

# TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE



*A list of PreK-12 resources available from  
DeKalb County Farm Bureau's  
Agricultural Literacy Resource Library*

*Updated June 2010*



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# TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

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## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a guide to educational materials available from the DeKalb County Farm Bureau's Agricultural Literacy Resource Library.

Items in this guide are provided on a free-loan basis to educators who teach within DeKalb County, Illinois. Most of the items may be loaned for a two-week period; however, some high-demand items are loaned for one week only. To reserve materials for your classroom, please call Rhodora Collins at (815) 756-6361. You may also request items by e-mailing [rcollins@dekalbfarmbureau.org](mailto:rcollins@dekalbfarmbureau.org). Items should be picked up and returned to our office at 1350 West Prairie Drive, Sycamore, Illinois.



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# Resource Kits

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## **ABOUT THE KITS**

### ***AgriLearning Kits (Grades PreK-5)***

These extensive thematic kits will help students gain a better understanding of how agriculture relates to the world in which they live. Kits include books, lesson plans, videos, posters, and much more.

### ***AgriScience Kits (Grade levels vary by kit)***

Students will learn science through agriculture with the AgriScience kits. Science and agriculture are linked together in the study of animals, energy, insects, biotechnology, and soil erosion. Supplies needed to perform the experiments are provided in each of the kits.

### ***Curriculum Kits (Grade levels vary by kit)***

These interdisciplinary kits include a series of interrelated lessons along with the supplies and materials needed to conduct each activity.

### ***Hands-on Activity Kits (Grades PreK-5)***

Each of these kits contains the instructions and supplies needed to conduct a popular hands-on, minds-on Ag in the Classroom activity. Provides items such as beads and cord for the Nutrition or Water Cycle Bracelets or soybean seed, bags, and watering crystals for Beany Babies.

### ***Literacy Kits (Grades K-5)***

Literacy kits cover a broad range of agricultural topics ranging from candy and chocolate to farm machinery. The kits contain books, videos, activities, lessons, information, and other resources relating to their topic.

### ***mAGic Kits (Grades 4-8)***

Explore agriculture with these Multidisciplinary AGricultural Integrated Curriculum kits. Lessons in the mAGic kits are all-inclusive and are designed to bring agriculture to life in your classroom. The kits address Illinois Learning Standards in Math, Science, English Language Arts, and Social Studies.

***Kit contents lists are available by request.***

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# AgriLearning Kits

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## **Adventures Around the Farm**

(2008, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

### **Grades PreK-3**

This kit contains vocabulary, books, videos, lessons and activities designed to teach students about farming. The fun and exciting activities will help students understand agriculture and how it relates to their daily lives.

## **Dairy Cow Capers: Exploring Dairy Farming and Nutrition**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

### **Grades K-5**

Explore dairy farming in action. Through videos and books, experience the life of dairy cows on the farm and see a veterinarian at work. Follow the path milk takes from cow to you and learn about the nutritional value of dairy foods.

## **Eggsploring Poultry: Cracking the Egg**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

### **Grades K-5**

Learn about chickens, turkeys, & more! This kit is filled with books on embryology, videos, poultry facts, games, and other activities. These materials may be used alone, but are a great supplement to the Eggciting Experiments AgriScience Kit.

## **Getting to the Core: Apples and Orchards**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

### **Grades K-5**

How do apples grow? Where do all those varieties of apples come from? Learn the answers to these questions and much more! Take an inside look at apples and their history. Includes games, things to make and eat, videos, posters, and books.

## **Pigs on the Farm**

(2010, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

### **Grades PreK-3**

Plan the perfect pig unit with this extensive kit. Includes vocabulary activities, lessons across the curriculum, books, and DVDs. Students will have fun learning about pigs and modern agriculture.

## **Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

### **Grades K-5**

Take a look at a slice of agriculture--a pizza slice. Through books & videos, see how the ingredients on your pizza begin on farms, are processed, distributed, and made into a delicious meal. Explore "Planet Pizza" and visit a real "pizza farm!"

## **Pumpkin Patch: A Vine Through Time**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

### **Grades K-5**

Discover the wonders of pumpkins. Watch tiny seeds grow into several varieties of pumpkins in a time-lapse video and learn how to prepare the soil for next year's crop. Contains books, posters, recipes, craft ideas, and more.

## **Seasons On the Farm**

(2008, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

### **Grades PreK-3**

This kit includes vocabulary activities, books, videos and lessons; all designed to enhance students' understanding agriculture throughout the four seasons. Students will relate practices such as planting and harvesting to the appropriate seasons.

