

Sauvie Island Center

Songbook

A few of our favorite fun and teachable songs to sing on the farm!

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DECOMPOSITION

Steve Van Zandt and the Banana Slug Sting Band

Recording: <https://bananaslugs.bandcamp.com/track/decomposition>

D G7
Is there waste? Well, I don't know.
D G7
One thing dies to let another grow.
D G7
This circle we see most every day.
D C D
The name that we call it is... de-cay.

Chorus:

F C
Come on all you people, gather 'round.
F C
Break down and listen to decomposition.

D - G - D - G - D - G - C - G (x3)

Group 1 (munching motions with hands): Munch, munch, munch...

Group 2 (rolling arms around and around): Decomposition, decomposition, decomposition, decomposition...

Group 3 (Point one hand down, then the other): Get down, break down; get down, break down...

There are many kinds of bugs
Worms and snails and banana slugs.
They are useful for me and you.
They help to make the soil renew.
Chorus...

Decomposition is a useful game.
A tree drops its leaves
but they don't stay the same.
A bug chews them up and
spits them back out,
making the soil for a new tree to sprout.
Chorus...



Dirt Made My Lunch

Steve Van Zandt and the Banana Slug String Band

Recording: <https://bananaslugs.bandcamp.com/track/dirt-made-my-lunch-3>

CHORUS:

G

Dirt made my lunch (do, do-do, do)

C G

Dirt made my lunch

C G

Thank you dirt, thanks a bunch

C G

For my salad, my sandwich, my milk and my munch

D G

Because dirt, ya made my lunch

C G

Dirt is a word we often use

C G

When we talk about the earth beneath our shoes

C G

It's a place where plants can sink their toes

D

And in a little while, a garden groooooooooowwwwws! (hold)

CHORUS

A farmer's plow will tickle the ground

You know the earth has laughed when wheat is found

The grain is taken and flour is ground

For making a sandwich, to munch on doooooooooowwwwn!

CHORUS

A stubby green beard grows upon the land

Out of the soil the grass will stand

But under a hoof, it must bow

For making milk, by way of a cow, moooooooooooooooooo!

Do You Like To Buzz?

(to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?")

Students can create their own motions for each line

Do you like to buzz,
Are you covered all in fuzz?
Do you call a hive a home
In the Garden where you roam?
Do you know how to make honey,
Are your stripes a little funny?
Do you like to buzz?



The Farmer Plants the Seed

(to the tune: *Farmer in the Dell*, act out the motions)

Verse 1: [bend & pretend to put seed in ground]
The farmer plants the seed (sing 2x)
Here on Sauvie Island the farmer plants the seed.

Verse 2: [fingers moving down like raindrops]
The rain falls down (sing 2x)
Here on Sauvie Island the rain falls down.

Verse 3: [arms over head in circle]
The sun comes out (sing 2 x)
Here on Sauvie Island the sun comes out.

Verse 4: - [children stand up slowly]
The plant grows tall (sing 2x)
Here on Sauvie Island the plant grows tall.

Verse 5: [bend down & pretend to reach for plants]
The farmer picks the food (sing 2x)
Here on Sauvie Island the farmer picks the food.

Verse 6: [pretend to eat the food]
We all eat the food (sing 2x)
Here on Sauvie Island we all eat the food.



Garden Song (Inch By Inch, Row By Row)

David Mallett

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3FkaN0HQgs>

Chorus:

D G D G A D
Inch by inch row by row gonna make this garden grow
G A D Bm Em A7
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground
D G D G A D
Inch by inch row by row someone bless these seeds I sow
G A D Bm Em A D
Someone warm them from below 'til the rain comes tumbling down

D G D G A D
Pulling weeds and picking stones we are made of dreams and bones
G A D Bm Em A7
I feel the need is to grow my own til the time is close at hand
D G D G A D
Grain for grain sun and rain I find my ways in nature's chain
G A D Bm Em A D
I tune my body and my brain to the music of the land

Chorus

D G D G A D
Plant your rows straight and long, temper them with hope and song
G A D Bm Em A7
Mother earth will keep you strong if you give her love and care
D G D G A D
Old crow watching hungrily from his perch in yonder tree
G A D Bm Em A D
In my garden I'm as free as that feathered thief up there

Chorus

Gusano (I am a Worm)

Mel McMurrin and Kevin Beals of the Bungee Jumpin' Cows

Recording: <http://www.moo-boing.com/i-am-a-worm-gusano/>

(Play on Capo 5 on guitar)

Am
I am a worm
E
A wondrous worm
E
It's down under
Am
I love to squirm
Am
To eat the dead
F
And the living's my toil.....
Am E Am - E - Am
And what comes out makes magnificent soil (OLE!)

