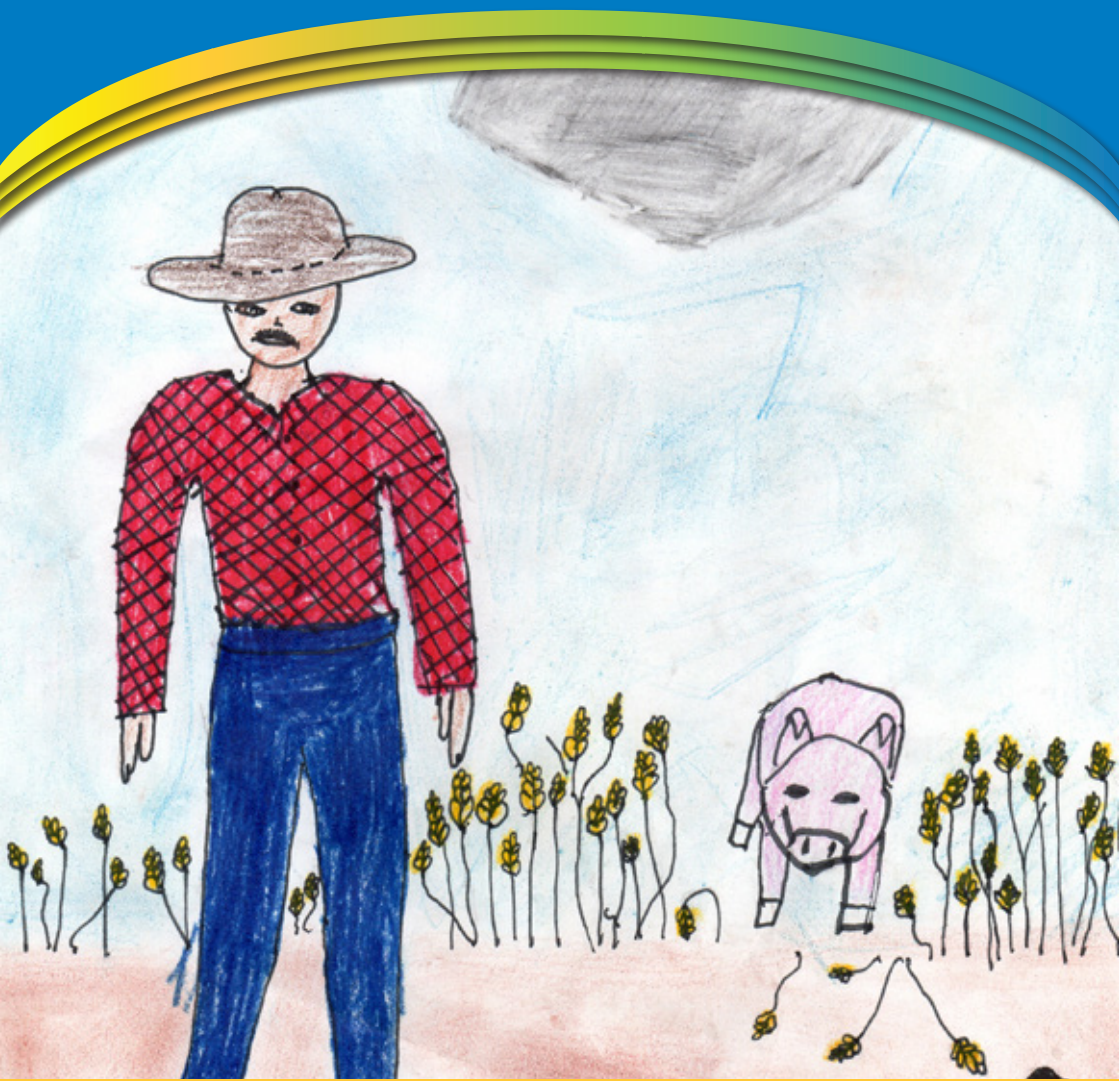


# Farmer Steven and the pig



Year 5/6

Leaning Tree Steiner 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)

## Northern Agricultural Catchments Council

The Northern Agricultural Catchments Council delivers activities and programs in combination with community groups, business and industry, non-government organisations, and all levels of government to conserve and enhance natural assets and advance sustainable outcomes in the region.

