

ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT

SUPPORTING AREAS

Goods and services

PURPOSE

Students discover that agricultural careers are interconnected, and that agriculture influences many parts of their daily lives.

STATE STANDARDS IT SUPPORTS

SS 2.2.3 Describe how producers deliver products/services, earn an income, and satisfy economic needs and wants.

MATERIALS

- Supply Chain Cards , 1 set per group
- Many Hats in Agriculture activity sheet, 1 per student
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Metal brads, 1 per student
- A-Z Posters, Beef, Corn, Pigs, Soybeans
- A-Z Discussion Guides

Many Hats of Agriculture

Activity adapted from Many Hats of a Farmer and Agriculture Pays, sourced from Agriculture Literacy Curriculum Matrix

Activity Summary

Students will discover that agricultural careers are interconnected, and that agriculture influences many parts of their daily lives. Students will participate in a sequencing activity to understand that many jobs help move goods from producer to consumer. They will then create a paper “pinwheel” illustration of the many hats of agriculture to visualize future career opportunities.

Vocabulary Words

Career: an occupation undertaken for a significant period of a person’s life and with opportunities for progress; generally a profession requiring special training

Commodity: a primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold.

Consumer: a person who buys and uses goods and services

Farmer: person who owns or manages a farm, cultivates land or crops, or raises animals

Producer: a person or company that makes, grows, or supplies good and services.

Background Information

Before we had grocery stores, people lived on farms and grew or hunted all their food. Imagine that! Farming is important because it creates food and everyday products that humans and animals need to live. Farm fresh eggs and fresh grown vegetables are delicious and nutritious! Soft cotton sheets, bath soap, and the clothes we wear also come from agricultural products. Farming in the United States provides many of these items that we sometimes take for granted. These items grew from seeds and plants or came from animals before they were placed on a shelf for **consumers** to purchase. Many hands help in the process of getting items from farms to consumers. Workers such as truck drivers, veterinarians, chefs, and biologists play an important role in bringing these commodities to the marketplace for consumers to purchase.

Careers involving agriculture extend far beyond that of the **farmer**. A rancher raises livestock until they are ready to be sold. A truck driver is hired to transport the livestock to market. The buyer purchases the livestock at market. The buyer pays the rancher for the livestock (goods), and the rancher pays the truck driver for his services. The meat packer may purchase the livestock from the rancher directly or from a feed-yard. The meat is distributed to grocery stores. The butcher at the grocery store makes smaller cuts of the meat and wraps it to be sold in the store. The meat is sold by the grocer to us, the consumers, and we use it to cook a meal in our homes.

Likewise, a farmer may grow a product such as potatoes and pay truck drivers to transport their produce to a factory. The factory purchases the potatoes from the farmer and uses them to make an item, such as french fries. The fries are packaged and distributed to a chain of restaurants. The cook at the restaurant prepares the french fries, and a waitress serves them to the consumer, who pays the restaurant for the goods and the service. There are many people involved in getting food products from the farmer or rancher to the consumer.

What's the Connection to Agriculture?

- 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska are connected to agriculture.
- 89% of Nebraska's land is used for producing goods from agriculture.
- Nebraska is a top agriculture producing state.
- The USDA reported in 2022 that there were a little over 22 million farm and agriculture-related jobs found in the United States. This includes both part-time and full-time employment.

Interest Approach

1. Ask the students the following questions
 - "Do you like to eat?"
 - "What are some of your favorite foods?"
 - "Where can you purchase these items?"
 - "How do these items get to the grocery store?"
 - "Other than a grocery store, where might you buy and/or eat these foods?"
 - "Who grows these foods?"
 - "What jobs are involved in getting food to your table?"

2. List the different careers that were mentioned on the board.
3. Divide your students into four groups and hand out the Supply Chain cards. Ask each group to work together to put the cards in the order of how food gets to the grocery store.
4. After the cards are in order, have each group share their food's supply chain with the class.
5. Ask what careers help move our food from the farm to the store.
6. Share that they will be exploring many jobs that are interconnected to agriculture.

Activity Procedure

1. Discuss the following agricultural careers:
 - **Veterinarian** - Must be able to recognize early signs of disease in animals, assist at birth of animals, and administer medicine to sick animals
 - **Engineer** - Must know how to plan and construct fences and buildings, build irrigation ditches and control the flow of water, and use natural resources to grow products useful to people
 - **Mechanic** - Must be able to operate and maintain both simple and complicated machinery, make repairs, and keep machines in good working order
 - **Business Manager** - Must be able to balance accounts, sell farm produce to the market, be responsible for making payments and meeting payrolls, and keep track of equipment, products, and land
 - **Nutritionist** - Must know how to prepare feed rations for best growth and production of livestock
 - **Farmer/Rancher** - Must know how to manage a farm, grow crops, or raise animals for food production
 - **Scientist** - Must be able to conduct experiments that help answer agricultural questions like which crops grow best in a particular climate or soil
 - **Truck Driver** - Must be able to transport crops, livestock, or goods from one place to another.
2. Provide each student with a copy of the Many Hats of Agriculture activity sheet and ask them to color one of the people and the hats.
3. Instruct students to cut out the three circles on their activity sheets and stack them on top of each other so that the largest circle (the one with the career descriptions) is on the bottom and the smallest circle (the one with the farmer) is on the top. Fasten them in the center with a brad so that all three circles spin separately.
4. Ask the students to find a hat in the middle circle to put on the person's head and then match up the words that best describe what the person does when wearing that hat.
5. Discuss the following questions:
 - Why is it important for a farmer to have a basic understanding of all these careers?
 - How do these careers help make the goods we buy in the store or grocery store?
 - In addition to food, what other items come from the farm? Use the A-Z posters to share that many items come from the farm.
 - Could we have goods if we didn't have people in these careers?

