How to make: Cover the bulletin board with brown paper. Have students draw a mural of a barnyard scene. Place construction-paper animals and hay on the board. Label envelopes with the names of the animals and with the phonetic spellings of the short and long vowel sounds in the names. Attach them near the animals and hay. Copy each Basic Word from Units 1–4 on a narrow card for students to store in the envelopes.

How to use: Ask students to match the vowel sounds of the Basic Words to the phonetic spellings of those sounds by putting word cards in the correct envelopes. Then have students look through books and magazines for more animals that have names with the vowel sounds you’ve been studying. Have students write the animals’ names on cards and place them in the envelopes on the board.

For Unit 5, encourage students to use the Basic Word homophones to write sentences about farms and animals. Mount the sentences on the board.