*Feral Fix: Feral Animal Education and Control* provides a strategic regional approach to integrated feral animal management across the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR). This project aims to improve community capacity and increase the number of land managers adopting more coordinated approaches to feral animal management.

[www.nacc.com.au](http://www.nacc.com.au)

# Farmer Steven and the pig

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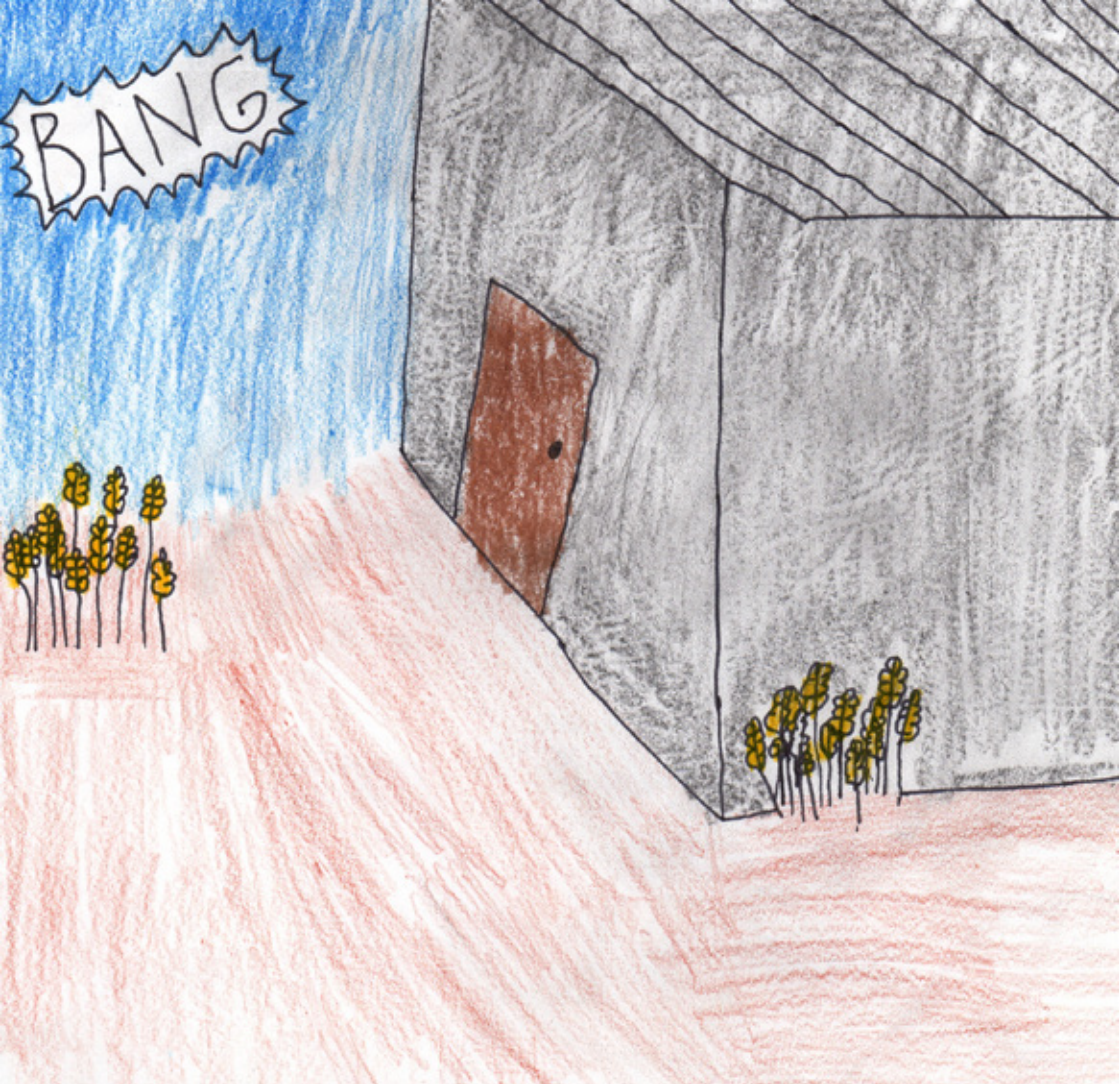


