

Jobs Farmers Do

A Lesson on a Farmers Tool Chest of Jobs



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 a farmer does not just have one job, they have many jobs! A farmer has to know a lot so that they can perform each job correctly and provide healthy food for us to eat. In Kansas there are around 65,000 farmers and each of those farmers perform many jobs. So what do farmers really do? Let's find out and learn about what farmers really do on the farm.

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of what a farmer does? Maybe they are feeding cattle or planting crops, well farmers do those jobs as well as many others. There is not an exact number of how many jobs a farmer does because of those 65,000 farmers in Kansas each farmer has different jobs. Each farm requires them to do different things because of what they are farming and raising. Let's find out what some typical jobs of a farmer are.

Activity 1: PowerPoint

Set-up "Farmers Tool Chest of Jobs" PowerPoint. Go through PowerPoint with students while reading the script that is written out below. Allow students to try to answer the questions.

Note: Slide Show will automatically move on, do not have to click mouse to move to next slide.

(Slide 1)

WELCOME TO MY TOOL CHEST OF JOBS! I'M A KANSAS FARMER AND I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DO MANY DIFFERENT JOBS ON MY FARM.

(Slide 2)

I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH MY TOOLBOX AND LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF JOBS I DO ON MY FARM...EVERYTHING FROM BEING A WEATHERMAN AND PLANT SCIENTIST TO A MECHANIC AND INDEPENDENT BUSINESSMAN.

(Slide 3)

LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT FARMERS BY ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WITH ME!

LEVEL:

Kindergarten– 2nd Grade

SUBJECTS/STANDARDS:

Subject: Reading

Standard 1: The student reads and comprehends text across the curriculum.

Benchmark 3: The student expands vocabulary.

Indicators 2: The student determines the meaning of unknown words or phrases using picture clues and context clues from sentences.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Students will discover 5 jobs of a farmer while expanding their vocabulary.

STUDENT LEARNING

OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to identify multiple jobs of a farmer. Students will expand their vocabulary by using pictures and writing new vocabulary words.

Activity 1 continued:

(Slide 4)

WHAT DOES A FARMER PUT ON THE BACK OF HIS TRACTOR TO TELL YOU THAT HE IS MOVING SLOWLY? NOT A TIRE.....NOT A STOP SIGN.....AND NOT A LICENSE PLATE

(Slide 5)

FARMERS ARE HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS. THEY USE SLOW MOVING VEHICLE EMBLEM OR SMV IS USED WHEN FARM EQUIPMENT IS GOING LESS THAN 25 MILES PER HOUR ON A PUBLIC ROAD. FARMERS OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS WHEN USING FARM EQUIPMENT.

(Slide 6)

WHY DO FARMERS USE EAR TAGS WHEN TAKING CARE OF LIVESTOCK? IT IS A FORM OF JEWELRY, LIKE AN EARRING, FOR THE ANIMAL. EAR TAG IS A GAME LIVESTOCK LIKE TO PLAY AT RECESS. IT HELPS THE FARMER KEEP GOOD RECORDS ABOUT THE ANIMALS.

(Slide 7)

FARMERS ARE LIVESTOCK MANAGERS. EAR TAGS HELP FARMERS TAKE CARE OF THEIR LIVESTOCK BY PROVIDING A NUMBER TO EACH ANIMAL. THIS NUMBER HELPS THE FARMER KEEP RECORDS OF EACH ANIMAL'S HEALTH.

(Slide 8)

MATCH THE CROP LISTED ON THE LEFT TO THE CORRECT PICTURE ON THE RIGHT. GOOD JOB!

(Slide 9)

FARMERS ARE PLANT SCIENTISTS. FARMERS KNOW ABOUT MANY CROPS SO THEY CAN GROW THE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOOD WE ENJOY.

(Slide 10)

WHAT DOES A FARMER USE TO MEASURE THE TEMPERATURE OUTSIDE?
IPOD
RAIN GAUGE
RULER
THERMOMETER
THE CORRECT ANSWER IS THERMOMETER. NICE WORK!

(Slide 11)

FARMERS ARE WEATHERPERSONS. A FARMER WATCHES THE TEMPERATURE CLOSELY WITH A THERMOMETER BECAUSE THE WEATHER AFFECTS MANY OF THE FARMER'S JOBS, SUCH AS CHECKING LIVESTOCK OR PLANTING AND HARVESTING CROPS.

(Slide 12)

WHAT KINDS OF COMPUTERS CAN A FARMER USE TO HELP HIM WITH HIS JOB?
CELL PHONE
GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
PDA
COMPUTER
ALL OF THE ABOVE
THE ANSWER IS E, ALL OF THE ABOVE! YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB!

