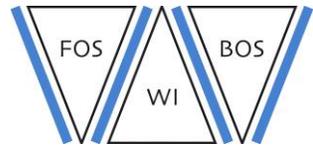




## Growing up on a Farm in Nebraska

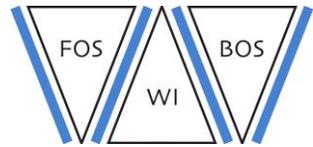
- A) When you are introduced to someone or make a new acquaintance, the first question that comes to mind is usually “Where are you from?” If you are from the U.S., like myself, this question can have a lot of varying answers. Statistically, most Americans live on the coasts, so answers such as New York, California, and Florida are common. These are well-known states even outside of the U.S. and very popular tourist destinations. I really enjoy meeting new people, hearing this question, and giving the answer “I’m from Nebraska.” Even in the United States, some are not familiar with this state or exactly where it lies. Many outside of the country have never heard of such a place, and this is where I have the opportunity to talk about my life in the Heartland of the U.S.
- B) The farm in northeast Nebraska where I live has been in my family since 1932, when my great-grandfather came to the state. My grandfather and father have both lived and worked on the land their whole lives. I’ve also spent my entire life there, not including time spent at college and overseas. The farm that we own is actually small when compared to some of the other farming families we know around our area, but I wouldn’t want to have grown up any other way. We have one hundred and forty cows, two hundred laying hens, between four hundred and five hundred broilers twice during the year, four horses, Gus the dog, and a few wild cats that live in the barn. We only have alfalfa, hay, and other grasses on our farm. This way we are self-sufficient, so to speak. The cows mostly belong to my dad, but both my brother, Garrett, and I own around ten head in our herd. Our chickens are split into two groups: you have the laying hens, which lay the eggs that we sell to restaurants, bars, and private customers, and then you have the broilers, the chickens that we butcher, sell, and eat. Normally we take our chickens to a butcher since we have so many, but every so often we get our relatives to come to the homestead and we do everything ourselves.
- C) My family consists of my brother, Garrett, my mom, Ann, and my dad, Gregg. Both my brother and I helped out on the farm when we were younger, and, even though we live away from home now, we come back during harvest and when we work cows. Our farm has also changed over the years. When I was younger we had pigs, but having multiple types of animals on a farm was strenuous for my dad since my brother and I weren’t old enough to lighten his workload. We also used to harvest corn for our chickens, but corn can sometimes be more trouble than it is worth, and our equipment was subpar at best.
- D) My upbringing was somewhat atypical from that of other Americans. I was surrounded by animals and nature for as long as I can remember, and the largest city in the area around



me had a mere 25,000 residents. My friends all lived in Battle Creek, the closest village to me, and that was also where my grandparents and most of my relatives lived. I went to grade school in this village as well, but since I lived out in the country, my brother and I had to ride the big yellow school bus every day to and from school. When we got home my dad was usually out in the field and my mom was inside doing some housework, or sometimes getting an early supper prepared. Homework took first priority after school, and luckily my brother and I were both diligent about it. To be fair, we didn't have too many distractions at home. We only had five TV channels, six occasionally when we could get a good signal, no cellphones, and a pair of Gameboy Colors. Sometimes if my dad was going to be out in the field until dark, my brother and I would split up doing chores for him so he wouldn't have to worry about them. Our chores were mainly just feeding and watering the chickens, getting eggs, and sometimes feeding some of the calves we kept at home. My dad would come home afterwards, fiddle around with his tractors for a while, then come back to the house where we would be waiting with supper ready. We said a prayer, then all ate together. Some nights my dad would have to go to bed right away since he needed to wake up at three the next morning for work. Some nights we would all be able to sit and watch a movie together (usually a good old-fashioned western).

E) As previously mentioned, Nebraska isn't the state tourists want to go to or the most well-known. It's often called a fly-over or drive-through state, and honestly there is not a lot to see for people just visiting the US for a short amount of time. However, living in the state has given me a truly unique childhood and I love being able to share it with everyone. Sometimes the only contact people have with farms is in movies or TV series, but for me that was my life, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Text by Ethan Koopman, Assistant Teacher, 898 words



## Tasks

*Answer these questions only with the information given in the text!*

### A) Short answer questions

*Answer the following questions or complete the sentences by providing the required information from the text.*

1. **Where has the author of the story lived so far?**

---

2. **Why does the author return home every now and then?**

---

3. **What was the reason, that they got rid of their pigs?**

---

### B) Multiple choice

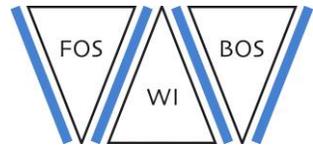
*Mark the most suitable option by crossing the appropriate letter.*

1. **Which statement is not true according to paragraph A?**

- A A huge share of the American population lives near the sea.
- B New York and California are the states, many tourists like to travel to.
- C Nebraska is a state, where the family is still of a huge importance.
- D The author of the text does not come from one of the famous US-states.