One day, on a huge wheat farm, there lived a farmer named Steven.

Farmer Steven was very poor and was relying heavily on successfully harvesting his 2,000 acres of wheat to make some money for the farm.

He felt very alone as he worried about his crop, because his wife and family were away on holiday.

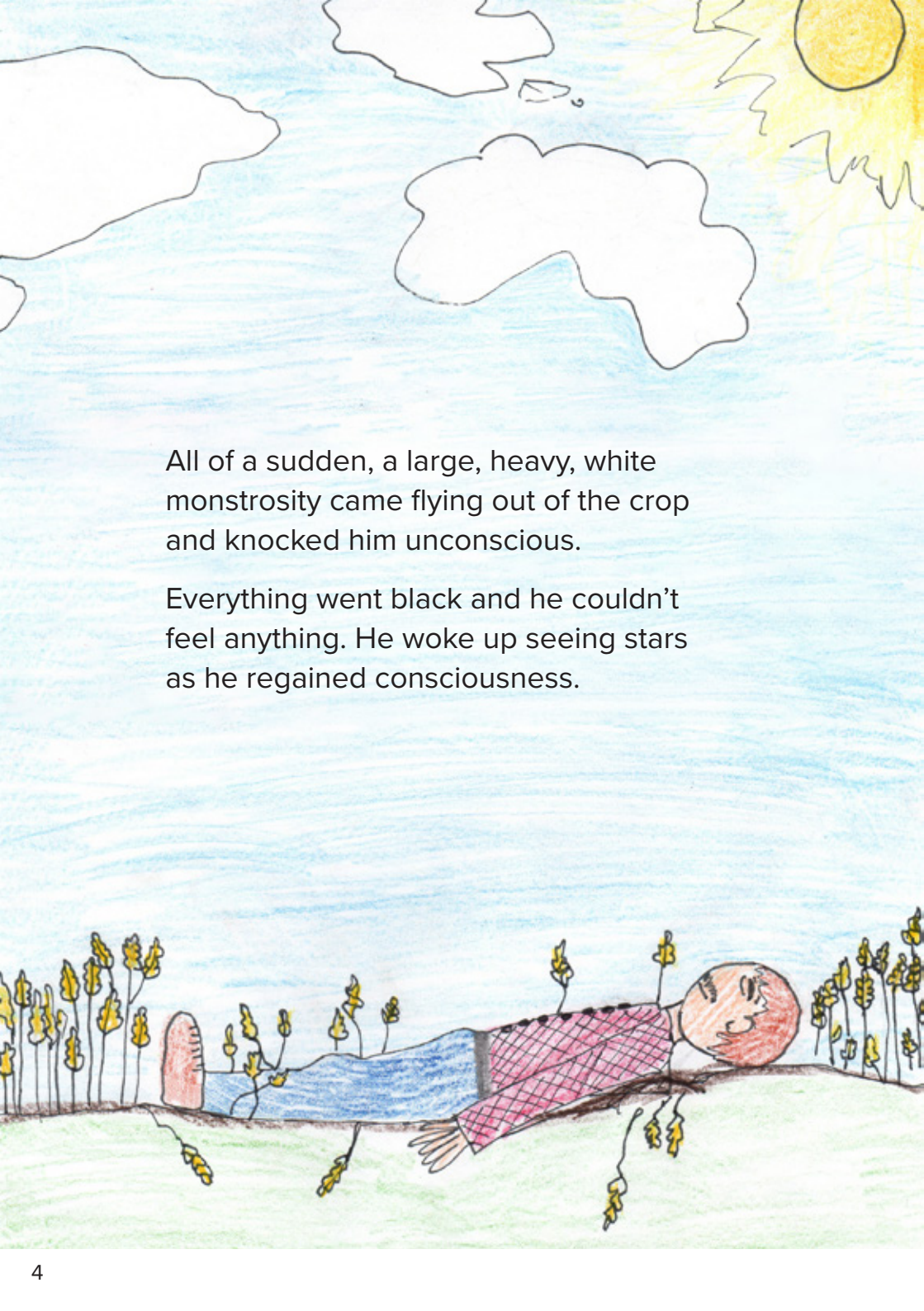




Farmer Steven detected an uneasy vibe on his farm.  
Something was not quite right!

He looked out over what he thought was the wheat  
swaying in the wind when there was a loud crash and it  
stopped moving.

Farmer Steven ran towards the noise because he wanted  
to see what it was.

