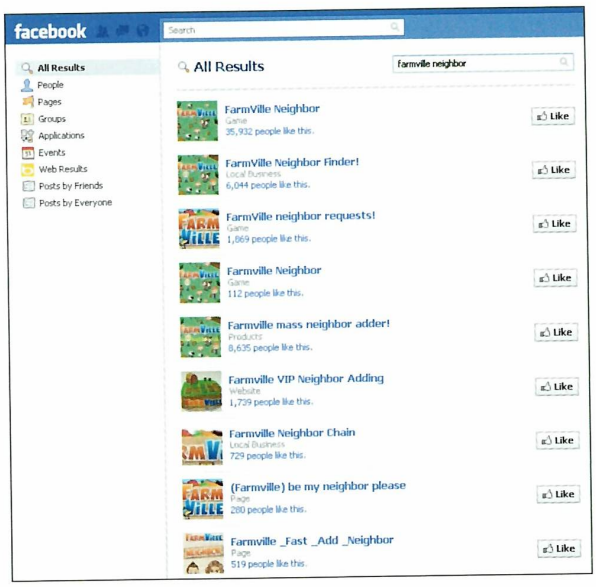


Figure 4-3: A listing of some FarmVille neighbor-finding groups on Facebook.



Before you start adding strangers as friends on your Facebook account, you should consider how doing so may impact the security of your Facebook account and your personal information. By default, these new friends will be able to view any information you post on Facebook — even information you'd like to limit to real friends only — and will be able to send you messages and post on your wall.

Luckily, you can set privacy and security setting for these FarmVille "stranger neighbors" separately from the settings for the rest of your Facebook friends. To do so, follow these steps.

1. **Click the Friends button on the left sidebar of your Facebook home page.**

   The Friends page appears.

2. **Click the Edit Friends button, located at the top-right corner of the Friends page.**

   The Edit Friends page appears, showing a list of all your current friends.

3. **Click the Create a List button located at the top right.**

   The Create New List menu appears.

4. **Type a name for your new list in the text box.**

   Make the name something applicable and memorable, such as "FarmVille-only friends" or "Stranger Neighbors."

5. **(Optional) Click the names of any friends you want to add to this list.**

   If you already have some stranger neighbors as Facebook friends, you can add them to your new list by clicking their profile picture. You can also add them later, if you prefer.

6. **Click the Create List button.**

   A page for your new list appears. You can access this page at any time by returning to the Edit Friends page in Step 2 and clicking the name of the list in the left sidebar.

7. **Type all or part of the name of the stranger neighbor you'd like to add to the list in the text box.**

   A drop-down list of all the Facebook friends who match that name appears as you type.

8. **Click the name of the stranger neighbor you'd like to add to the list.**

   The stranger neighbor is added to the list and appears below the text entry field. Repeat Steps 7 and 8 as often as necessary until all your stranger neighbors have been added to the list

   Alternatively, you can click the Add Multiple button and then click the faces of as many friends as you'd like. Click the Save List button to speed up the process.



   If you add more strangers as Facebook friends later, you will have to actively add them to this list by starting from Step 7. You can also add someone directly to it when you accept a friend request. To do so, accept the request, click the Add to List button, select the stranger neighbor list, and then click the blue Save button.

9. **Click the Account menu in the upper-right corner and choose Privacy Settings.**

   The Facebook Privacy Settings page appears.

10. **Click the Customize Settings button below your current settings.**

    The Facebook Privacy Settings Customization page appears, as shown in Figure 4-4.

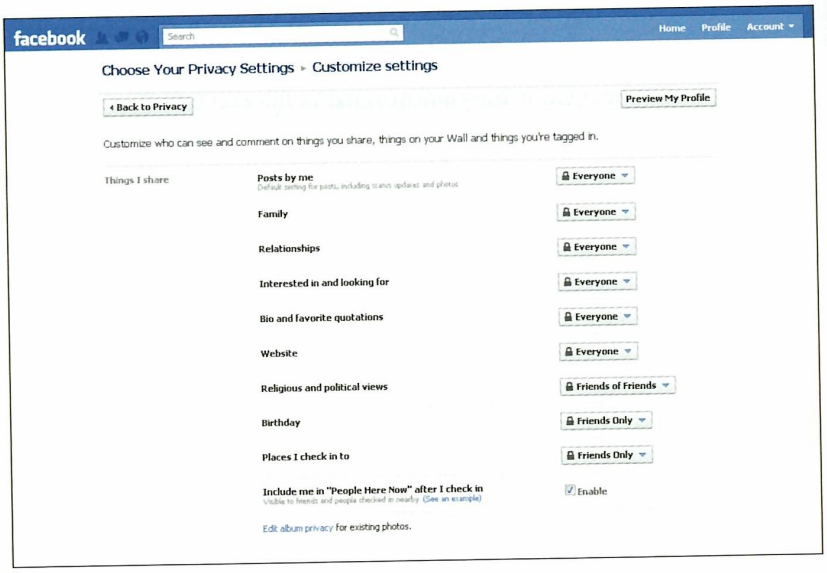


Figure 4-4: The Facebook Privacy Settings Customization page.

11. **Click the drop-down menu for the specific settings you want to restrict and click Customize.**

    A pop-up menu appears, asking which people you'd like to make this information visible to or hidden from.

12. **In the Hide This From area, type all or part of the name of the stranger neighbor group and then click the name of that group when it appears.**

    The group appears in the Hide This From area.

13. **Click Save Setting.**

    Repeat Steps 11 and 12 until you've set the privacy settings to your liking. Note that you have to set the privacy for the group only once; from then on, any stranger neighbors you add to the group will automatically be limited to what they can and can't do and see on your Facebook profile.

Removing neighbors



You are allowed a maximum of 300 neighbors at a time, and you should do everything you can to hit that limit. Although managing 300 neighbors might seem tough, keep in mind that having a lot of neighbors increases your ability to receive free gifts and take part in in-game activities that require neighbors, as discussed later in this chapter.

Not all neighbors are created equal, however. Often, a neighbor will agree to your request and then never visit your farm, send a gift, participate in a co-op job, or do anything else to help you out. Or neighbors will stop playing FarmVille after accepting your request, thereby clogging your Neighbors list with static or empty farms.

These inactive neighbors are still minimally useful — you can still visit their farms and receive coin and experience rewards for helping out, even if that help will go unappreciated. Still, as you near your 300-neighbor limit (or if you just want to clean things up), you may want to cull some of the dead weight from your Neighbors list. You can do this from the My Neighbors page by clicking the Remove as Neighbor button next to any current neighbor.



You don't receive confirmation for this kind of neighbor removal, so you'll have to send another neighbor request if you mis-click. Be careful!

Helping Your Neighbors

In FarmVille as in life, being a good neighbor is a two-way street. Certainly, your neighbors can help you out with stuff like free items, farm work, and help with co-op jobs, but you're also expected to do the same things to help those neighbors.

Luckily, FarmVille provides bonuses such as XP, Farm Coins, and even rare Mystery Eggs for being a good neighbor, thereby proving that you can indeed do well by doing good. Read on for a description of all the ways FarmVille neighbors can be helpful to each other and what benefits they get in return.

Reaping what you sow by visiting your neighbors' farms

It might seem silly to go do farm work on your neighbors' farms when you have so much to do on your own farm. But don't be fooled — visiting and helping your neighbors' farms is a great way to earn some extra Farm Coins, XP, and possibly some free items each day.

To visit a neighbor's farm, simply click that neighbor's image in the Neighbor bar at the bottom of the play area and then click Visit/Help Farm from the drop-down menu. The farming screen fades out for a few seconds and your neighbor's farm appears with your farmer avatar standing in the center. To return to your farm at any time, click the Return Home button just above the Tools menu, as shown in Figure 4-5.



Figure 4-5: The Return Home button.



Note that your neighbor's farm can take a few seconds to load completely (or longer, depending on the speed of your Internet connection). Some items on the neighbor's farm may appear as shadows for a while, only to pop suddenly into existence as the data is downloaded from Zynga's server.

Farming on your neighbor's farm isn't exactly like farming on your own — you're actually quite limited in the actions you can take to help your neighbor. Each action comes with its own separate reward as well, as discussed in the upcoming list.



Note that, except for feeding chickens, you can complete only five of these tasks in aggregate per neighbor farm per calendar day. For example, you can harvest two trees, fertilize two plots of land, and unwither one crop before having to move on to another farm for the day. Feeding chickens in chicken coops does not count toward this total, but you can feed each neighbor's chickens only once per day. A new day in FarmVille starts at midnight Eastern time.

Following are the activities you earn benefits for if you perform them on a neighbor's farm:



- **Fertilize crops:** Click any unfertilized, seeded plot of land on your neighbor's farm to fertilize that plot. You earn ten Farm Coins and one XP for each plot fertilized this way. Because of your good deed, your neighbor will also earn an additional XP when he or she harvests that plot of land.

  If your neighbor has used a Fertilize All item recently, you might not be able to find an unfertilized plot of land to fertilize.
- **Plow fallow land:** Click any patch of unproductive, light-brown fallow land to plow that land and make it ready for seeding by your neighbor. You receive 10 Farm Coins and one XP per plot plowed in this manner.
- **Unwither dead crops:** Click a plot of brown, withered crops on a neighbor's farm to unwither that crop and restore it to full, harvestable health. You earn 10 Farm Coins and one experience point per plot plowed in this manner.