## **Unraveling Fibers: More Than Just Clothes**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

### **Grades K-5**

Unravel the mysteries of the fibers that make up our clothing and a multitude of other items we use daily. Through hands-on activities, books, a video, and fiber samples, discover the origins of many natural fibers such as cotton, wool, and silk.

## **Wheat We Eat, The**

(2010, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

### **Grades PreK-3**

Instantly engage your students as they examine and dissect a stalk of wheat and grind their own wheat kernels. Books, a DVD, vocabulary cards and a bundle of wheat accompany a binder packed with lessons and activities in this kit.

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# AgriScience Kits

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## **Agriculture Measures Up: Using Mathematics in Agriculture**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

### **Grades 3-8**

Students calculate areas and perimeters of enclosures as they study the most economical use of fencing, estimate weights and volumes using a simulated grain bin, and determine how much fertilizer is needed for a problem lawn. All materials included.

## **Agriculture Renews Our Planet: Growing Energy for the Future**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

### **Grades K-8**

How can we best use our natural resources? Which are renewable vs. non-renewable? Students make biodegradable plastic from corn and compare soy ink with petroleum-based ink. All necessary materials included with curriculum in a handy tub.

**Animals in Agriculture: Their Growth and Development**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 4-8**

Self-contained kit includes curriculum and materials needed to teach about animal nutrition and growth. Compare common foods with livestock feed, checking for various nutritional components, and use scale models to learn about livestock weight gain.

**Biotechnology: Applications in Agriculture**

(2000, Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education)

**Grades 7-12**

Students will build a DNA model, learn about deciphering genetic codes, discover how electrophoresis is used, and learn ways genetic engineering is used in agriculture. Great follow-up to the "Growing Better Every Day" AgriScience Kit.

**Growing Better Every Day: Using Genetics to Improve Agriculture**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 6-8**

Colored paper clips are used to illustrate genes and chromosome chains in an easily understood, hands-on activity. A germination study teaches about genotypes and phenotypes. This self-contained kit will make teaching genetics easy!

**Insects: Agriculture's Foes or Friends**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades K-8**

Students study the parts of a grasshopper and compare it to close relatives, study and compare honeybee queens, drones and workers, and study the role of the honeybee in plant pollination. Insect specimens included for hands-on exploration.

**Soil Erosion: The Disappearing Earth**

(2000, University of Illinois Extension)

**Grades 4-6**

This kit is designed to help students learn about one of the most basic components of our natural world--soil. Hands-on soil activities and experiments center around the highly entertaining book, Secret Agent Worms: The Disappearing Earth.

**Soybean Science: Polymers and Oil**

(Indiana Soybean Development Council)

**Grades K-5**

This kit will introduce children to science fundamentals while highlighting the principals of using renewable resources. Students will learn how oils and polymers behave as they make "oobleck," "gluep," soy-based crayons, candles, and more.

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# Curriculum Kits

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**Careers in Horticulture**

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 7-12**

This set of nine lessons is designed to make students aware of the variety of opportunities that await in the horticulture industry. Lessons will help students explore their skills and awaken interest in today's horticulture industry. Includes a DVD.

**Investigating Grains**

(2010, DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 6-12**

Supplement a foods unit on grains with this highly interactive, hands-on kit. Students will explore several important grains using grain samples, photos, and descriptions. They will also learn details about where and how each grain is produced.

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# Hands-on Activity Kits

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**Baseball and Agriculture Charm Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 2-6**

This activity allows children to use baseball to relate agriculture to their daily lives. Students will see how all of the products and equipment used at a baseball game come from agriculture.

**Beanie Baby Lesson Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades PreK-6**

Grow a soybean in a plastic bag! Kit contains clear plastic bags, soil crystals, and soybeans. Simply add water and heat and watch your soybeans germinate. Study plant parts and stages of growth with this handy "beanie baby" tub.

**Circles of the Earth Bracelets**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-5**

The Earth is a circle of interconnected cycles. Where do people fit? Students use colored beads and cord to represent the Earth, its resources, and its life-giving cycles. Great for Earth Day!

**Farm Charm Lesson Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-5**

Farms are the primary source of our food, shelter, and clothing. The Farm Charm reminds us of the importance of farms in our lives and the need to protect the environment. Learn the importance of farming with the adapted text "If it Weren't For Farmers."

**Illinois Agriculture Charm Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 2-6**

Create a charm to wear around your neck that represent the state symbols of Illinois. This activity will help students learn about Illinois and remember the state symbols. Kit also contains Illinois books and activity guides.

