



Sleep Tight Farm: A Farm Prepares for Winter

Eugenie Doyle , Becca Stadtlander (Illustrator)

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A captivating exploration of how a family gets a farm ready for the snow of winter, *Sleep Tight Farm* lyrically connects each growing season to the preparations at the very end of the farm year. This beautiful and informative book paints a fascinating picture of what winter means to the farm year and to the family that shares its seasons, from spring's new growth, summer's heat, and fall's bounty to winter's well-earned rest. All year long the farm has worked to shelter us, feed us, keep us warm, and now it's time to sleep.

Sleep Tight Farm: A Farm Prepares for Winter Details

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Author : Eugenie Doyle , Becca Stadtlander (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Sleep Tight Farm: A Farm Prepares for Winter for online ebook

Tanya says

I found the illustrations in this book to be realistic, and gave me a good feeling for the farm. I love the bookends, how the front was fall and the back was winter. There was a great message about working together. It was a sweet look into farm life at the end of the harvest, with memories of what the received during the spring and summer months.

Mischenko says

Beautiful illustrations and very real. Love the writing and concluded with a beautiful ending. Perfect fall and winter book the kids love...

Katie W says

This is a beautifully told and illustrated story about life on a farm.

Cynthia says

Absolutely lovely! A must-have!

Peacegal says

I was expecting another fantasy farm bedtime story; instead I was pleasantly surprised by this one. A small family farm, with the variety of crops one might find at a farmer's market, hunkers down for the cold winter season. The illustrations are folksy and appealing.

The majority of produce one encounters in grocery stores isn't grown in this way; rather, it tends to be monocropped and trucked/flown a great distance. However, the text makes clear that this farm exists mainly to supply the family and the small produce stand they run.

Vegan families note: This book is mostly about fruits and veggies, which will make plant-based families very happy. However, two 2-page spreads do discuss keeping chickens for eggs and bees for honey (in idealized conditions), as well as the use of artificial lighting to keep the hens laying all winter.

Janet says

The text of this picture book does not have the flow of words that I would like and it wouldn't be an easy read with a group. It is the beautiful illustrations that are the joy of this title. The front end papers show fall leaves and the back ones depict bare trees in winter conveying the idea that the farm is going to sleep in the fall and sleeping in the winter. A very nice touch. Also hoop houses which are very popular in the agriculture world today are shown in one of the illustrations. This is a title for me to enjoy visually and forget about reading.

KC says

Such a fantastic tale of how a family prepares the farm for the winter.

Melanie says

Beautiful illustrations in this book about preparing a farm for winter.

Mary says

Lovely, lyrical story about a farm getting ready for winter. Helps children understand this season of the year, and how the work of one season prepares for another. A nice, quiet story to read while snuggled up with hot chocolate.

Danielle says

This one took me by surprise with its realism and gorgeous illustrations. Loved it.

Debbie says

I loved this book. Beautiful illustrations. Reading this book, made me wish I could go back as an adult and visit my Grandparents farm.

Emily Vander Ark says

This is a lovely look at what it takes to prepare a farm for winter. Everything from fields to hoop houses, chickens to honeybees, and maple trees to food preservation is covered in a simple bedtime story structure.

Katie Fitzgerald says

This is a quiet story about all the preparations a New England farm must make before winter weather sets in. I borrowed it from the library for Miss Muffet based on her enjoyment of [Christmas Farm](#). This book is by a different author and illustrator, but the mood and attention to detail are similar. As I suspected, she loved the pictures and enjoyed hearing about the different tasks the family completed before the snow came. We also both enjoyed looking at the endpapers, which show trees with colorful leaves in the front and leafless snow-covered trees at the back.

This review also appears on my blog, [Read-at-Home Mom](#).

Manybooks says

Expressive and evocative, displaying a soothing lullaby-like cadence and rhythm (and descriptive words both lyrical and poetic without rhyming), with [Sleep Tight Farm](#), author Eugenie Doyle (who actually lives on a working farm) caressingly and lovingly presents how a family basically "puts the farm to bed" (in other words, how everyone prepares it for winter, with chores, with activities such as harvesting and storing fruits and vegetables, shaking insulating straw over berries, covering salad, tomato and melon plants with a hoop-house to protect them from snow and ice, insulating and fluffing up the nests in the chicken coop to make the laying hens comfortable and warm for the winter, building natural windbreaks out of hay bales for the otherwise too much exposed beehives).

I especially like how the unnamed narrator (who appears to be a child of about ten years or so) is always grateful for the bounty the family has been able to harvest, for the produce that sustains both the farm and the family (thanking both fields and animals, chickens and bees, realising that humans are not simply there to make use of the earth, that we should and must also show appreciation and recognition, and that protecting the fields from winter's chill, replenishing the soil by tilling it, ploughing and loosening it, making sure farm animals are snug and well fed during the winter, is not only important for the farm as an enterprise, but above all, shows both gratitude and understanding).

Now for those of you who are vegans or vegetarians, while the presented farm is thus definitely one that also has animals present (there is a single horse depicted, as well as the already mentioned chickens and bees, as well, of course, the obligatory barn cats and a dog), in my opinion, this is in no way a factory type farm, as the majority of the products being raised for market (and even for home consumption) seem to be plant based. Yes, a chicken coop is featured, but it is also clearly shown that there is a large yard for the chickens, that both the hens and the rooster reside together, and that there are definitely NO battery type chicken nests. And while the family did harvest both honey and wax in September, the narrator makes a point that they actually left more than enough for the bees who "made enough for us." Also, the family farmstand shows that aside from some eggs and honey, ALL other products being sold are fruit and vegetables (even the meals described by the narrator, the homegrown treats, are vegetable soup and berry pies). There are thus most definitely NO large scale animal operations either depicted or described in [Sleep Tight Farm](#) (no large scale dairy operation, no animals raised for their flesh, and their chickens number about twelve at the absolute most).

Becca Stadtlander's accompanying illustrations have a quaint and wonderfully realistic folk art feel to them. With a colour scheme that clearly and expressively presents the change of season from autumn to winter, her pictures provide both a successful and enchanting compliment to Eugenie Doyle's poetic narrative (and the illustrations actually often even expand on it, presenting images not found in the text, or rather merely hinted at in and by the text). Very highly recommended not only for pleasure reading, but also and perhaps even more importantly, [Sleep Tight Farm](#) is a gentle and informative introduction to farming, and specifically to what an ecological and ethically run family type farm (at least in my humble opinion) can and should be.

And frankly, I think this would be a great addition to a unit on farming in a kindergarten, preschool or grade one, perhaps even up to grade two classroom!

Michael Fitzgerald says

An OK book, but it was a poor decision to rip off Goodnight Moon by adding the italic text saying goodnight to all the various things. I also found the listing of the different salad greens to be pretentious and superfluous.