If your neighbor has not played FarmVille for 14 days or more, you'll be given the option to unwither *all* of that neighbor's crops for free.

- **Harvest animals:** Just as on your farm, animals that are ready to harvest on a neighbor's farm appear with a pink arrow above their head. Click these animals to harvest the animal and receive up to 50 Farm Coins for your trouble. (For more on harvesting animals, see Chapter 3.)

  Note that some of your neighbors' animals will yield more coins than others when harvested. To receive the maximum 50-coin bounty, look for horses, foals, swans, cats, and goats to harvest. Also, don't worry that you're somehow stealing from your neighbor by harvesting their prized animals — your neighbor will also receive the same coin rewards when they visit next visit their farm.

- **Harvest trees:** If a neighbor's tree is ready to harvest, a sickle icon appears next to your pointer and the word Harvest appears when you hover your mouse over that tree. Click the tree to harvest it and receive up to 50 coins.

  As with animals, some of your neighbors' trees will produce a larger coin bonus than others when harvested. Trees that produce the maximum 50-coin bonus include Olive, Jackfruit, Passion Fruit, Gulmohar, Banana, and Date.

- **Feed chickens:** While visiting a neighbor's farm, click that farm's chicken coop to feed the chickens. A pop-up box notifies you as to whether you've received a Mystery Egg for your trouble. If you have, you can click the Share button to in turn post a Mystery Egg to your Facebook news feed, as discussed in the "Giving and Receiving Gifts" section, later in this chapter.

  Either way, you receive 100 Farm Coins and 10 XP for feeding a coop of chickens, making this one of the most lucrative actions you can perform on a neighbor's farm.

  Fed chickens are also more likely to provide Mystery Eggs when harvested by your neighbor. (See Chapter 9 for more about mystery prizes.)

If a neighbor has helped your farm using any of the preceding methods, that farmer's avatar appears on your farm the next time you log in to play FarmVille. Click that avatar and then click the Accept Help button in the drop-down menu to finalize the help the neighbor has provided. Be sure to do this before doing any other farming tasks; otherwise, your neighbors' help could be rendered moot if you perform the tasks yourself.

Providing more neighborly assistance

Besides helping neighbors directly via farm visits, neighbors can choose among plenty of other in-game tasks to help each other with. These include

- **Participating in co-op jobs:** Neighbors can join together in co-op jobs to receive mutually beneficial bonuses for the planting and harvesting they were going to do anyway. See Chapter 12 for much more on participating in co-op jobs.
- **Collecting items for limited-edition events:** FarmVille occasionally has a themed collection event that requires you to collect items to redeem for exclusive prizes. You can often collect more of these items by clicking themed buildings placed on your neighbors' farms. See Chapter 10 for more details about limited-edition events.
- **Constructing buildings and upgrading vehicles:** Neighbors can send each other building materials and vehicle parts as gifts, saving each other from spending lots of Farm Cash to construct a building or upgrade a vehicle. See this chapter's "Giving and Receiving Gifts" section for more on sending gifts, or Chapter 9 for more on constructing buildings and Chapter 6 for more on upgrading vehicles.
- **Expanding your farm:** Although you can purchase a farm expansion with Farm Cash at any time, the ability to buy those expansions with Farm Coins is only unlocked when you reach various milestone numbers of neighbors. See Chapter 6 for more on buying farm expansions.
- **Collecting bushels and selling crafted goods:** Having more neighbors means having more potential sources of free bushels of goods from the Farmers Market, as well as more potential customers for the crafted goods you make. See Chapter 7 for more on participating in the Farmers Market (which is different from the FarmVille Market that you get to using the Market menu).
- **Earning ribbons:** Many ribbons either require you to have a certain number of neighbors or help neighbors a certain number of times. Having neighbors helps you earn these ribbon achievements and the coin and XP bonuses that go with them. For more on these ribbons, see Chapter 11.
- **Giving and receiving gifts:** Who doesn't love free stuff? Giving and receiving free gifts is one of the most important roles for a good neighbor. See the upcoming section for more on giving and receiving gifts.
- **Sharing items and bonuses through news feed links:** Neighbors can share free items and bonuses by posting links to their Facebook news feed, as we mention throughout this book. See the section later in this chapter for more details on how to post on and take advantage of news feed links.

Giving and Receiving Gifts

Sending free gifts is one of the most rewarding things FarmVille neighbors can do for one another. The animals, trees, decorations, and construction materials available as free gifts are often hard to obtain by other means, and a farmer can save a significant amount of Farm Cash by receiving them rather than purchasing them from the Market.

Even if your neighbor doesn't have an immediate need for a specific gift, he or she can still sell it to gain some Farm Coins. For this reason, you should strive to send something to each of your neighbors as often as possible.

Giving gifts

To send free gifts to your neighbors, follow these steps:

1. **Click the brown Free Gifts tab located above the FarmVille game area.**

   The Free Gifts page appears, as shown in Figure 4-6.

2. **Select the radio button under the gift you'd like to give.**

   Note that you can choose only one distinct gift to give at a time. If you want to give a separate gift to another neighbor, you can come back to the Gifting page later.



Figure 4-6: The Free Gifts page.

3. **Click either of the purple Proceed to Send buttons at the bottom and top of the Free Gifts list.**

   The Friend Selection page appears.

4. **Select the check boxes next to the friends to whom you want to send the gift.**

   Note that you can click the FarmVille Friends tab to limit the list to only people who have installed FarmVille on their Facebook account. You can send gifts to other Facebook friends, but they'll have to install the game before they can accept your gifts.

   You can also type all or part of a friend's name into the text box above the Friends list to find a particular friend quickly. If you add a friend accidentally, click the X next to that person's name in the lower portion of the Friend selection area to remove the person from the list of recipients.

5. **Click the blue Send FarmVille Gift Request button.**

   A pop-up notification asks you to confirm or cancel your gift.

6. **Click the blue Send button.**

   Your farm reappears. A news post detailing your gift shows up on your neighbor's Facebook news feed. The neighbor then has to accept the gift using the method outlined in the next section.



You can send up to a maximum of 50 gifts, in aggregate, to your FarmVille neighbors in a 4-hour period. You are also limited to one gift per neighbor every four hours.



If you're looking for a specific giftable item for yourself, try sending that same item to a few of your neighbors. Chances are, you'll receive multiple thank you gifts of the same type in return.

Accepting and using gifts

Just as in real life, you have to actively accept a gift in FarmVille before you can open and use it. Unfortunately, the process for accepting a gift in FarmVille isn't as straightforward as just taking a wrapped box someone hands you. Recipients of FarmVille gifts have to take action to accept those gifts before using them.

To accept any and all gifts you've been sent, follow these steps:

1. **Click the FarmVille Requests button in the upper-right corner of the FarmVille play area.**

   The number of gifts you have waiting to be accepted appears in a blue square, as shown in Figure 4-7. If no number appears, you currently have

no pending gifts to accept, so tell your neighbors to get off their behinds and send you something, darn it!



Figure 4-7: The FarmVille Requests button.



A pop-up notification appears, asking whether you really want to accept your pending gift requests now. Think long and hard about this decision . . . just kidding; there's really nothing to think about. It's free stuff. Free!

2. **Click the Accept button.**

   The Farmville section of your Facebook requests page appears, as shown in Figure 4-8. You can also access your Facebook request page at any time by clicking the See All Requests button on the right sidebar of your Facebook home page.



Figure 4-8: The FarmVille section of your Facebook Requests page.

3. **Click the Accept and Play button next to the gift you want to accept.**

   You can also click the Ignore button to permanently reject a gift, but really, why would you want to do that? It's a free gift. Free! Remember, you can always sell an unwanted gift for Farm Coins.

   The Gift Acceptance confirmation page appears, as shown in Figure 4-9.



Figure 4-9: The Gift Acceptance confirmation page.

4. **(Optional) Click the Send a Thank You Gift button and then the Send button on the confirmation window to send a gift back to the sender.**

   Although this step isn't strictly necessary, sending gifts back to neighbors who send you gifts is a good way to ensure that you get more gifts in the future.

5. **Click the Yes button under "Do you have more pending gifts to accept?" to accept more gifts, or the No button to return to your farm.**

   If you click the Yes button, go back to Step 3 to continue accepting gifts until you have no more to accept.

   Don't worry if you accidentally click No when you actually do have more gifts — you can go back to Step 1 and accept your remaining gifts at any time.

6. **Click the Gift Box icon in the Tools menu.**

   The Gift Box menu appears, which contains all the gifts you accepted in Steps 1 through 5.

7. **Click the Use, Sell, or Re-Gift buttons that appear under your gifts.**

   If you click the Use button, you return to your farm to place the item (if it's a tangible item). Tangible items such as animals and decorations take up physical space on your farm. If it's an intangible item such as a shovel, fuel, or Farm Cash, the item is added to your inventory automatically.



Although a shovel is, in real-world terms, a "tangible" object, our reference to it and other items as "intangible" means that such items don't take up physical (that is, virtual) space on your farm.

Twitch Interactive EX1021 Page 59

If you click the Sell button, a pop-up notification appears, listing the item's sale price and asking whether you're sure you want to sell that gift. Click the Accept button to sell the gift for Farm Coins or the Cancel button if you were just curious. Note that some items sell for zero coins, so selling them is useful only for clearing space in your Gift Box.

If you click the Re-gift button (which is not available for all items), a pop-up notification asks you how many of the gifts you want to give away. Click the Send button to confirm or Cancel to reconsider.