A child's drawing of a landscape. The sky is light blue with several white, fluffy clouds. In the top right corner, there is a bright yellow sun with wavy lines radiating from it. In the foreground, a person with a round orange face and closed eyes is lying on their back on a green grassy field. They are wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a pink and white checkered long-sleeved shirt over it. Their arms are outstretched to the sides. To the left of the person is a small, rounded, reddish-brown object. The background features a row of yellow flowers with green stems. The overall style is simple and colorful, typical of a child's artwork.

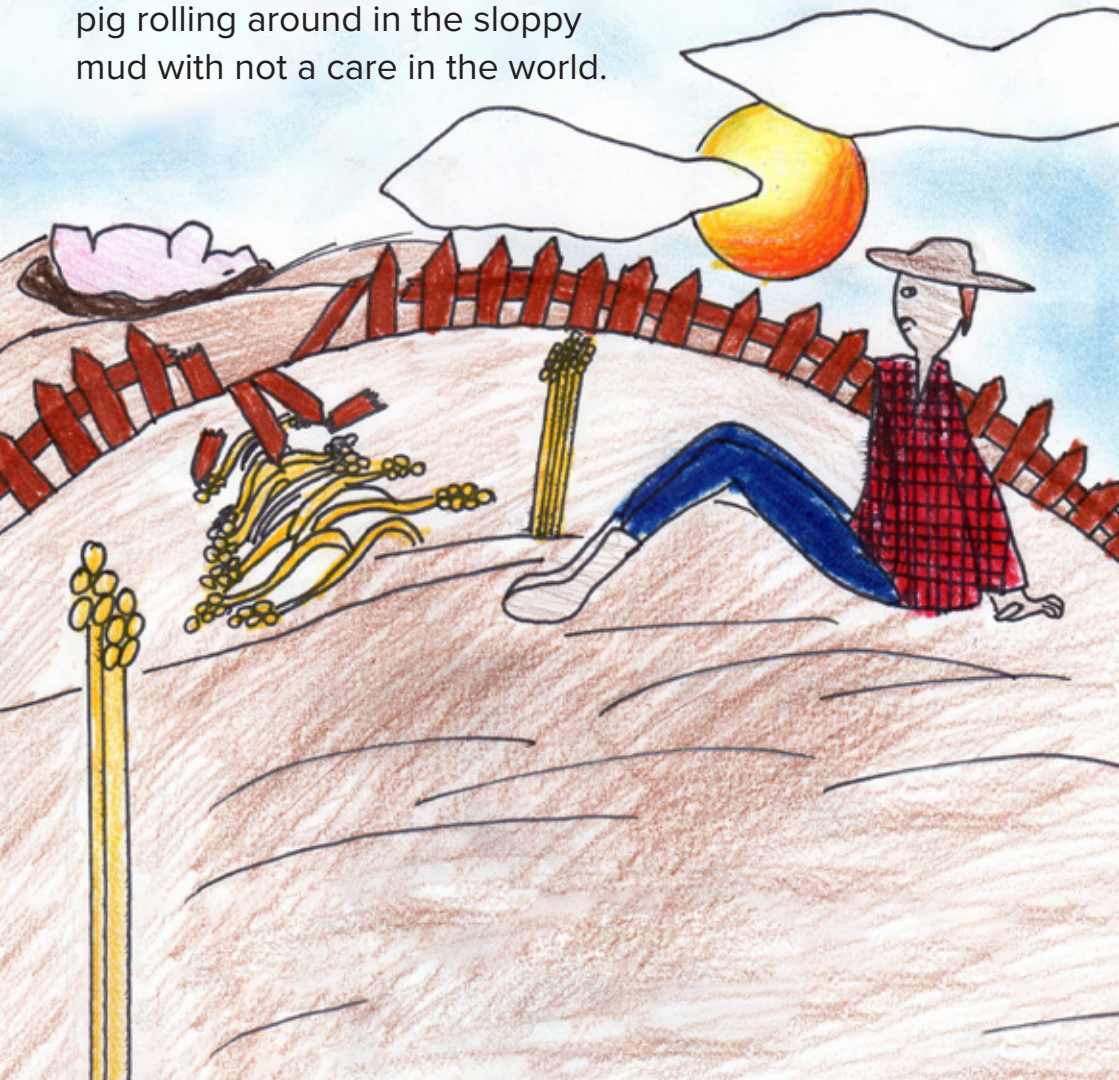
All of a sudden, a large, heavy, white monstrosity came flying out of the crop and knocked him unconscious.

