

# Jobs Farmers Do

A Lesson on the many jobs of a farmer



*A lesson based on the book, Jobs Farmers Do, by Dan Yunk.*

*This book was financed by the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau, The Voice of Agriculture. It was written to educate young people, parents and teachers about where our food comes from.*

*America's food supply is safe, affordable and abundant but also vastly misunderstood by the consuming public. It is the intention of Kansas Farm Bureau to improve the public's knowledge about the importance farming and ranching plays in our quality of life.*

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

After reading Jobs Farmers Do, we learned that farmers have many different job responsibilities. In Kansas the top 5 agriculture commodities are cattle and calves, wheat, corn, soybeans, and sorghum grain to produce all those commodities farmers have to perform many different jobs. If farmers do not perform each of their jobs correctly and accurately then they lose money and we will not have affordable food to eat each and everyday.

What are some of the different jobs a farmer does on a farm that Kailey talked about?

Farmers have many different jobs, they take care of animals, the land and plants. They also operate machinery and use technology everyday. They are also businesspeople and weather people. All of these jobs are very important to a farmer.

## ACTIVITY 1: Read Farmer Fred's Story

Read Farmer Fred's story to the class:

Hi, I'm Farmer Fred and I am really busy farming. I was wondering if you could help me out today. On my farm I raise pigs and cattle; they must be feed every single day. I also grow corn and wheat so I can feed my animals and you. When I grow my crops I have to pick what kind will grow the best in my soil (dirt). I use my GPS system so that I plant my crops exactly where I want them. I have to watch the weather so I know when I can plant my crops. If it rains and I do not know it I might get stuck in the mud with my tractor. I have to use big heavy machinery to plant and harvest my crops. Sometimes my big machinery like my tractors and combines break down and I have to fix them. When my crops are done growing I harvest them. I have to know when it is the best time to sell them so I can make the most money. On those days I become a businessman, I use my computer to help me. As you can see I am very busy and would like your help.

## LEVEL:

Kindergarten– 2nd Grade

## SUBJECTS/STANDARDS:

Subject: Writing

Standard 1: The student writes effectively for a variety of audiences, purposes, and contexts.

Benchmark 1: The student writes narrative text using the writing process.

Indicator 8: The student expresses feelings through pictures and words.

Indicator 16: The student capitalizes the beginning of a sentence using correct ending punctuation.

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Students will work on their writing skills while learning about the different jobs of a farmer and what they work with through a variety of activities including a kinesthetic activity.

## ACTIVITY 2: Go-Get-It Activity

### Prepare Beforehand:

Use Handouts 1 and 2 for this activity. Cut out the eight squares on both pages and hang the individual squares randomly around the classroom so that they are within in reach of students.

### Directions for Go-Get-It Activity:

The goal of this activity is to allow students to participate in a kinesthetic activity while they match-up the correct squares with one another. Have the students match the appropriate job to the pictures of what the job works with. They will have a better understanding of each job and what each job description and what each job works with.

Explain the directions to the students before you allow students up from their desk. Students will be allowed to get up from their desk and go grab one of the squares in an orderly manner, when the teacher say "Go-Get-It." The students will then find a partner or a match. One student will have the name and definition of the job and the other student will have the picture of what the job actually works with.

After they find their match they are to sit down and they will show the class what they got. Have them explain how they help and what they would do for Farmer Fred. I.E. If students have Animal Caretaker cards they would say they help Farmer Fred take care of his pigs and cattle, they will feed them everyday for him.

Note: Teacher might have to help the student read the description of the job.

## ACTIVITY 3: Worksheet 1

Hand out worksheet 1 to the students. Go back through Farmer Fred's story and point out the different jobs Farmer Fred does. They are in red font throughout the story, shown below. Stop after each job and let the students draw in the squares what each person works with. Teachers may use the Go-Get-It cards to help with defining each job and showing what each job works with. I.E. An animal caretaker works with animals so the students would draw an animal in the square.

Hi, I'm Farmer Fred and I am really busy farming. I was wondering if you could help me out today. On my farm I raise pigs and cattle; they must be feed every single day (**ANIMAL CARETAKER**). I also grow corn and wheat so I can feed my animals and you (**PLANT SCIENTIST**). When I grow my crops I have to pick what kind will grow the best in my soil (dirt) (**SOIL SCIENTIST**). I use my GPS system so that I plant my crops exactly where I want them (**GPS TECHNICIAN**). I have to watch the weather so I know when I can plant my crops (**WEATHERPERSON**). If it rains and I do not know it I might get stuck in the mud with my tractor. I have to use big heavy machinery to plant and harvest my crops (**HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**). Sometimes my big machinery like my tractors and combines break down and I have to fix them (**MECHANIC**). When my crops are done growing I harvest them. I have to know when it is the best time to sell them so I can make the most money. On those days I become a businessman, I use my computer to help me (**BUSINESSPERSON**). As you can see I am very busy and would like your help.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Worksheet 2

Have the students correct each sentence, they should capitalize the beginning of the sentence and use the correct ending punctuation.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME:

Students will identify multiple jobs of a farmer by expanding their reading skills by expressing feelings through picture and words. Students will write sentences using correct spacing, capitalization, and punctuation.

### ESTIMATED TEACHING TIME:

45 MINUTES

### NEW VOCABULARY:

Soil  
Mechanic  
GPS  
Equipment  
Operator  
Manage  
Scientist  
Technician  
Machinery  
Combine  
Harvest

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

Jobs Farmers Do book  
Go-Get-It Cards (Handouts 1&2)  
Copies of Worksheet 1 & 2  
Tape

### PREPARE AHEAD:

Cut out Handouts 1 & 2 and place them around the classroom.

# Go-Get-It Activity

I am an **Animal Caretaker** I take care of animals and make sure they are feed, healthy, and happy.

I am a **Plant Scientist** I take care of plants and help them grow.

I am a **Soil Scientist** I take care of the soil and decide which soils are best for growing crops.

I am a **Mechanic** I take care of equipment and fix them with tools when they are broken.

I am a **GPS Technician** I use GPS systems to gather information about crops and farmland.

I am a **Businessperson** I take care of the paperwork and manage the farm.

I am a **Weatherperson** I guess what the weather will do.

I am a **Heavy Equipment Operator** I drive big equipment and machines.



# Go-Get-It Activity





# Farmer Fred



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Draw in the squares what each job/person works with.

**Animal Caretaker**

**Plant Scientist**

**Soil Scientist**

**GPS Technician**

**Weatherperson**

**Heavy Equipment Operator**

**Mechanic**

**Businessperson**

# I HELP FARMER FRED

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Correct each sentence, capitalize each sentence and use correct ending punctuation.

how can I help Farmer Fred

i help Farmer Fred to feed his animals

i water Farmer Fred's crops

how do I drive Farmer Fred's combine

# I HELP FARMER FRED

Name: Key

Directions: Correct each sentence, capitalize each sentence and use correct ending punctuation.

how can I help Farmer Fred

How can I help Farmer Fred?

i help Farmer Fred feed his animals

I help Farmer Fred feed his animals.

i water Farmer Fred's crops

I water Farmer Fred's crops.

how do I drive Farmer Fred's combine

How do I drive Farmer Fred's combine?