Gifts expire two weeks after they are sent. If you try to accept a gift after this time, you receive nothing but a message urging you to accept your gifts sooner next time. You'd be wise to take that advice.

Other Ways to Be a Good Neighbor: Farming Etiquette

The perfect FarmVille neighbor would visit each friend's farm daily, completing as many neighborly tasks as he or she can and pocketing a whole lot of coins and XP in the process. In practice, visiting every day might not be feasible for farmers who have limited time to play or have reached the maximum of 300 neighbors for their farm.

Even if you can't visit daily, it's still important to do your part to create and maintain a good relationship with each of your neighbors. If you strive to be a thoughtful neighbor, chances are good that your neighbors will return the favor.

Here are a few tips on the etiquette of being a FarmVille neighbor:

- **Feed chickens:** If you have time to do only one task on a neighbor's farm, this is the one to do. Not only do you get a beefy bonus of 100 coins and 10 XP for a single click, but the Mystery Eggs that you and your neighbor could receive from the action can be quite lucrative. (See Chapter 9 to see just how lucrative.)
- **Fertilize and unwither crops:** Although plowing a neighbor's fields and harvesting his or her trees and animals are useful time savers, your neighbor can perform these actions quite easily with a few free clicks. If your neighbors want to fertilize or unwither their own crops, however, they'll probably have to spend some hard-to-get Farm Cash to do it. Give these actions priority over other actions when you visit a neighbor's farm so that they can save a little virtual currency.

- **Give and you shall receive:** Sending out free gifts is a great way to encourage your neighbors to send free gifts in return. The game provides a link for someone to return the favor right there on the gift notification pop-up; also, giving gifts makes your neighbors more likely to think positively of you and want to reward you for your help.
- **Always send a return gift after you receive a gift:** If you have a reputation for returning gifts when you receive them, your neighbors will be more likely to send you gifts out of the blue, purely out of self-interest if nothing else.
- **Do your part to help complete co-op jobs:** Signing up for jobs that you fail to help with is not only rude but also reduces the chance that your neighbors will participate in and help complete co-op jobs that *you* start. See Chapter 12 for more on co-op jobs.
- **Block off the center of your farm:** Blocking off the center of your farm by trapping your farmer avatar both saves you time while working on your own farm and keeps visiting neighbors from having to wait for their farmer to walk long distances to help you out. See Chapter 3 for more on blocking off the center of your farm.
- **Share the wealth:** Whenever the game asks whether you want to share a free item or bonus on your Facebook news feed, take advantage of the opportunity! Doing so increases your reputation as a generous neighbor while also giving you bragging rights to your in-game accomplishments.
- **Re-gift unusable items:** Turn your trash into someone else's treasure by clicking the Re-gift button under unwanted or unusable items in your Gift Box. Those items are then posted to your Facebook news feed, where they have a chance of finding a good home.

Posting Items and Bonuses to a Facebook News Feed

While you're playing FarmVille, many opportunities arise for you to post a message on your Facebook news feed. These news posts can involve everything from opportunities to adopt animals or accept free items to requests for help with building upgrades.

These opportunities are usually indicated by a Share button or something similar that shows up in a pop-up notification window as you play. Clicking such a button brings up the News Feed publishing box, as shown in Figure 4-10.



Figure 4-10: A Facebook News feed publishing box.

Next, follow these steps to post a message:

1. **(Optional) Type a personal message in the text box.**

   This message adds a more personal touch to the default news post written by FarmVille. You can also click the lock next to the Publish button to restrict the news post's visibility to a certain limited group of your Facebook friends. This feature can be especially handy for sharing FarmVille links only with people you know are interested in playing the game.

2. **Click Publish.**

   The link will be shared on your news feed. Note that you can instead click Skip to pass up the opportunity to share with your neighbors if you want.

Your neighbors will be able to click the link that appears in their news feed to accept the item or bonus or provide help with your request. Note that some items shared via news feeds are available for only a limited time, or are available only to the first few neighbors who click the link. Be sure to click news feed links shared by your neighbors as soon as possible to take full advantage of these opportunities.

Acquiring Farm Coins for Essentials

Farm Coins are the basic currency used in FarmVille, and every new FarmVille player starts with 240 coins. You can use Farm Coins to purchase everything from seeds and animals to storage buildings, decorations, vehicles, and land expansions. Although you must use Farm Cash to obtain many premium items, the items that you absolutely *need* to play the game tend to be available for purchase with Farm Coins.

You can use these coins however you wish, but keep in mind that although money *does* grow on trees (and crops and animals) in FarmVille, you have to purchase those trees (and crops and animals) before you can reap their rewards. If you spend all your early money on frivolous items, you'll have to break out your wallet and use real money to replenish your virtual coin purse, as we explain in "Spending Real Money on Virtual Goods," later in this chapter.



If you run out of coins, try visiting neighbors' farms, where you can get paid for actions such as fertilizing their crops, harvesting their trees, feeding their chickens, or collecting from animals. See Chapter 4 for more on interacting with neighbors. Totally broke farmers can also keep an eye on bonus links in their Facebook news feed to score some free coins.

Earning Farm Coins

As mentioned at the start of the chapter, a major aspect of playing FarmVille is to earn FarmVille coins continuously. Without coins, you can't purchase the seeds you need to grow crops or any of the other items that drive the FarmVille economy.

Although you can spend real money on Farm Coins, you can also earn them quite easily in the game. Earning coins can be hard at first, because new farmers have fewer resources and opportunities to drive their engine of economic growth. If you're a diligent farmer, however, you'll soon be earning coins as an easy and natural part of your life in FarmVille.

You have a wide variety of methods for earning Farm Coins, including:

- **Harvesting crops, trees, and animals:** This is by far the most common method for generating coins. Through regular harvesting, these items all provide predictable, reliable income that, over time, far outstrips the initial investment you put into them. For more on how to acquire and harvest all these items, see Chapter 3.

  Crops need to be harvested promptly when they're fully grown or they wither and lose all value. Trees and animals don't wither but should be harvested frequently to maximize returns. See Chapter 6 for more on keeping to an efficient farming schedule.



- **Earning ribbons:** You earn ribbons by completing various FarmVille tasks, and each new ribbon comes with a reward in the form of Farm Coins and experience points (XP). For more on how to earn ribbons and the specific rewards associated with them, see Chapter 11.
- **Selling crafted goods:** By setting up a crafting building, you can turn bushels of crops into crafted goods, which your neighbors can then purchase using their coins. Eighty percent of the purchase price for these goods goes directly into your Farm Coins account. For a much more detailed account of the entire crafting and selling process, see Chapter 7.
- **Visiting neighbors and completing friend missions:** When you visit a neighbor's farm, you can earn Farm Coins and XP by performing helpful actions such as fertilizing crops, harvesting trees, collecting from animals, and feeding chickens. It's doing well by doing good. For more on visiting other farms and helping neighbors, see Chapter 4.
- **Celebrating your neighbors' achievements:** When your FarmVille friends achieve certain goals in FarmVille, the game gives them the option to share a bonus with their friends by posting a message on their Facebook wall. If you see such a message on a friend's wall, click the Get a Bonus From [Friend's Name] link to earn free coins and XP. Note that these bonuses last for only 24 hours, and only the first few neighbors who click the link get the bonus, so keep your eyes peeled and click those links promptly.

Earning Farm Coins quickly

Everybody wants to get rich quickly, and FarmVille players are no exception. Many new farmers want to know the quickest ways to earn coins in the game. Accumulating coins happens naturally when you persistently grow crops, limit your unnecessary spending, and consider some of the following suggestions for earning coins:

- **Know your crops:** Each FarmVille crop has a specific growing time, seed price, and harvest yield associated with it. You can use these numbers to figure out which available crops provide the most daily profit per plot of land. For a fuller discussion of maximizing the profit you earn from each plot of plowed land, see Chapter 6. Also, see Chapter 17 to find out about some of the most lucrative crops in the game.
- **Know your animals:** As with crops, some animals generate more daily harvestable profits than others. In contrast to crops, though, different animals take up a different amount of space on your farm, meaning that you have to also consider whether having an animal is the most efficient use of your land. Look for animals such as calves, which leave a relatively small footprint on your farm and can be harvested for a relatively high 80 coins each day.

After that first use, however, the biplane's powerful ability doesn't come so cheaply. Whenever you click the biplane, a pop-up notification asks whether you want to spend a certain amount of Farm Cash to grow all your crops instantly. Although the precise cost for each use depends on the number and current growth status of your crops, growing a full field of long-gestation crops can easily run you more than 100 in Farm Cash. Think carefully about whether you really can't afford to wait out the current growing cycle before spending all that in-game dough.



If you seed an entire field of high-profit, long-gestation crops such as artichokes, potatoes, or yellow melon before using your biplane for the first time, the instant profit from those crops can effectively pay for the purchase immediately.

Getting fuel to run your vehicles

Except for the biplane, all vehicles need fuel to operate. Your current fuel reserves are shown as a gauge in the bottom-left corner of your farm, as shown in Figure 6-12. This fuel is shared among all your FarmVille vehicles and automatically deducted as you use those vehicles. The number under the word *Fuel* indicates how many full tanks you currently have in reserve, whereas the yellow gauge shows the portion of the current tank that remains. Each full fuel tank holds enough fuel to use one basic vehicle on 150 plots of land or a Combine on 50 plots of land. You can hover your mouse over the fuel gauge to see how many plots your current fuel reserves can accommodate.