Everything went black and he couldn't feel anything. He woke up seeing stars as he regained consciousness.



After a short time, Farmer Steven sat up and looked around to see what the creature was that knocked him out.

In the distance he saw a big, large pig rolling around in the sloppy mud with not a care in the world.





Farmer Steven decided that something had to be done about this fat pig. He walked around his farm to clear his head and have a good think about what he should do.

It then occurred to him that this could be the reason his stock were skinny because they have been competing with the pig for food.

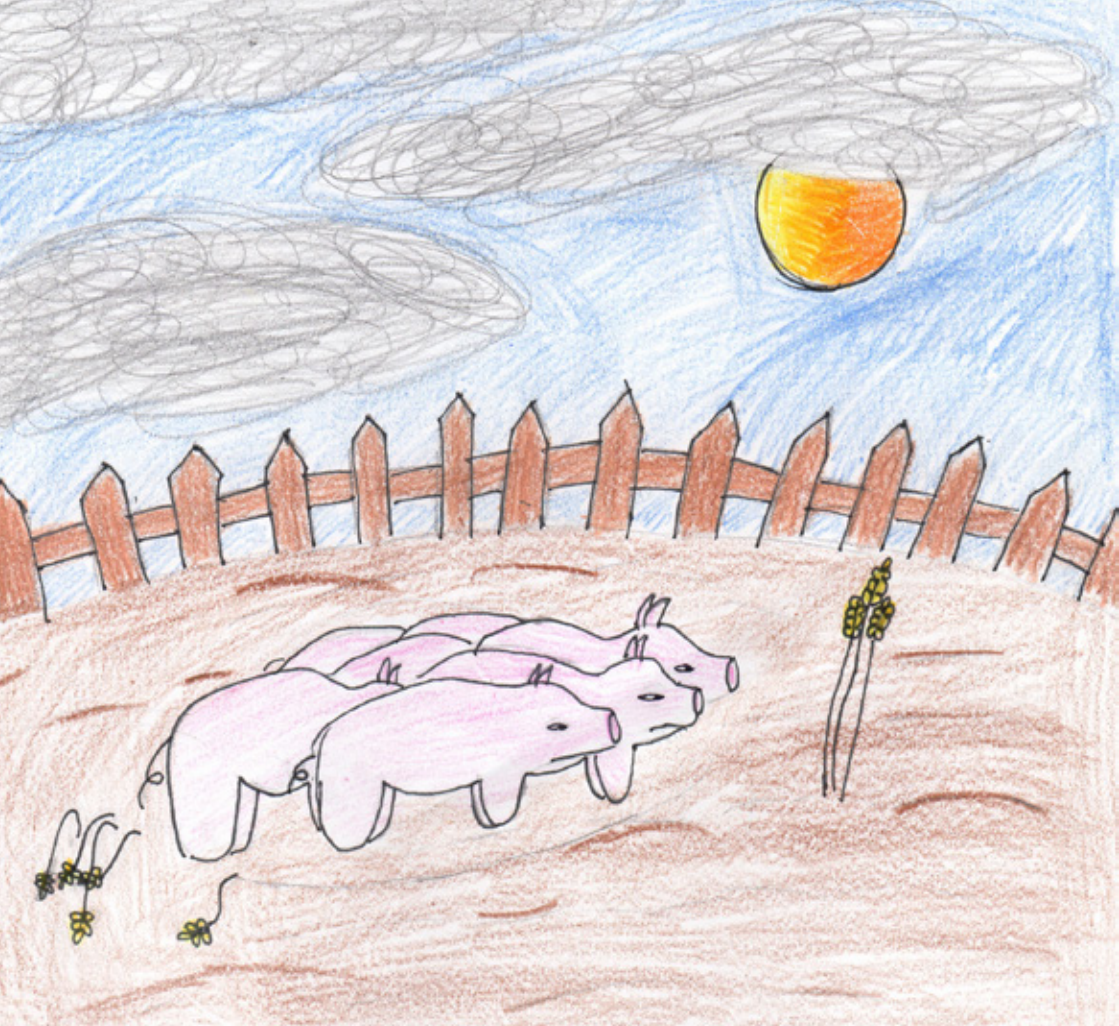




As he was strolling, he noticed that a lot of damage had been done to the crops. The yard and the new wooden fences he had just put up had also been destroyed.

He knew pigs were destructive, but this was chaotic.





Farmer Steven knew that feral pigs lived in groups, which typically consisted of one or more adult sows and their litters.

This made him feel quite uneasy. Was this just the beginning of something bigger?



Old Bobby from next door told Farmer Steven that he was affected by feral pigs years earlier. Bobby said he couldn't believe the damage they did to his farm in a very quick time.

Bobby told him that feral pigs eat crops as well as feeding on young livestock. They cause damage to crops and plants by rooting around and trampling them. And if that wasn't enough, Bobby said that feral pigs also harbour and spread disease.





Bobby had to deal with the physical damage to fencing, as well as increased soil erosion and reduced water quality.

He lost tens of thousands of dollars due to significant damage to his lupin crops.





