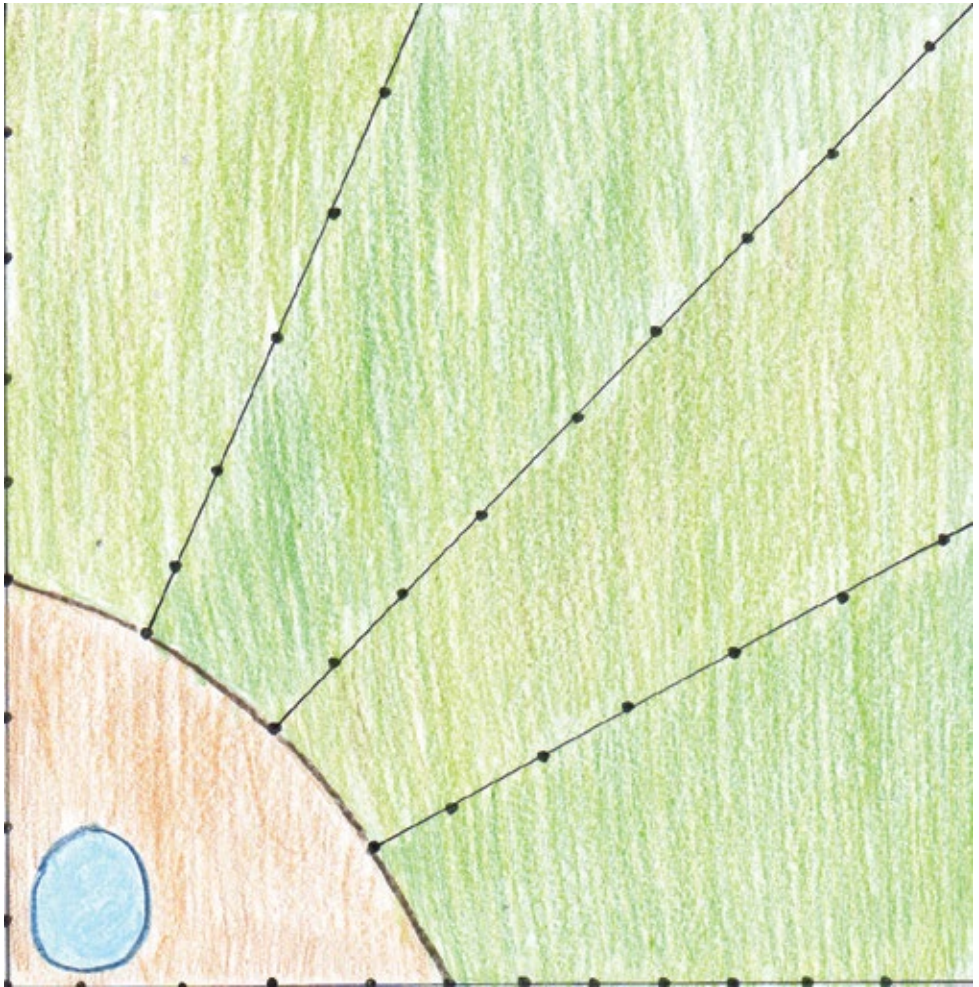
They had split the cattle into three groups of 100, so they could rotate them through the different paddocks.

This was done so the grazing would be less intense and the cows wouldn't chew out the paddocks as quickly.



Bob and Bella decided to supplement the cattle's food with hay a couple of times a week. This would help the cattle grow and stay healthy as well as reduce the pressure on the grazing paddocks.





This new way of running the farm helped the grass to regrow after the cows had been moved to the next cell. Their pastures grew quicker, were more luscious and the cows were bigger, healthier and fetched a better price at the sale yards.

Bob and his family now ran their farm in a more sustainable way. They look forward to their future farming success on their property.







Felix Johnson  
Narrabri Public School, Year 6 2014



**Australian Government**  
**Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation**



**Local Land  
Services**  
North West



**Local Land  
Services**  
Northern Tablelands