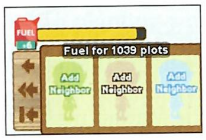


Figure 6-12: The fuel gauge.

After you've purchased your first vehicle, you can use Farm Cash to purchase fuel directly from the Vehicles section of the Market menu or obtain it any of the following ways:

- Find fuel randomly when plowing land on your own farm.
- Find fuel randomly when fertilizing plots on neighbors' farms.

- Find fuel randomly in Mystery Gifts, Mystery Eggs, and Gift Boxes; or obtain fuel directly as a gift from a neighbor.
- Click a link offering free fuel in a neighbor's Facebook news feed.
- Trade crafted goods for fuel.
- Complete a collection to receive a fuel bonus.
- Click the Bonus button on the FarmVille Game Bar once a day for that day's free fuel reward. (If you need to install the Game Bar, see Chapter 5 to find out how.)
- Click the link in the Daily Fuel Boost e-mail sent by Zynga, if you've elected to receive such e-mails.
- Allow your fuel to regenerate slowly over time. The precise rate at which your fuel tanks refill depends on the size of your farm. At most, this natural regeneration fills one tank of fuel over a 24-hour period.
- During occasional Free Fuel Week promotions, you can gain fuel bonuses simply for visiting your farm daily. If you visit your farm every day during these promotions, your fuel rewards will increase each day.

Arborists and Farmhands

Using Arborists and Farmhands is a wonderful way to improve the efficiency of your farming. With a single click, Arborists can harvest fruit or nuts from every ripened tree on your farm, and Farmhands can harvest every animal that's ready for harvesting. On a farm with dozens of trees or animals, the time savings from using these helpers can be substantial.

Unfortunately, in contrast to vehicles, these helpers are not permanent fixtures on your farm. Instead, they exist as one-use items that reside in your gift box. You can purchase both Arborists and Farmhands for five Farm Cash per use from the trees and animals sections of the Market menu, respectively. You also have a chance of finding these helpers when harvesting your Horse Stable (see Chapter 9) or opening Mystery Gifts and Mystery Eggs (see Chapter 4).

You can also occasionally send and receive these helpers as free gifts from the Gifting page. Be sure to take advantage of these gift periods by sending Arborists and Farmhands to all your neighbors and requesting that they send ones back in return. Your clicking finger will thank you later.



To get the most economical use out of your Arborists and Farmhands, wait until all your trees or animals are ready for harvest.

Costs and benefits

Here's how the coin and XP breakdown works out for one plot under the soybean method.

- **Plowing a plot of land:** ×15 Farm Coins, + 1 XP
- **Planting a plot of soybeans:** ×15 Coins, + 2 XP
- **Deleting a seeded plot:** ×0 coins, +0 XP
- **Totals:** ×30 Farm Coins, +3 XP — 10 Farm Coins/XP

Soybeans are the cheapest seeds available in the FarmVille Market that also yield XP. The one-day ripening time before harvest is irrelevant when you use the soybean method because the plots are deleted before they can mature.

The soybean method requires fewer coins than the hay bale method to generate the same amount of XP, but it does require significantly more clicking of the mouse, as well as more cleared space on your farm.

The news feed method

One method for gaining XP and levels in FarmVille doesn't actually involve playing the game. By stalking your friends' news feeds for posted XP and coin bonuses, you can level up without planting a single crop or buying a single item. What could be simpler?

Requirements

To gain XP via the news feed method, you need:

- **Neighbors:** As many as you can get. For more on adding and interacting with neighbors, see Chapter 4.
- **Time and attention:** To invest in watching your Facebook news feed for bonus links.

How it works

Follow these steps to gain XP using the news feed method:

1. **Scan your Facebook news feed for FarmVille achievement bonuses posted by your neighbors, as shown in Figure 8-5.**

   Be sure to click the Most Recent tab at the top of your news feed to make sure you see all your friends' updates, not just the ones that Facebook offers as the most relevant.

2. **Click the Get a Bonus from Them link in the news feed post.**

   Coins and experience points are added to your FarmVille account. Note that bonus links expire 24 hours after they're posted, so be sure to scour your news feed frequently.

3. **Click Accept.**

   The game returns you to your farm, and your XP bonus is noted in your account.



Figure 8-5: A bonus XP link as seen in a FarmVille news feed.

Costs and benefits

Because collecting news feed bonuses doesn't actually involve playing FarmVille, you pay no in-game cost to this method to gain XP. Only your time and a keen eye for skimming through Facebook updates quickly are required. Therefore, the method is especially useful for new farmers who might not have disposable in-game currency to spend on other methods.

The trick to making the news feed method work for you is having a lot of FarmVille neighbors, and thus more potential bonuses to collect. See Chapter 4 for more on finding and inviting new neighbors to join your FarmVille network. After you've gained those neighbors, be sure to encourage them to click the Share button whenever the game asks whether they want to post a bonus to their wall. Remember, their gain is your gain.



In addition to posting about XP and coin bonuses to celebrate achievements, your neighbors can also post about items such as lost pets, bushels, collectibles, and other bonuses to your newsfeeds. Although these bonuses don't generate XP directly, they can generate coins and other benefits that can lead to increased experience and leveling. You can also occasionally gain free XP from mystery eggs found by feeding your neighbor's chickens — see Chapter 4 for more on how helping your neighbors helps you.

The big-spender method

Because purchasing items from the FarmVille Market grants an XP bonus, farmers who have no qualms about spending loads of Farm Cash or Farm Coins can spend their way right to the upper echelons of FarmVille's leveling system.

9

Adding Storage Facilities and Animal Shelters

In This Chapter

- Understanding how to store and retrieve items and animals
- Knowing what to store where
- Building and expanding storage facilities
- Sheltering and breeding animals

One of the most common requests from virtual farmers is for more storage! After playing FarmVille for a while, the panoply of adorable decorations, designer homes, and priceless animals you've collected can quickly turn your farm from a verdant paradise to a hoarder's nightmare.



Having lots of clutter on your farm not only slows down your game play but also reduces space for profitable crop planting. You can always sell off your excess items and animals to take back your space, of course, but chances are good that you've grown attached to at least a few of the things that make your farm uniquely yours.

For many farmers, storing their extra items and animals using storage buildings is a much more agreeable option. This chapter tells you everything you need to know about FarmVille's storage options.

Understanding Storage and Retrieval of Items and Animals

Two major types of storage are available in FarmVille: animal shelters that hold specific types of animals, and storage facilities that hold all sorts of decorations. Also, some storage facilities, such as Garages and Garden Sheds, can store only specific types of decorations and items.

Stored items can't be seen by neighbors who visit your farm, but they also don't take up any of your valuable farm space (aside from the space needed for the storage facility, that is). Of course, you can place stored items back on your farm if you want, as discussed later in this chapter.

Building storage facilities from frames

You can purchase animal shelters (and some limited-edition buildings) directly with Farm Cash or you can build them using a combination of Farm Coins (to purchase a frame) and building supplies, which can you can receive as gifts from neighbors or purchase using Farm Cash.

Although each building frame requires different quantities and types of building materials to complete (Figure 9-1 shows an example), the construction process is similar for each building type.

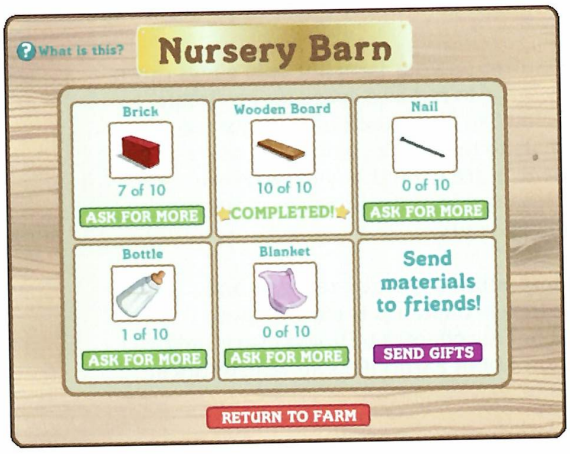


Figure 9-1: The building materials menu for an incomplete nursery barn frame.

The following steps cover the basics of the construction process:

1. **Purchase the frame from the Buildings tab of the FarmVille Market.**

   For more on using the Market menu, see Chapter 6.

2. **Place the frame on your farm.**

   Any open space will do, and you can always move the frame later.

3. **Request building materials from your friends or purchase them with Farm Cash.**

   When you first place a frame, a pop-up notification asks whether you want to post a note to your news feed asking your friends for help with your new construction. Click the Share button to post a request for building materials to your news feed.

   You can post further requests for building materials by clicking any building and then clicking Look Inside on the pop-up menu to display the Building Materials menu, shown in Figure 9-1. Click the Ask for More button under the desired building item to send out another news feed request.

   Alternatively, you can access building materials you need and buy them directly from the Market by clicking Buildings➪For Animals. One construction material costs one Farm Cash.