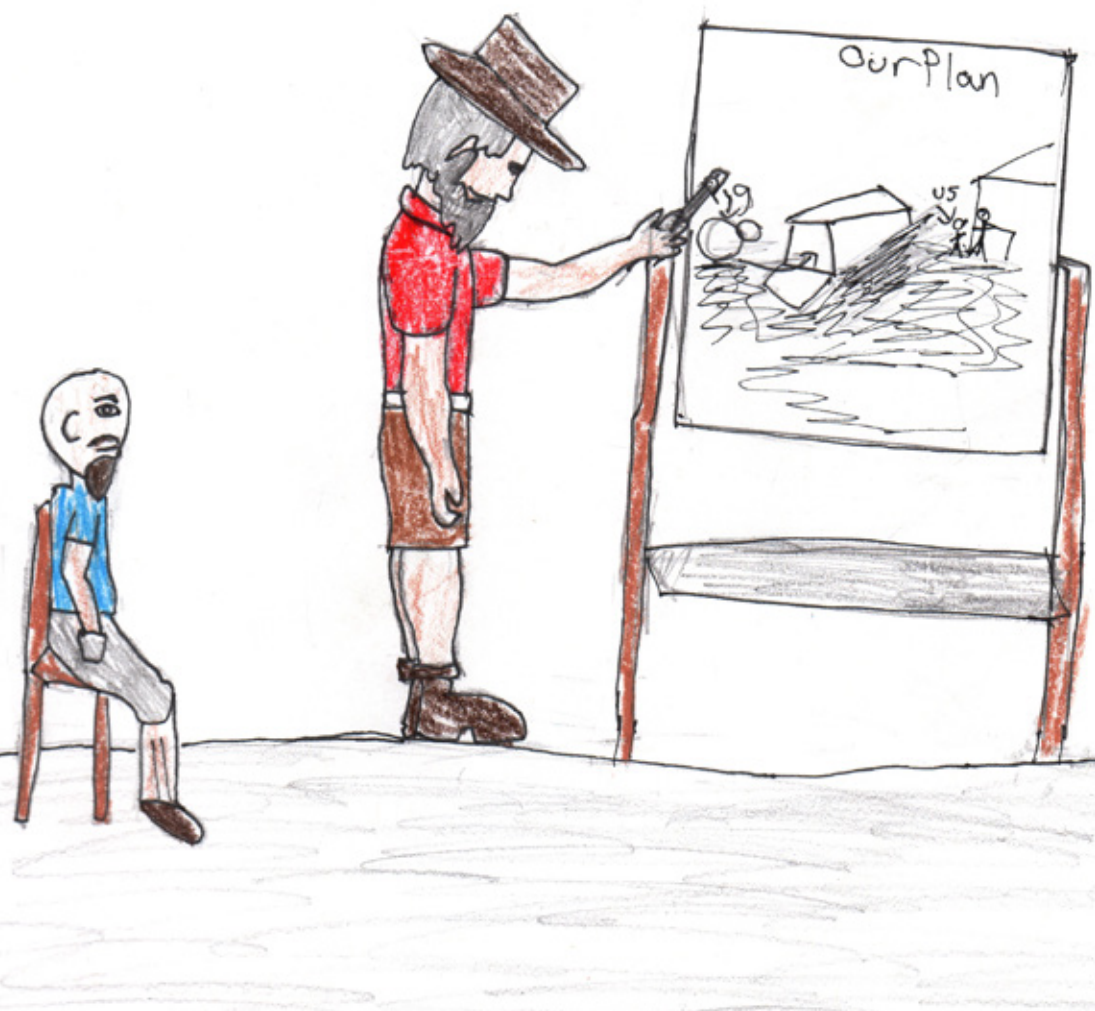
Farmer Steven did not want this happening to him! It was time to come up with a plan.

He called his farming mates around for a serious meeting about how to protect the area from feral pigs. They brainstormed ways to get rid of this pest and thought they had an idea that just might work.

The farmers knew that trapping, shooting, fencing and poisoning were effective control measures.

