

## **Little Orange Rooster**

**By Annette Van Wagenen**

Once upon a time in a very sunny land, the Little Orange Rooster found a grain of wheat. He excitedly ran to his friends and asked, “Who will help me plant this wheat?”

“What happens when it is planted?” asked Misty Mouse.

“What good is a little thing like that?” questioned Puffy Pig.

“I love to dig in the dirt,” growled Doxie Dog.

So the Little Orange Rooster allowed Doxie Dog to dig a hole in the ground. Misty Mouse dropped in the grain seed. And Puffy Pig asked a lot of questions.

The Little Orange Rooster explained how the sun is the center of our solar system. Solar means “connected to the sun.” Our solar system is made up of the sun and everything circling around it. Without the sun’s energy, Earth would be completely dark and freezing cold. Living organisms use heat and light from the sun. Plants need sunlight to make their own food. Animals cannot make their own food. They must eat plants or other animals in order to live.

“Well, I want some food,” snapped Misty Mouse.

“It sounds like somebody’s going to have to work to get us some food,” said Puffy Pig.

“Let’s get digging,” suggested Doxie Dog.

The wheat seed was planted. Each day the four animals came out to watch the plant thrive in the summer sun. When it was large enough to harvest, the Little Orange Rooster asked, “Who will help me harvest the wheat?”

“What does it mean to harvest?” questioned Misty Mouse.

“I don’t think that sounds very fun!” stated Puffy Pig.

“Can I dig it up?” asked Doxie Dog.

So the Little Orange Rooster tried to explain about machines. “After crops are planted, there are many types of machines that help a plant get from the ground to the table.” Machines can be mechanical, electrical, or non-electrical. Mechanical machines can use burning fuel, human strength, flowing water, or even horsepower to provide energy. Electrical machines need electricity and usually plug into an electrical outlet or use batteries. We are going to take this grown wheat plant to the mill where it will be crushed and ground into flour.

So the four animals went off to Millie’s Mill to watch the wonderful machinery turn the grain into flour. When they brought the flour to the Little Orange Rooster’s house, he asked, “Who would like to help me make bread?”

“How do you make bread?” wondered Misty Mouse.

“Is it fun to make bread?” asked Puffy Pig.

“Can I dig in the dough?” asked Doxie Dog.

“Well,” said the rooster, “we can all help. We’ll use an eggbeater to beat one of my sister’s freshly laid eggs. Let’s open the new can of yeast with the electric can opener. Then we’ll mix in the bread machine the flour, salt, oil, sugar, and milk with the yeast and egg. We’ll beat it in the oven and use the electric knife to slice it when it is cool.

It was a bit challenging to have four animals measuring and baking the bread, but when it was all done and out of the oven, it tasted wonderful.

