

KANSAS FARM BUREAU'S AG LEARNING ZONE

YOUTH ACTIVITY: CIRCLE OF EARTH BRACELET

OBJECTIVE: YOUTH WILL UNDERSTAND FARMERS AND RANCHERS CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

Vocabulary Words

- Caretakers – A person who takes care of people, animals or things.
- Fertilizer – Applied to soil or plants to supply one or more nutrients they need to grow.
- Habitat – Natural home or environment of an animal or plant.
- Natural resources – Materials such as minerals, forests, water and land that occur in nature.

Circle of Earth Lesson

Ask youth to share ways their family recycles, reuses or reduces their use of natural resources. Allow time for a short discussion.

- Read “Farmers and Ranchers Care for Their Animals.”
- Today we are going to talk about the “Circle of Earth” and make bracelets representing the circle.
 - Clear - People, including farmers and ranchers, act as **caretakers** of the earth.
 - Blue - Water rains down and collects in oceans, rivers, lakes and streams.
 - Green - Plants grow from soil and provide food.
 - White - People, plants and most animals need air to survive.
 - Yellow - The Sun provides warmth and light. Without it, plants and animals would not survive.

Fun Facts About Sustainable Agriculture

- Many new trees are planted on farmland every year.
- More than half of America’s farmers provide **habitat** for wildlife such as deer and birds.
- Farmers work hard to reduce soil damage caused by wind and water.
- Some farmers use the same land to grow different crops each year.
- Farmers often test their soil before planting to see what kind and how much **fertilizer** they may need to apply to their crops.
- Another way to conserve water and protect soil is for farmers to plant crops across the slop of the land. This is known as contour farming.

Assessments

- True or false? It doesn’t matter how dirty our water or air becomes, we can still use it.
- True or false? All of us can do our part to help save land, air and water.
- True or false? Farmers and ranchers care about the environment.

Hands-on Activity

- Gather any color of pipe cleaner (aka bracelet) and one bead of every color.
- Adding one at a time, carefully run the bracelet through each bead.
- After all beads have been added, twist both ends of your bracelet together to close it.

Suggested Resources

- *Farmers and Ranchers Care* book
- Pipe cleaners of any color
- Beads: clear, blue, green, white and yellow



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