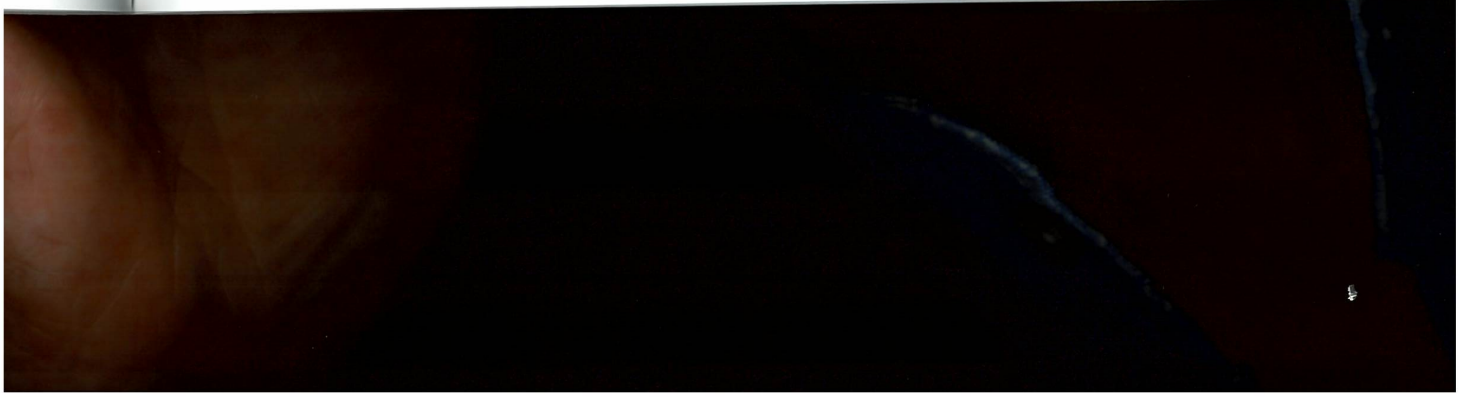
4. **After you receive building materials, open your Gift Box by clicking the Gift Box icon on the Tools menu; then click Use underneath the building material you want to use.**

   If you have multiple applicable frames on your farm, you have to choose which building to use the material on.

After you've obtained every building supply needed for your building, the frame is automatically replaced with a functional building that you can use for storage, as discussed in the "Storing items and sheltering animals" section, later in the chapter.

A good ol' fashioned barn raising: Expanding storage facilities

Expanding the capacity for most existing buildings — including Barns, Tool Sheds, Chicken Coops, Dairy Farms, and Nursery Barns — is done via what the game calls a "good ol' fashioned barn raising."





Horse Stables are not expanded using a barn raising, but rather with building materials — just as a building is created from a frame. To expand a Horse Stable, click and then click Look Inside. On the Horse Stable menu that appears, click the Expand tab to see what materials you need for your stable expansion and find buttons to ask for more.

Follow these steps to expand the storage capacity of storage buildings other than the Horse Stable and Pigpen:

1. **Click the building you want to expand and click Expand Storage in the pop-up menu that appears.**

   The Expand Storage menu, shown in Figure 9-2, appears. You can also access this menu by clicking the Expand Storage tab on the Storage Inventory menu on the Tools menu (see the "Retrieving items and animals from storage" section, later in this chapter).

   Note that you can expand only completed buildings. To build frames into completed buildings, see the previous section on building storage facilities from frames.

2. **Click the Expand button under the building you want to try to expand.**

   A pop-up notification asks you to spread the word for a "good ol' fashioned barn raising!"

3. **Click Share.**

   A Facebook news feed post dialog box appears.

4. **Type an optional message and then click Publish.**

   See Chapter 4 for more on making Facebook news feed requests.

Your barn-raising request is now posted on your news feed. Ten of your neighbors need to click the link in this news post over the next three days to complete your barn raising and expand your building's storage, so be sure to bug all your neighbors to click, click, click!



You can have only one barn raising in progress at a time. To cancel your current expansion attempt, return to the Expand Storage menu and click the Give Up button under the building you're trying to expand.

You can also click the Buy button on the Expand Storage menu to skip the barn raising and purchase expanded storage for ten Farm Cash. If you have a barn raising expansion in progress, you can also use the Buy button to finish off the expansion — one Farm Cash is as good as a single click from a neighbor in this case.



Having more neighbors actively playing FarmVille increases the number of people who can send you building supplies as gifts. See Chapter 4 for more on acquiring neighbors.

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You can store up to 100 perfect bunches of flowers in your Garden Shed at any time. To clear out space for new bunches, place your current bunches on your farm or share them with friends. You can also adopt perfect bunches that friends post on their news feeds by clicking the links in those posts, but note that those bunches will be stored in your Gift Box, not your Shed.

Sheltering Your Animals

In addition to storage for decorations and vehicles, you can also use specific buildings to house the various animals on your farm. Storing animals in these buildings not only makes collecting coins from multiple animals faster and easier but can also provide bonus items and coins for each collection.

The following buildings can be used to store specific types of animals:

- **Chicken Coop:** Stores your chickens and allows you to collect mystery eggs
- **Dairy Farm:** Stores your cows and lets you create baby calves
- **Horse Stable:** Stores your horses and lets you create foals
- **Nursery Farm:** Stores baby calves and foals and lets them grow into full-grown animals
- **Beehive:** Stores honeybees and lets you collect coins and items
- **Pigpen:** Stores pigs and lets you find lucrative truffles

The next sections explain each of these facilities in more detail.

Chicken Coop

The Chicken Coop is a building that provides a compact home for all types of chickens in FarmVille. You can purchase a basic Coop, which can hold up to 20 chickens, for 5,000 Farm Coins. Note that your new Coop doesn't come preloaded with chickens — you have to provide those yourself.



You can view the contents of your Chicken Coop and more detailed information on how many of each type of chicken are in the Coop by clicking the Coop and then clicking Look Inside to display the Chicken Coop menu, shown in Figure 9-6.

Storing your chickens in a coop allows you to harvest them all when they're ready with a single click of the Coop (see Chapter 2 for more on harvesting animals). Harvesting chickens from a Coop also gives you a chance at finding Mystery Eggs (which we tell you more about in Chapter 10).



Figure 9-6: The Chicken Coop menu.

Although you can't keep the Mystery Eggs you find in your own Chicken Coop, you can share them with your neighbors by clicking the Share button to post the egg to your Facebook news feed. Even if you don't find any Mystery Eggs during a Coop harvest, you receive a coin bonus from the Coop. The size of this bonus depends on the rarity of the chickens inside; it ranges from two to five times the normal value of the eggs harvested from your chickens.

Each farm can have only one Chicken Coop, so if you want to store more than 20 chickens, you have to expand your coop (see the "Expanding storage facilities" section, earlier in this chapter). The basic Coop expands to four more sizes, with all five as follows:

- **Chicken Coop:** Stores 20 chickens
- **Big Coop:** Stores 40 chickens
- **Huge Coop:** Stores 60 chickens
- **Giant Coop:** Stores 80 chickens
- **Super Coop:** Stores 100 chickens



Besides providing more space to store your chickens, upgrading to a Huge Coop also increases your chances of finding Mystery Eggs during a harvest by 30 percent.

Neighbors visiting your farm can feed your chickens by clicking your Coop. Likewise, you can visit up to 50 of your neighbors' farms each day and feed their chickens, too! You can find Mystery Eggs when feeding chickens, and fed chickens also have a higher chance of delivering a Mystery Egg when they're harvested. The more your neighbors feed your chickens, the better the chance that they'll produce Mystery Eggs, so encourage your neighbors to come by and help every day.



Figure 9-7: The Beehive menu.

Pigpen

The Pigpen is a storage building for all types of FarmVille pigs — and FarmVille has lots of different kinds of pigs! As with other animal shelters, you can purchase the frame for 5,000 Farm Coins, but you need to obtain building items before it is functional (see the "Building storage facilities from frames" section, earlier in the chapter). You can have only one Pigpen on your farm, and the basic Pigpen can hold up to 20 pigs. Pigpens can be expanded to hold up to 40 pigs.



If you place a Pregnant Sow into your Pigpen, it will turn into a normal pig and not produce any piglets, so watch out!

Pigpens allow you to harvest all your pigs with a single click. They also decrease the time between harvest from two days for an unpenned pig to one day for all the pigs inside your pen.

Clicking your Pigpen and then clicking the Look Inside button on the pop-up menu brings up the Pigpen menu, shown in Figure 9-8. To use this menu, you first need to obtain some pig slop, which you can do in the following ways:

- Click the Make Slop button in the corner of the Pigpen menu to create slop from bushels in your inventory (see Chapter 7 for more on bushels).
- Receive slop as a gift from a friend.
- Find slop when you harvest your Pigpen.



Figure 9-8: The Pigpen menu.

After you have slop, you can click any pig in your Pigpen to send it on a hunt for truffles on your neighbors' farms. Each pig has a chance of finding four different types of truffles, as detailed in Table 9-1. When you find a truffle on a neighbor's farm, you must first post that truffle to your neighbor's wall and then get that neighbor to click a link in the wall post to send the truffle back to you before using it to unlock the reward.

After hunting for a truffle, a pig has to rest for two days before it can hunt again.

Table 9-1 Possible Rewards for Truffle Discoveries

Truffle Type	*Possible Rewards*	*Pig Most Likely to Discover It*
Brown	1/5 Fuel, Strawberry Pig, Black Pig, Ossabaw Pig	Pig (regular), Black Pig, Ossabaw Pig, Party Pig
Black	1 Fuel, Strawberry Pig, White Pig, 300 Coins	Saddleback Pig, Piglet, Strawberry Pig
White	5 Fuel Refills, White Pig, Pink Pot Belly Pig, 1,000 coins	Hot Pink Pig, Hula Pig, Island Pig, White Pig
Gold	10 Fuel Refills, Pink Pot Belly Pig, 5,000 Coins	Javelina, Miniature Pig, Pot Belly Pig, Pink Pot Belly Pig

2. **Click the Play button on the right side of the screen.**

   Your mouse pointer is replaced with a dart, which you can point at the balloons in the center of the screen.