2. **What can be said about the author's farm?**

- A The other farms around are smaller.
- B Their corn is of a poor quality.
- C Life doesn't change a lot on the farm.
- D Everything the farm needs can be produced there.



### C) Mediation

Beantworten Sie die folgende Frage stichpunktartig auf Deutsch! (Keine wortwörtliche Übersetzung!)

1. Erklären Sie aus welchen Gründen auf dem Bauernhof Hühner gezüchtet werden.

---

---

2. Erklären Sie den Ausdruck „flyover-state or drive-through state“ (im letzten Absatz) im Textzusammenhang!

---

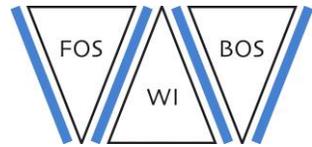
---

### D) Gapped summary

Fill the gaps in the summary with appropriate words or expressions (one word per line) from the corresponding sections of the text (paragraph D).

Do not make any changes or adjustments.

When he was young, the author of the story lived on his family's farm outside a village called Battle Creek. He lived there only with his parents and his brother, even his \_\_\_\_\_ lived some miles away. Every morning a \_\_\_\_\_ picked him and his brother up. When they returned, their father was working in the \_\_\_\_\_ long hours and the two boys had to help him for example by \_\_\_\_\_ the animals. In fact, the author didn't have many \_\_\_\_\_, in his spare time he only had a Gameboy and a TV with five or six programs. Part of their family routine was speaking a \_\_\_\_\_ before supper and sometimes watching a \_\_\_\_\_. But all in all, the author really enjoyed his rural life on the family's farm.



## Solutions

### A) Short answer questions

Answer the following questions or complete the sentences by providing the required information from the text.

1. Where has the author of the story lived so far?

On the farm, at college, overseas

2. Why does the author return to the farm every now and then?

To help with the harvest and work cows

3. What was the reason, that they got rid of their pigs?

The two kids were not old enough, so it was too much work for their father

### B) Multiple choice

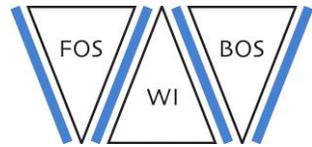
Mark the most suitable option by crossing the appropriate letter.

1. Which statement is not true according to paragraph A?

- A A huge share of the American population lives near the sea.  
B New York and California are the states, many tourists like to travel to.  
**C Nebraska is a state, where the family is still of a huge importance.**  
D The author of the text does not come from one of the famous US-states.

2. What can be said about the author's farm?

- A The other farms around are smaller.  
B Their corn is of a poor quality.  
C Life doesn't change a lot on the farm.  
**D Everything the farm needs can be produced there.**



### C) Mediation

Beantworten Sie die folgende Frage stichpunktartig auf Deutsch! (Keine wortwörtliche Übersetzung!)

1. Erklären Sie aus welchen Gründen auf dem Bauernhof Hühner gezüchtet werden.

Einige werden zum Eierlegen verwendet, andere werden aufgezogen um geschlachtet und verkauft zu werden.

2. Erklären Sie den Ausdruck „flyover-state or drive-through state“ (im letzten Absatz) im Textzusammenhang!

Das sind die Staaten, die in der Mitte der USA liegen und über die man hinwegfliegen / durch die man hindurchfahren muss, wenn man von der einen Küste zur anderen Küste gelangen möchte. (Hier ist der Sinngehalt wichtig, nicht die genaue Wortwahl)

### D) Gapped summary

When he was young, the author of the story lived on his family's farm outside a village called Battle Creek. He lived there only with his parents and his brother, even his relatives lived some miles away. Every morning a school bus picked him and his brother up. When they returned, their father was working in the field long hours and the two boys had to help him for example by feeding/watering the animals. In fact, the author didn't have many distractions in his spare time he only had a Gameboy and a TV with five or six programs. Part of their family routine was speaking a prayer before supper and sometimes watching a movie/western. But all in all, the author really enjoyed his rural life on the family's farm.