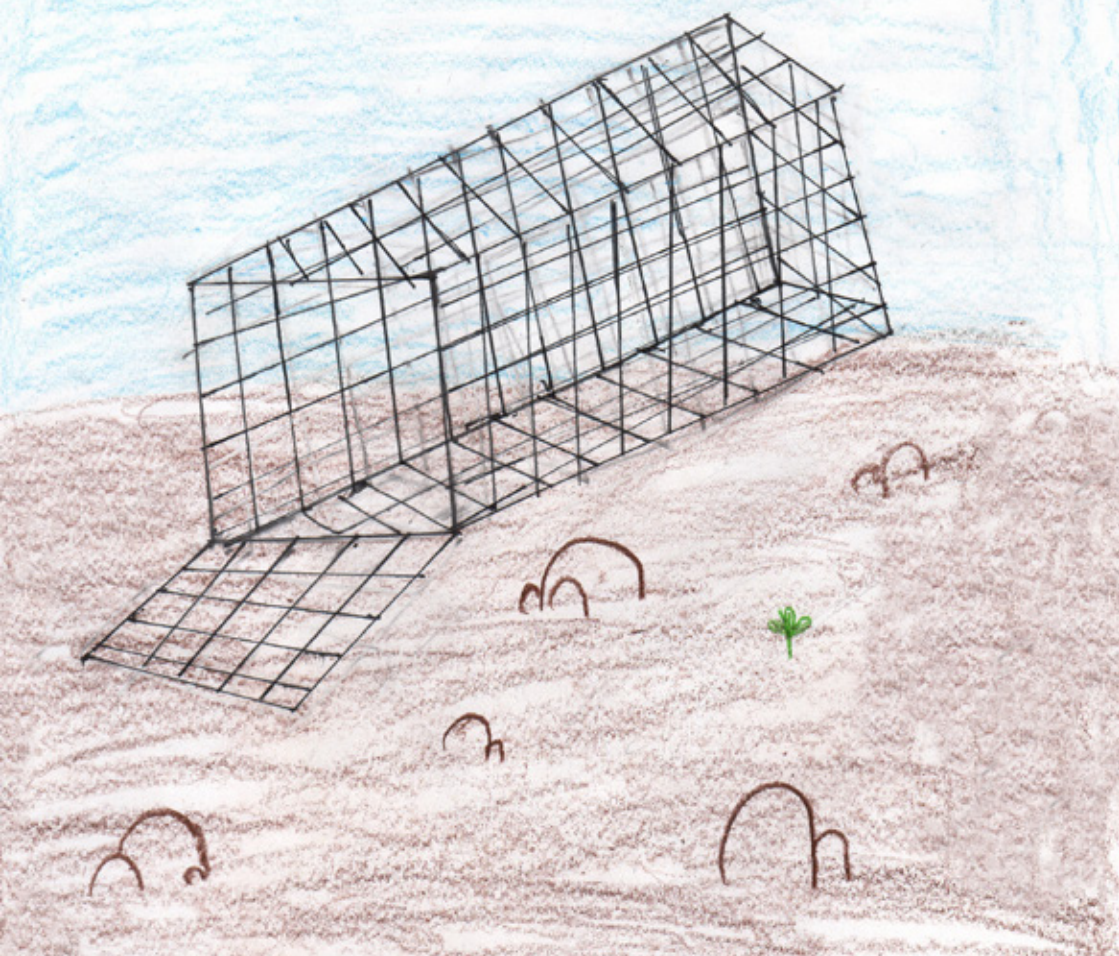
So they decided that trapping would be a great way to start.

They all sat down at the drawing board and helped sketch a design for a steel pig trap.





They knew the trap must be very robust with steel mesh panels welded or wired together on all sides. It must be strongly anchored by wiring it to star pickets driven securely into the ground.



Old Bobby suggested that a variety of foods and some water should be left in the trap.

They decided to use grain, feed pellets and fruit to attract the pig.







They buried the base of the mesh for extra security and then it was time to wait.

Hour after hour they waited, playing cards in the shearing shed and peering through the cracks in the tin.

After numerous hours they heard an almighty CRASH and then... IT WAS ON!





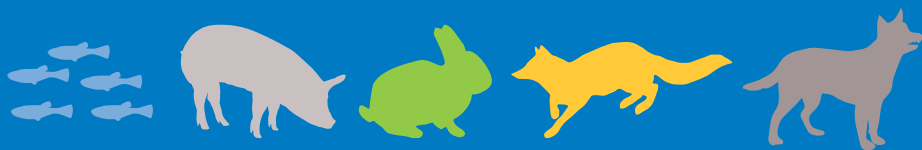
The men ran as fast as they could to see if they had hit the jackpot. It was their lucky day: Men - 1 versus Wild Pigs – 0.

Although the problem was over for now, Farmer Steven kept his trap set up in case more pigs returned.

He went to bed that night a happy man knowing they had protected his farm for his family.







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natural resource  
management program