3. **Click any balloon with your mouse.**

   A random limited-edition item is added to your Gift Box.

You can click the Buy or Buy More buttons at the bottom of the Mystery Game menu to purchase these items directly, or you can click Play Again to purchase another dart for the displayed cost in Farm Cash.



The first time you click Play to load the Mystery Game, you receive a free dart to throw without spending any Farm Cash. The resulting limited-edition item you earn is completely risk free, so trying the game at least once, just for fun, can't hurt.

Mystery Gifts

Mystery Gifts can contain all types of FarmVille items, including coin rewards, XP rewards, animals, trees, decorations, vehicles, Farm Cash, and fuel. Some items featured among the Mystery Gifts, such as the Chinchilla, are Mystery Gift exclusive items that you cannot find or purchase anywhere else in FarmVille.

You can send free Mystery Gifts to your neighbors via the Gifting page. The gift recipient then has to accept your gift through the FarmVille Requests page. We describe both sending and receiving gifts in more detail in Chapter 4.

Mystery Eggs

You find Mystery Eggs primarily by harvesting Chicken Coops on your farm (as discussed in Chapter 9) and by feeding chickens in your neighbors' Chicken Coops (as described in Chapter 4). Whenever you perform either of these actions, you have the chance to earn a Mystery Egg for your trouble. Your chance increases if you harvest from an expanded Coop or a Coop with lots of fed chickens.

A pop-up notification reveals whether you've received a Mystery Egg or just the normal coin or XP bonuses for your actions, as shown in Figure 10-4. If you find a Mystery Egg when feeding a neighbor's Coop, you can also share an extra egg with your neighbors through a news feed post.

Not all Mystery Eggs are created equal. Colored chickens produce eggs that match their color, and rarer chickens produce eggs with rarer and more valuable items inside. To keep things, well, mysterious, Zynga changes the specific items found in each type of Mystery Egg frequently. However,

Table 10-1 shows the chickens and other items that you can currently find randomly inside various types of Mystery Eggs, as of this writing. Note that some chickens and items found in Mystery Eggs also yield an XP bonus when hatched, as indicated in the table.



Figure 10-4: A notification that you have found a Mystery Egg.



Opening Mystery Eggs is one of the best ways to get more chickens, which in turn fills up your Chicken Coop and increases your chances of finding more Mystery Eggs. Be sure to feed your neighbors' chicken coops frequently and expand your coop as necessary to increase your chances of finding more eggs.

Table 10-1 Possible Mystery Egg Prizes

Egg Color	*Chickens*	*Possible Other Items*
White (regular)	Chicken (regular), Brown	1/5 fuel refill, 20 XP, common collectible, Chicken Gnome
Uncommon Brown	Brown, Black	1 fuel refill, 20 XP, common or uncommon collectible
Rare Black	Black, Golden	10 fuel refills, uncommon collectible
Treasured Golden	Golden (50 XP), Cornish (50 XP), Rhode Island Red (50 XP), Scots Grey (50 XP)	Gold Gnome (200 XP), School House, Wax Apple Tree, 1 Farm Cash, uncommon or rare collectible, farmhand, arborist
Treasured Cornish	Cornish (50 XP), Scots Grey (200 XP)	Chicken Gnome, Windmill, 20 fuel refills (500 XP), One Farm Cash, uncommon or rare collectible, farmhand, arborist, Orange Butterfly

(continued)

Table 10-1 *(continued)*

Egg Color	*Chickens*	*Possible Other Items*
Treasured Scots Grey	Scots Grey (50 XP), Rhode Island Red (50 XP)	Chicken Gnome, Red Barn, 20 Fuel Refills (500 XP), 1 Farm Cash, uncommon or rare collectible, farmhand, arborist, Orange Butterfly
Rhode Island Red	Golden (50 XP), Cornish, Rhode Island Red	Chicken Gnome, Post Office, Wax Apple Tree, 20 fuel refills (500 XP), One Farm Cash, rare collectible, farmhand, arborist
Rainbow	Rainbow (400 XP), Cornish (50 XP), Scots Grey (200 XP), Rhode Island Red (50 XP)	Gold Gnome, Rainbow Cottage, 20 fuel refills (500 XP), uncommon collectible, Chicken Gnome

Giving Back: FarmVille Philanthropy in the Real World

Periodically, Zynga offers special limited-edition seed items called Sweet Seeds that support good real-world causes while also supporting your farm. These Sweet Seeds events let you purchase one-week licenses to plant limited-edition seeds — such as sweet yams and white corn — for a donation of a minimum of 25 Farm Cash. (You can donate more virtual currency if you want.)

The crops you can plant with these licenses tend to have very quick harvest times and a high profit ratio, as well as the unique ability to never wither! As a way of saying thank you for the donation, farmers who take part in the event also receive a Sweet Seeds flag that they can display on their farm.

Depending on the event, FarmVille publisher Zynga takes anywhere from 50 to 100 percent of the Farm Cash donations spent on these permits, converts them to real money, and sends that money to relief organizations such as FATEM (which serves people of Haiti) and the U.N. World Food Programme.

As of this writing, the three Sweet Seeds for Haiti limited-edition events have raised more than $3 million for food and school construction in some of the poorest areas of the earthquake-ravaged country. Zynga has committed to running more Sweet Seeds limited-edition events in the future, so keep your eyes peeled and help out your fellows while you help your virtual farm.

Collecting ribbon bonuses

Ribbons aren't just good for showing off. Each ribbon you earn comes with a bonus of coins and XP. Occasionally you'll also receive a bonus item in your Gift Box that's related to that ribbon's goal (a bonus tree for a tree collection ribbon, for instance).

Although there are some exceptions (see the upcoming section), the number of coins and XP you earn for most colored ribbons is shown in Table 11-1.

Table 11-1 Ribbon Coin & XP Rewards

Ribbon Color	*Coin Reward*	*XP Reward*
Yellow	500 to 1,000 coins	10 to 50 XP
White	1,000 to 2,500 coins	20 to 100 XP
Red	5,000 coins	50 to 250 XP
Blue	10,000 coins	100 to 1,000 XP

Exceptions

The Pretty Penny, Pack Rat, and Pretty Garden ribbons do not come with any coin rewards. The Architect ribbon, on the other hand, comes with inflated XP rewards of 100 XP for the yellow ribbon, 250 XP for the white ribbon, 500 XP for the red ribbon, and the normal 1,000 XP for the blue ribbon. The Shutterbug and Crop Whisperer ribbons provide fewer coins than the normal amount that comes with the red and blue ribbons.

Sharing ribbon bonuses with neighbors

Collecting ribbons doesn't just earn you a bonus — you can also let your neighbors in on the celebration and share the wealth by posting a notice of your accomplishment to your Facebook news feed.

When you earn a ribbon, a pop-up notice like the one in Figure 11-2 appears to inform you of your achievement. Click the Share button on this notification to post a notice about your achievement to your news feed. Up to ten neighbors can click the link in that news feed post to receive a coin bonus, as follows:

- **Yellow ribbon:** 50 coins
- **White ribbon:** 100 coins
- **Red ribbon:** 250 coins
- **Blue ribbon:** 500



Figure 11-2: The Ribbon Bonus notification window.

Earning the next ribbon

Although the Ribbons menu outlines how many repetitions of a certain action you need to perform to earn the next ribbon in a sequence, some farmers want to plan ahead and figure out how many actions the following ribbon will require, without having to wait to find out. For those farmers, Table 11-2 lists the requirements for each colored ribbon. Simply replace the *X* in the Action column with the numbers in the various ribbon columns to figure out the requirements.

Table 11-2 Calculating Ribbon Requirements

Ribbon	*Action*	*Yellow Ribbon*	*White Ribbon*	*Red Ribbon*	*Blue Ribbon*
Local Celebrity	Befriend *X* neighbors	4	8	25	50
Good Samaritan	Help *X* friends	20	150	500	2,500
High Roller	Earn *X* coins	25,000	50,000	500,000	1,000,000
A Pretty Penny	Spend *X* coins at the market	50,000	100,000	500,000	1,500,000
Cream of the Crop	Harvest *X* crops	10	1,000	5,000	25,000
Knock on Wood	Harvest *X* trees	20	250	1,500	5,000

collectible in order to complete the collection. The number to the right of the slash under each limited-time collectible indicates how many of that collectible you need to acquire before storing the collection, whereas the number to the left indicates how many you have found thus far.

If you're having trouble finding that final collectible or two necessary to finish a limited-time collection, you can just buy it. To do so, click the Buy button under that collectible and then click the Buy button in the resulting pop-up notification to confirm your purchase. You can also click the Buy Collection button to purchase all the remaining collectibles you need for your limited-time collection.

For active collection, common collectibles cost 1 Farm Cash each, whereas uncommon collectibles cost 2 Farm Cash, and rare collectibles cost 3 Farm Cash. Retired limited-time collectibles can be purchased for 1 Farm Cash each. Note that you can't purchase permanent-collection collectibles this way — you have to earn them the hard way.



A countdown timer appears on your farm when a limited-time collection gets within a few days of retiring. After a limited-time collection is retired, you can collect those items only with a Farm Cash purchase rather than by finding items while farming, so complete those collections before your limited time runs out!



You can keep up to ten of each permanent-collection collectible at any time. As for limited-time collection collectibles, the sky's the limit on what you can own.

