

## The Chickens Take a Holiday

The sun was about to rise on Farmer Tim's farm. Chester Chicken woke up the cows with his important news. The chickens wanted to take a break. They felt that they worked too hard this week.

"You did?" asked the cow.

"Yes! We laid ten eggs this week, and there are only five of us." Chester said,

The cow smiled and nodded her head. Ten was a lot of eggs for five chickens.

"Enjoy your day off," the cow said.

But the other cows started to think that there were only ten of them! They gave Farmer Tim 100 pails of milk this week. 100 pails of milk would make a lot of cheese.

"But we can't take a holiday," one of the cows said. They didn't think it was fair.

The trees were not happy with this news, either "I've dropped over 1,000 apples this season," one tree said.

"And I've had a million cherries picked!" said another.

The wind blew and the trees put on their angry faces.

"We deserve a holiday more than the chickens!" the trees shouted together. "We worked too hard all season."

This woke up the rake that was sitting on the grass underneath the trees.

"Have you heard the news?" the apple tree asked the rake. "The chickens are taking a holiday. They think they worked too hard this week."

The rake stood up and announced its disapproval. "I raked over one million leaves this year. And there's only one of me! If anyone deserves a holiday, it must be the poor tired rake."

Just then Rowdy Rooster hopped on the fence. He looked up into the sky and began to crow. It was time for the farmer to wake up.

The chickens and cows and trees waited for Farmer Tim to come out and pick up the rake. But a minute passed, Farmer Tim did not appear.

Rowdy called two more times.

"Call him again," the chickens yelled to the rooster. "He must be having a dream."

Rowdy made one last call and this time Farmer Tim woke up. But he didn't come out and pick up the rake, or milk the cows, or check on the eggs underneath the chickens. Instead he opened the window and shouted loud enough for everyone to hear:

"I worked too hard this week, I say. It's time for me to take a holiday!"