- What other careers might help a farmer get their food to the grocery store?
- Do you know anyone in your community who has a career in agriculture?
- Would any of you like to have a career in agriculture some day?

Concept Elaboration and Evaluation

1. Once the activity is complete, review the following statements with students:
 - a. Agriculture provides our most basic necessities including food, fiber, and shelter.
 - b. There are many types of farmers. Some farmers raise animals and others grow crops.
 - c. In addition to farmers, there are many other careers in agriculture that include transportation, shipping, processing, sales, and more.

Extension Activities

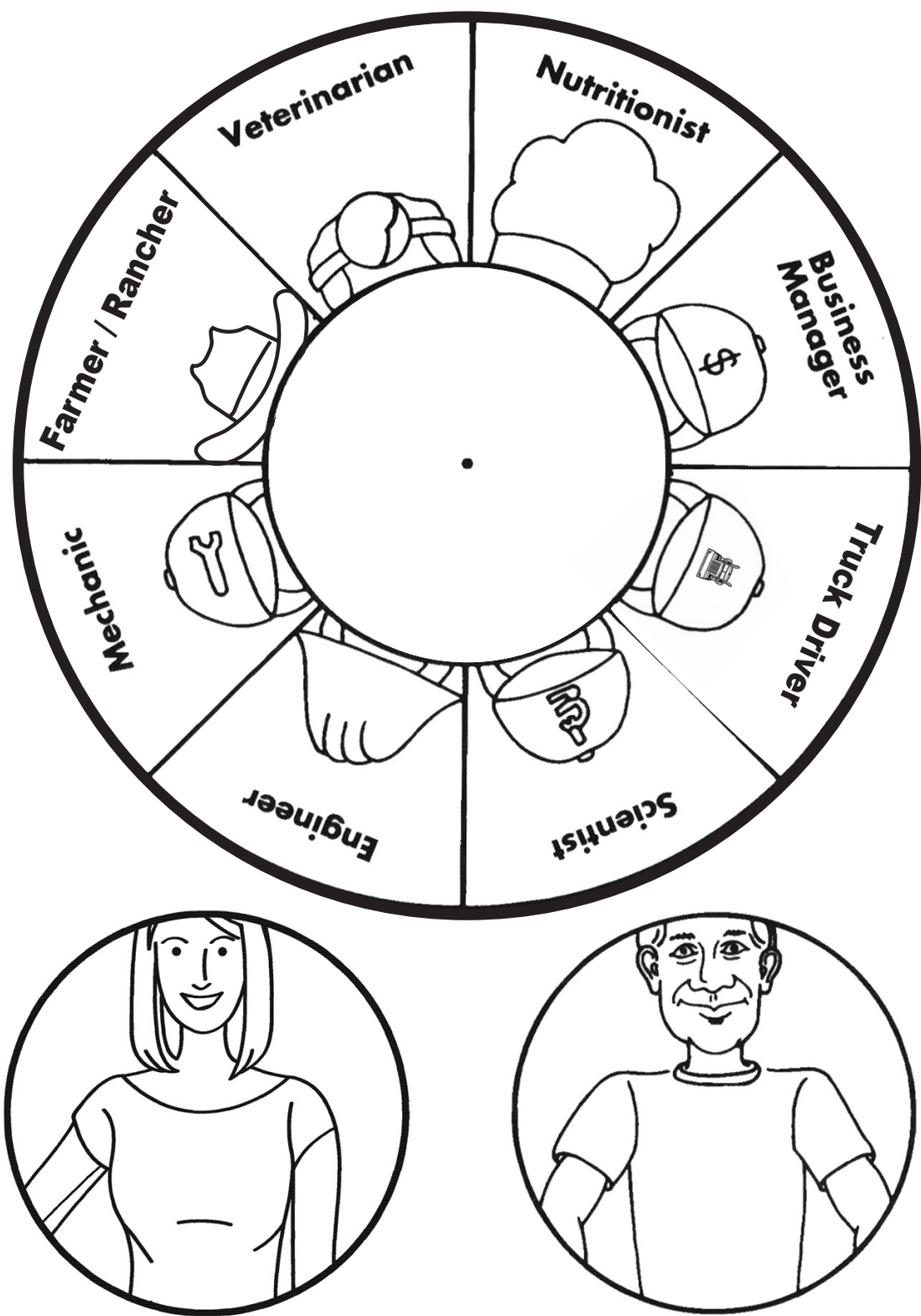
Program: Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom Visit

Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom staff leads customized, hands-on lessons and aligned with Nebraska State Education Standards within science, social studies, and language arts for grades K-8 in schools across Nebraska. Schedule a Classroom Visit at www.nefbfoundatin.org/classroom-visit

Lesson Plan: Agriculture Pays

Students discover that agricultural careers are interconnected, and that agriculture influences many parts of their daily lives. <https://agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/291/>

Many Hats of Agriculture



Many Hats of Agriculture