Acquiring collectibles

You can acquire collectibles in a number of ways, including:

- **Find a collectible while farming or helping a neighbor's farm.** See the upcoming Table 11-3 for advice on which farming actions turn up specific permanent-collection items.
- **Receive a collectible as a free gift from a neighbor.** Common collectibles are featured in the rotation of items on the FarmVille Gifting page, as discussed in Chapter 3. Usually, two different collectibles are featured on the page for several days before being rotated out to make room for a new collectible. Note that the giftable collectibles are randomized, meaning that neighbors don't necessarily see the same ones that other neighbors see on the Gifting page.

Also note that some permanent-collection collectibles are available only as gifts and can't be collected any other way. See Table 11-3 for more on these collectibles.

- **Find collectibles in Mystery Eggs.** Each Mystery Egg you open has a chance of containing a collectible. Mystery Eggs are eggs that yield special prizes when hatched from your FarmVille chickens that you can find when harvesting your Chicken Coop.
- **Click the collectible sharing links on a neighbor's news feed.** These news posts will be in the format [*Friend name*] Found Some Uncommon Collectibles and Wants to Share Them with You in FarmVille! or [*Friend name*] Has Completed a Collection in FarmVille." You can post similar links to your news feed when you find a collectible or complete a collection. See Chapter 4 for more on sharing items and bonuses using the Facebook news feed.

Finding permanent collectibles

Certainly, you can obtain all your collectibles as gifts or by clicking news feeds. Engaging in the activities involved in farming, however, is by far the most efficient way to complete your various collections.

Not every collectible is created equal, though. Some collectibles pop up much more frequently than others, as noted by the word Common, Uncommon, or Rare that appears under a given collectible in the Collections menu (refer to Figure 11-3 to see examples).

What's more, each different farming task gives you a chance of finding different collectibles in the permanent collections. The game cryptically alludes to these methods when you hover over a collectible on the Collections menu, but for those of you who find hints like "Look up!" too hard to decipher, we've outlined how to find each permanent collectible in in Table 11-3.

Table 11-3 How to Find Permanent-Collection Items

Collectible	*Rarity*	*How to Get*
Gardening Tools Collection		
Gloves	Common	Can receive only as a gift
Trowel	Common	Find by plowing or hatching white Mystery Eggs
Cultivator	Common	Find by fertilizing neighbors' crops
Twine	Uncommon	Find by harvesting sheep
Pruning Saw	Uncommon	Find by harvesting trees or hatching gold Mystery Eggs
Shears	Rare	Find by fertilizing neighbors' crops

12

Let's Cooperate: Co-op Farming

In This Chapter

- Grasping the basics of co-op farming
- Navigating the Co-op Farming menu
- Starting and completing co-op farming jobs

On April 2, 2010, FarmVille developer Zynga introduced cooperative farming jobs to FarmVille. These jobs give you an opportunity to work together with your FarmVille neighbors toward a common goal. Co-op farming is one of the most social aspects of this already very social game.

In this chapter, we explain what co-op farming is, how to navigate the Co-op Farming menu, and how to complete co-op jobs in FarmVille. We also explain why you'd want to bother with co-op farming in the first place by outlining the benefits of completing co-op farming jobs. Read on for everything you need to know!





You can't start or join in a co-op farming job until you've reached level 20. If you're not at level 20 yet, see Chapter 8 for more on gaining new levels, and come back here when you're able to join in.

How Do Co-op Jobs Work?

Cooperative farming jobs, also known simply as co-op jobs, involve farmers working together by combining their resources and efforts for mutual benefit. Just as real world co-op farming does, FarmVille's version involves having each participant share in both the work and rewards of a job.

For the most part, co-op farming is just like regular farming in FarmVille, except that it requires a little extra planning and cooperating (obviously)! Crops still grow and wither at the same rate when you're on a co-op job, but now you have the added the constraint of a specific time limit for reaching your harvest quota. Think of it as a crop-growing race: If you and your friends can reach the finish line before the timer runs down, you win a medal!

Each co-op job asks you and your neighbors to grow a set number of specific crops within a set, real-world time limit. Depending on the completion time, the job can earn your co-op group gold, silver, or bronze medals, each of which comes with various coin and experience point (XP) rewards for each member. Gold-medal performances on co-op jobs come with unique reward items, as well, and crafting jobs also come with extra bushels for a gold-medal performance. (If you need to know more about getting and using bushels, see Chapter 7.)

Although you don't technically *need* to work with any neighbors to complete co-op jobs, they are designed to be hard — if not impossible — for any single farmer to complete alone. For example, even a farming veteran with a massive plantation would have trouble harvesting 1,275 grape plots in two days to get the gold medal on the Fashion Bug co-op job. With the help of even a few friends with smaller farms, however, the entire group should have no trouble making the deadline with some diligent harvesting and replanting.

Starting or Joining a Co-op Job

Before you start a co-op job, you have to let the game know that you and your friends plan to attempt it. You notify FarmVille of this through the Co-op Farming menu, shown in Figure 12-1.



Crops planted on your farm before you start or join a co-op job don't count toward the job's goal, so make sure your plots are plowed and empty before starting a new co-op job.



To start a co-op job, follow these steps:

1. **Click the Co-Op Farming icon in the upper-right corner of the Tools menu.**

   This icon appears only if you've unlocked co-op farming by reaching level 20. Clicking it brings up the Co-op Farming menu (refer to Figure 12-1). This menu shows all the available co-op jobs you can participate in, including jobs already under way by your neighbors.

Recruiting Friends to Help

Now that you're part of a co-op job, you want to get as many friends as possible helping you out. To do so, follow these steps:

1. **Click the Recruit Friends button in the Co-op Jobs menu.**

   A pop-up notification appears.

2. **Click the Share button in the notification box.**

   The Facebook message posting dialog box, shown in Figure 12-5, appears.

3. **Enter a message and then click Publish to post the notice on your Facebook wall.**

   Your neighbors can click a link that automatically appears in the news feed post to join your co-op job.

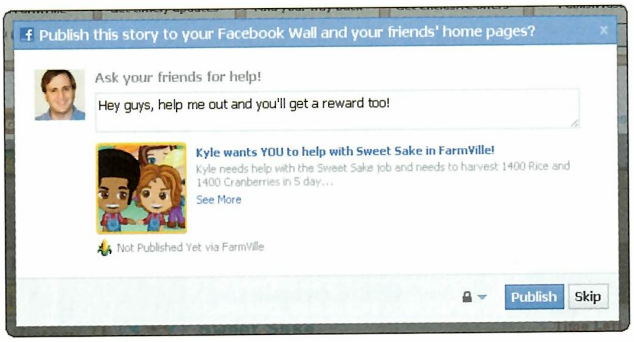


Figure 12-5: Posting a note about your co-op job to the Facebook news feed.

Neighbors can also join your co-op jobs by visiting the Co-op Jobs menu. Jobs currently under way by neighbors are shown first in the Co-op Jobs menu, so any of your neighbors can easily join your job just by clicking the Join button in their game.



Because you need to rely on your neighbors' participation to complete a co-op job, it's vital that you not only have neighbors join the job but also communicate with them. Before you start planting, you should coordinate with your fellow co-op participants and decide who should grow what crops and in what quantities.

Working on a Co-op Job

After you have your friends involved and coordinated, there's not much to co-op farming. Simply plow, seed, and harvest your crops as normal to work toward your goals. Remember, time is of the essence in co-op jobs, so be sure to harvest and replant your plots as quickly as possible.

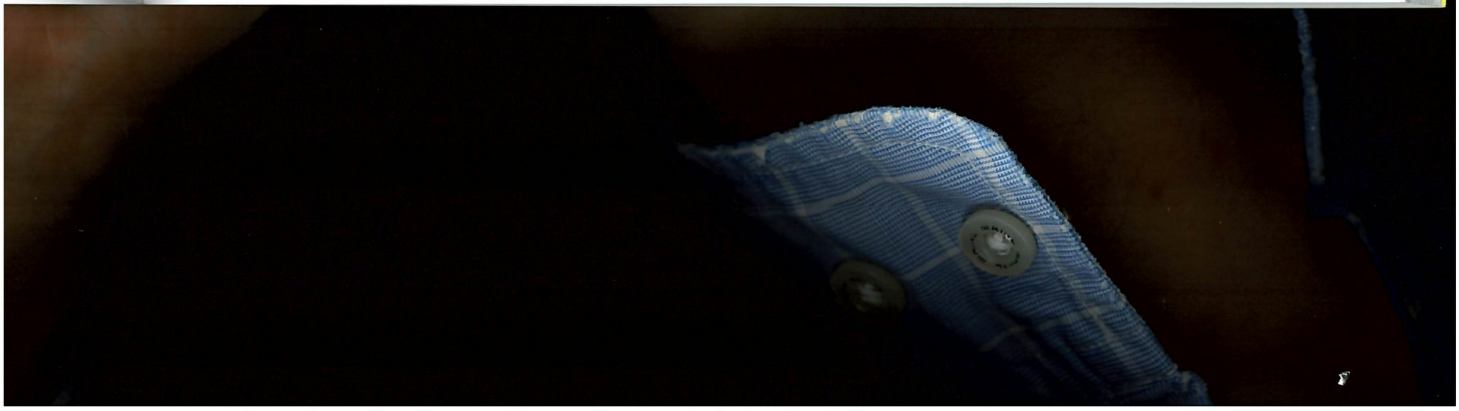
You can check on your team's progress toward the co-op job goal at any time by clicking the Active Job tab in the Co-op Farming menu (refer to Figure 12-4). Then click the Friends tab to see how many crops have been seeded and harvested by each friend, as shown in Figure 12-6. You can click the Send Message button next to your friend's name on this menu to post a message on his or her Facebook wall and better coordinate your efforts.