**LEGO Dacta Simple Machines**

(1995, LEGO)

**Grades 2-4**

Your students will love learning how simple machines work as they construct and manipulate wheels & axles, pulleys, levers, and gears. Each kit contains a teacher's guide and 12 individual LEGO Dacta sets for 24 students working in pairs.

**LEGO Early Simple Machines**

**Grades K-1**

Young students will learn how simple machines work as they create their own using simple diagrams and easy-to-handle LEGO Duplo blocks. Six identical sets allow children to work in pairs.

**Nutrition Bracelets Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 1-5**

Students create their very own beaded bracelet to represent daily servings in each food group of MyPyramid and remind them to make healthy choices.

**Safety Bracelets Supplies**

(2008, DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-5**

Stop. Look. Think twice. Is it safe? Proceed with caution. Each colored bead on the bracelets children will make is a reminder of what to do to be safe. Kit includes beads, cord, and handouts.

**Soil Sam Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-5**

Students will grow their own grassy-haired creatures using grass seed, soil, knee-high hose, a baby food jar, and decorative items like fabric and wiggle eyes. Study germination, plant growth, and the affect of fertilizers on seed growth.

**Water Cycle Bracelets**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-5**

Create bracelets that depict the water cycle! Colored beads show the paths water takes as it moves through the Earth and its atmosphere. Students reinforce what they have learned by telling the unique water cycle story they create on their wrist.

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# Literacy Kits

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**Apples**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-6**

Red, green, or yellow; sweet, tart, or sour; apples can be enjoyed by everyone! Learn how this tasty fruit is grown, harvested, and processed to get to your home. Kit includes books, activity guides, and a resource binder with loads of apple information!

**Candy and Chocolate**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 3-8**

Explore where candy comes from with this kit. Learn the history of candy and chocolate, and how they are processed today. Kit includes books, teacher's guide, sample lessons, and video all relating to candy and chocolate production.

**Corn**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

Teach your students about our area's most important crop - CORN! This kit is literally stuffed with cross-curricular materials: posters, recipes, samples of types of corn and corn products, lessons, experiments, literature, videos, and more.

**Corn, Cows, Pigs & Tractors: Guided Reading**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 3-4**

Developed by two local teachers, this kit contains guided reading exercises for four nonfiction books: Corn Belt Harvest, Life on a Pig Farm, Clarabelle, & Fantastic Farm Machines. Six copies of each award-winning title are included in the kit.

**Cotton**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

Explore cotton with this multimedia kit. Learn how cotton is grown, harvested, and processed in the U.S. See the history of this valuable fabric, and how it is used today by people everywhere. Kit contains books, brochures, activities, and samples.

**Cranberries**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-6**

Learn all about the "rubies of the bog": cranberries! Find out how these tangy little fruits got their name, the history of the crop, and how cranberries are grown and harvested today. Kit includes videos, activity books, lesson plans, and recipies.

**Earthworms and Vermicomposting**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

Be grateful for these underground gardeners and their natural recycling. Learn the anatomy of worms, how they live, and what they do for people and the earth. Includes resource folder, activity guides, and books to help teach about the life of worms.

**Farm Machinery**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 3-8**

Introduce your students to the farm machinery they most often see in the fields of our area. This kit contains 1/64 scale model tractors and other equipment, books about tractors, and photos of each implement "in action."

**Farming Through the Ages**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

With this kit students can learn about life on farms in the past, and explore how farming has changed over the years. Use this kit in conjunction with the General Agriculture Kit to compare farming practices of the past and present.

**Food & Nutrition: Intermediate**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 4-8**

Where does food come from? How is it made? How does it get to your table? From growing foods to eating them, and all the steps in between, this kit has the answers. Includes a resource binder, books, and more.

**Food & Nutrition: Primary**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades PreK-3**

Where does food come from? How is it made? How does it get to your table? From growing foods to eating them, and all the steps in between, this kit has the answers. Includes a resource binder, books, several videos, and more.

**General Agriculture**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 3-5**

Take a closer look at modern agriculture! Kit includes farm literature, curriculum/activity books, posters, videos, grain samples and more. Perfect for a cross-curricular unit on agriculture--incorporates social studies, language arts, math, and science.

**Genetics and Biotechnology**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 6-12**

Learn about the genetic code, the cell cycle, reproduction, and basic genetics. Understand the principles behind the most recent advances in biotechnology, and explore how DNA technology is being used to benefit agriculture and people today.