CHORUS:

C G
GUUU---SAAA NONONONONO, NONONONONO,
F E
NONONONONO SI!! (2X)
C G Am D (hold, kids squirm)
I aerate the Earth as I tunnel and squirm
Am E Am - E - Am
I am proud to be called a worm (OLE!)

Our tunnels flood
It rains all night
Come up for air
We're killed by light
When people die
Worms attend in full

But no one comes to a worm's funeral (OLE!)

CHORUS

A robin's cute
Have you not heard
Of the massacres
Of the early bird
We do such good
From us you could learn.....
But you make us fish bait in return (OLE!)

CHORUS



The Hay Grows Tall
 Source unknown

The hay grows tall (move hands up)
 The farmers cut it down (move hands down)
 They spread it all around (wiggle fingers around you)
 Then they rake it into rows (show rows with hands)
 Then they toss in the barn (mime throwing it over shoulder with pitchfork)
 The cows chow down (make chewing motion with hands)
 It turns into fertilizer (hold nose)
 To make the hay grow (move hands up)
 (go faster and faster each time)

HOW DO PLANTS POLLINATE?
 (To the tune of This Land Is Your Land)

What does a plant need to
 Make a new seed?
 Three things give flowers
 Reproductive powers-
 The sticky pollen,
 The slender stamen
 and pistils that make a flower whole.

What gets the pollen going
 To keep new plants growing?
 Different kinds of birds do,
 Or the wind that's blowing.
 Butterflies and bees,
 Carry pollen they need
 That's what makes pollination work.

If a flower's not scented,
 Not brightly colored,
 And the flowers are smaller
 In clusters tighter
 With stamens longer
 the signs are stronger
 This plant spreads pollen on the wind.

Pollinators help plants
 To make their seeds.
 Plants offer food
 Pollinators need.
 Getting and giving
 What they need for living.
 That's part of the balance of our world.



ROOTS, STEMS, LEAVES

Steve Van Zandt of the Banana Slug String Band

Recording: <https://bananaslugs.bandcamp.com/track/roots-stems-leaves>

Chorus:

G
Roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds.
G **F** **G**
Roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds.
F G F G
That's six parts, six parts,
F C F C G
Six plant parts that plants and people need.

G
 The roots hold the plants in the ground,
G **F** **G**
 They gather up the water that falls around.
G **F** **G**
 There's a root inside of me Because a carrot is a root that I eat.

Chorus

A stem is an elevator up from the ground The water goes up and the sugar back down
 There's a stem inside of me Because celery is a stem that I eat.

Chorus

The leaves are the kitchens where the food is done They breathe the air and catch rays from the sun.
 There's a leaf inside of me Because lettuce is a leaf that I eat.

Chorus

The flowers are dressed so colorfully They hold the pollen and attract the bees
 There's a flower inside of me Because cauliflower is a flower that I eat.

Chorus

The fruit gets ripe, then it falls on down It holds the seeds and feeds the ground
 There's a fruit inside of me Because an apple is a fruit that I eat.

Chorus

The seeds get buried in the earth And the cycle starts again with a new plant's birth
 There are seeds inside of me Because sunflower is a seed that I eat.

Chorus

Motions:

- **Roots:** Squat with fingers spread like roots
- **Stem:** Stand with arms to side
- **Leaves:** Hands up making your body a Y
- **Flower:** Bring arms together in a circle above your head
- **Fruit:** Make a small circle in front of your face with your hands
- **Seeds:** Bring your hands down in front of you while wiggling fingers to illustrate falling seeds