Figure 12-6: The Active Job menu's Friends tab.

Quitting a co-op job

Note that you can't start a second co-op job until your current job is finished. If you're really eager to move on with your co-op farming career, you can quit your current job early by clicking the Quit Job button in the lower-left of the Active Job Progress tab of the Co-op farming menu (refer to Figure 12-4) and then clicking Quit Job again on the pop-up notification to confirm your choice. Note that if you started a co-op job, you have to see it through to the bitter end when either the time limit for the bronze (lowest) medal expires or your team completes the job.



4. **Edit your picture as desired.**

   You may want to add text or cut off certain unsightly elements.

5. **Choose File➪Save As.**

   The Save Picture dialog box appears.

6. **Enter a filename and select a location and file type for your image; then click Save.**

   The picture of your farm is now saved on your computer.

Taking a screenshot on a Mac

Apple's Mac OS offers a few convenient keyboard shortcuts for taking shots of your farm or any other elements on your screen. You can access the most useful of these by pressing the Command+Shift+3 keyboard combination. Doing so saves the current screen to your desktop in a PNG file containing the words "Screen shot" and the date and time in the filename.

Alternatively, press Command+Shift+4 to transform your cursor into a crosshair. Click and drag this crosshair to describe a box around the area of the screen you want to capture; next, release the mouse to save a PNG file of the captured section to your desktop.

Troubleshooting Common Bugs and Glitches

Although FarmVille is generally pretty stable, bugs and glitches can occasionally interrupt your game play, which can be very frustrating when all you really want to do is harvest your strawberries! These glitches can be anything from having trouble loading the game to losing crops and game items. This section outlines some of the most common problems you might encounter while playing Farmville as well as some simple ways to deal with them.



You can resolve many issues by reloading the FarmVille Web page, restarting the Web browser, or restarting the computer. If other suggested fixes don't work, try those potential solutions in that order. Also note that many issues are simply caused by temporary problems on Zynga's servers and may be resolved by the next time you load the game.

Out of sync

The problem: The game reports that the current game state is out of sync with the server, as shown in Figure 14-1. All this technical mumbo-jumbo simply means that Zynga's game servers are having trouble tracking and



saving the current status of your farm (which, as we describe in Chapter 1, is stored in the "cloud" of Zynga's servers). These errors can happen at any time, but performing a lot of farming tasks in a short period of time or placing large quantities of animals, decorations, and trees too rapidly seems to cause these errors to appear more often.



Figure 14-1: An out-of-sync error message.

The solution: As the game suggests, clicking the Refresh button on your Web browser should re-sync the game with Zynga's servers. Any farming actions you performed in the last few minutes may not appear after your farm has reloaded, but don't worry — you can still perform those actions again.



Note that if you continue farming without refreshing the browser after receiving an out-of-sync warning, all your hard work may be lost. Be sure to refresh your farm as soon as possible after the warning appears to avoid losing more work.

Facebook news feed posting

The problem: The game freezes when you attempt to share an item with friends through your Facebook news feeds, or the Facebook news feed dialog box fails to appear.

The solution: Actually, this occasional problem has no known fix. Reloading your browser page allows you to continue playing, but you may no longer be able to share the item you were trying to post. Rest easy knowing that it's your neighbors, not you, who will suffer most from this error.

Performance

The problem: Game animation appears choppy or laggy, or the game takes longer than normal to respond to mouse clicks.



The solution: Try clicking the Eye icon in the upper-left corner to reduce the graphic quality of the game. If that doesn't help, try closing other programs or browser tabs that are open on your computer, or try loading FarmVille in a different browser.

Loading

The problem: The game fails to load, either freezing on the loading screen or displaying a blank white screen where your farm should be. Alternatively, Adobe Flash Player may report that the plugin has crashed, as shown in Figure 14-2.

The solution: Try closing your browser completely and reloading the page Often the game will go ahead and work on the second loading. If the problem persists, try clearing the cache in your Web browser and reloading your farm. (See your Web browser's help file for information on clearing the cache.) If that doesn't work, try installing the latest version of Adobe's Flash player, as detailed in Chapter 2. You may need to uninstall your current Flash player before taking this step.



Figure 14-2: An Adobe Flash Player plugin crash.

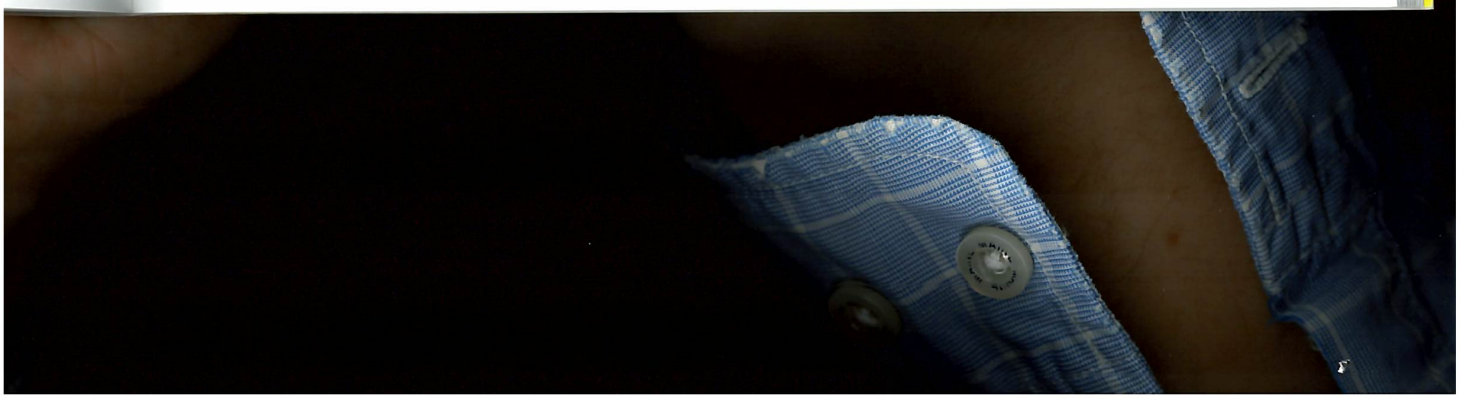
Gifts

The problem: Gifts don't appear in your Gift Box after you've clicked a link from your Facebook Requests page, or gifts that were previously in your Gift Box are no longer there.

The solution: Although no technical fix for this error exists, Zynga may be able to replace the gifts you've lost. Read more about contacting Zynga customer support about gift refunds in Chapter 13.

Requests

The problem: When trying to send gifts or invite new neighbors, the box from which you usually select friends to share with is blank and the list of your FarmVille neighbors is missing.



The solution: First, try refreshing the page. If this doesn't work, click the Invite Friends tab and see whether it is also blank. If it is, refresh the page and do the same with the Free Gifts tab. If the problem persists, contact Zynga support, as detailed in Chapter 13.

Saving

The problem: Farming actions performed during the last play session are not reflected when you load the game the next time. Problems with saving most commonly occur right after users expand their land and rearrange their farms to accommodate their new space. In addition to sometimes nullifying hours of work, in extreme cases these saving issues can cause you to lose in-game currency with nothing to show for it, or to lose accumulated XP.

The solution: Zynga recommends staying on your farm for at least 15 minutes before closing your Web browser or leaving the FarmVille page to avoid problems with saving your actions. If you do need to leave the FarmVille page for any reason, Zynga recommends clicking the Facebook logo to return to your Facebook home page before moving on to other Web pages.

If a saving issue causes you to lose any in-game currency or experience, try contacting Zynga support using the methods detailed in Chapter 13.

Also, this should go without saying, but if a pop-up message tells you that your farm is saving and "Please do not close your browser," as shown in Figure 14-3, take it seriously. Please do not close your browser!



Figure 14-3: Do not close your browser when you see this message.

Neighbors' profile pictures

The problem: Your neighbors' profile pictures don't appear as they should in the Neighbors bar at the bottom of the play area.

The solution: Restarting your browser and clearing your cache can sometimes fix these problems. If the issue persists, Zynga's servers might be acting up — try coming back later to see whether the issue is resolved.

Strangely clad neighbors

The problem: One or more of your neighbors are shown wearing what appears to be underwear rather than their usual clothing when you hover over their names in the Neighbors bar.

The solution: If this issue is occurring for only a few of your neighbors, it's probably because those neighbors have uninstalled the FarmVille application from their Facebook accounts and are no longer playing the game. See Chapter 3 for more on removing these defunct neighbors from your Neighbor list.

If this issue affects all your neighbors, it is probably a temporary glitch that will be solved the next time you load the game.

Full Screen mode not working

The problem: Clicking the Full Screen button does not cause the game to enter Full Screen mode as it should.

The solution: Sorry, but there isn't one at this time. Try refreshing the page or use other general fixes listed at the beginning of this section.

Avatar not displaying

The problem: Your farmer avatar appears as a white silhouette when your farm loads.

The solution: No one has a solution as of this writing. Try the general fixes listed at the beginning of this section.

Missing items on farm

The problem: Previously purchased items no longer appear on your farm.

The solution: Contact Zynga support (see Chapter 13 for how to do so). Zynga will either place the item in your Gift Box or refund the price of the missing item.