(Slide 13)

FARMERS ARE INDEPENDENT BUSINESSPERSONS FARMERS CAN GET TEXT MESSAGES ON CELL PHONES FOR MARKET REPORTS, USE GPS FOR AUTO-STEER ON FARM EQUIPMENT, AND USE PERSONAL COMPUTERS FOR RECORD-KEEPING. FARMERS USE MANY KINDS OF COMPUTERS IN THEIR WORK.

**ESTIMATED
TEACHING TIME:**
45 MINUTES

NEW VOCABULARY:

Heavy Machinery Operator
Livestock Manager
Plant Scientist
Weatherman/women
Businessman/women
Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem
Ear Tag
Soybeans
Wheat
Global Positioning System
(GPS)
Thermometer
Livestock
Rain Gauge

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Jobs Farmers Do
Copies of Worksheet 1
Copies of Worksheet 2
PowerPoint-Farmers Tool
Chest of Jobs (Computer, Projector)
Coloring Utensils

Activity 1 continued:

(Slide 14)

NICE JOB! I KNEW YOU'D DO WELL!

THANKS FOR LEARNING ABOUT JUST SOME OF THE JOBS I DO ON MY FARM. AND THAT'S JUST SCRATCHING THE SURFACE. I'VE ALSO GOT TO BE A WATER QUALITY MANAGER, PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCATE, WEATHERMAN, AND MUCH MORE.

(Slide 15)

THANKS TO FARM BUREAU, THE STATE'S LARGEST GENERAL FARM ORGANIZATION, I'M ABLE TO DO ALL OF MY JOBS BETTER.

Activity 2:

Have a class discussion about the different jobs of a farmer and explain why a farmer has to know so much. This is because a farmer's job relates to so many different jobs that if they do not perform one correctly it hurts the end product, like his crops. Help the students relate all the jobs together and why a farmer has to do all his/her jobs well. If a farmer does not do his jobs well then we will not have affordable food to eat and the farmer will not get paid. Use the questions listed below as prompts to start the discussion.

Did you know that a farmer does all those jobs?

If you were a farmer what job would you like best? Why?

What would be the hardest job?

Maybe the businessman/woman because you have to know when to sell your crops to make the most money. Or maybe the heavy machinery operator because you have to know how to drive and operate all of the machines correctly.

What would happen if a farmer decided to take a day off and not feed his cows?

This would be very bad and that is why farmers are animal caretakers. They respect and care for their animals every day of the year and if they cannot feed them, they find someone else to take care of them for them. Farmers are very responsible and work hard because they care about their animals.

Activity 3: Worksheet 1

Handout worksheet 1 to students and explain that they are supposed to circle the skills farmers need to have. Remind them of the different jobs farmers that were discussed during the PowerPoint. This worksheet with the pictures will help students identify what jobs farmers have and help them with the new vocabulary words. This worksheet would be great for students who need modifications because pictures are used along with the words.

Activity 4: Worksheet 2

Handout worksheet 2 to students. Do the first one as an example so they understand that they write the correct vocabulary word underneath the pictures. The first picture is of a slow moving vehicle sign. Write slow moving vehicle on the board and then cross off the word in the word bank. Help the students to understand that they only use each word once even though the word bank is listed on both pages.

Did you know?

The United States farming system is so efficient that Americans spend less of their income on food than people in any other country.

The food and fiber industry is the nation's largest employer, generating 23 million jobs in the United States.



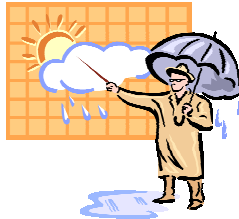
What are Farmers?

Name _____

Directions: Draw a circle around the skills farmers need to have.

Farmers are...

Weatherperson



Lawyers



Businessperson



Cooks



Livestock Managers



Pilots



Plant Scientist



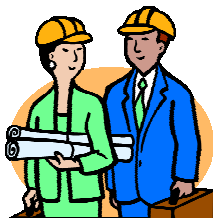
Firefighters



Police Officer



Heavy Machinery Operators



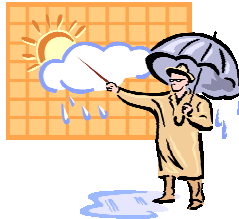
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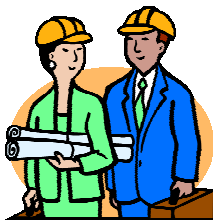
Firefighters



Police Officers



Architects



Heavy machinery Operators



What am I?

Name _____

Directions: Write the correct vocabulary word underneath the picture. Use the word bank for help.

WORD BANK:

Slow Moving Vehicle

Livestock

Wheat

Rain Gauge

Thermometer

Soybeans

Ear Tag

GPS



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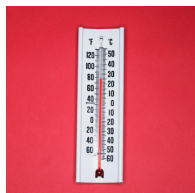
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Worksheet 2