**Green Eggs and Agriculture**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades PreK-4**

A collection of ideas to celebrate ag and Read Across America Day through Dr. Seuss' books. Outlines agricultural lessons and related resources to use with nine of the Dr. Seuss books, including The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, and The Lorax.

**Honeybees**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades PreK-4**

Learn all about bees and honey with this box of resources. Includes a video, full-color honeybee study posters, puppets, books on bees and beekeeping, lesson and craft ideas, and a coloring book.

**Horses**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

From rounding up cattle on the ranch to providing therapy to the disabled, horses have changed our world. Learn about different types of horses and their uses today. Includes books, teacher's guide, and an interactive CD-ROM on horses and ranching.

**Maple Syrup**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

Early each spring maple trees are tapped, bottles are prepared, and sap is boiled, all to make maple syrup. Follow the process of maple sugaring and learn from some of the people involved. Kit includes several books, teacher's guide, and video.

**Peanuts**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

Whether they are salted, spread, or simply sampled, peanuts are an American favorite. Learn how this legume is grown, harvested, and processed into products as common as paints and shampoos. Kit includes books, teacher's guides, and lesson outlines.

**Preschool-2nd Grade Ag Literacy Barn**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades PreK-2**

This brightly painted wooden barn is filled to the rafters with age-appropriate activity ideas, books, puzzles, puppets, display items, and more. A perfect tool to introduce young learners to farming and agriculture!

**Pumpkins**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-6**

Autumn brings the harvest, fall colors, and best of all, pumpkins! Discover how pumpkins grow, different varieties of the fruit, and various uses for them. Also learn the history of this native squash. Kit includes several books and an activity guide.

**Rice**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades 3-6**

Learn all about this unique cereal grain! Find out how rice is grown, see different types of rice, and discover how rice is used in our world today. Kit includes books, videos, posters, recipes, and a resource binder with information on rice.

**Seeds and Plants**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-6**

What do different kinds of seeds look like? How do they grow into plants? What do they need to grow? Supplement your unit on plants with this great resource. Kit includes curriculum, books, videos, posters, seed samples, and much more.

**Sheep**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-6**

Learn all about raising, feeding, and shearing sheep with this fun kit. Books included explore how wool from sheep is made into sweaters and how dogs help to care for some sheep. Kit includes a resource binder and books about sheep.

**Soil**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

The food we eat, the clothes we wear, even the homes we live in have their beginnings in the soil. Discover the importance of protecting this resource. Learn about soil and conservation with this kit which contains videos, books, & resource packets.

**Soybeans**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Grades K-8**

What do candles, furniture, ink, shampoo, and fuel all have in common? They are all products made from soybeans! Learn about this plant and its many uses in agriculture. Kit includes videos, lesson plans, soybean and soy product samples, and much more.

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## mAGic Kits

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**Dairy mAGic**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 4-8**

Students can perform hands-on experiments making cottage cheese, yogurt, and ice cream while solving logic puzzles, exploring history, and current ag issues. Discover dairy with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

**Illinois mAGic**

(2007, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 4-8**

Learn about our great state with lessons that highlight unique features of Illinois' past & present including crops, livestock, natural resources & more! Explore Illinois with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

**Insect mAGic**

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 4-8**

Capture students' interest as they study butterflies, grasshoppers, honeybees, and boll weevils while honing skills across four subject areas. Bring ag topics to life with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

**Machines mAGic**

(2007, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 4-8**

Learn the history of farm machinery & the impact of modern farming techniques. Hands-on exercises identify simple machines within machinery parts & estimate farm costs. Check out this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

**Plant mAGic**

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 4-8**

Discover plant differences, learn about ecosystems, and see how plants affect the Illinois economy! Also delve into history and explore current issues. Ponder plants with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

**Poultry mAGic**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 4-8**

Graph incubation periods of poultry breeds, explore osmosis, discover poultry dishes from around the world, and more. Bring ag topics to life with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

**Soil mAGic**

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Grades 4-8**

Conduct experiments on soil pH, soil profiles and components, and crop rotation! Learn the unique history of our state and its valuable resource, soil. Unearth soil with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

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# Resources By Topic Area

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## Animals

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### Amazing Pig, The

(2008, Illinois Pork Producers Association)

**DVD**

**Grades 3-6**

This engaging video gives viewers a virtual tour of a real Illinois hog farm. Students will learn about the care involved in raising pigs and interesting facts about pigs and farming. 4 mins. 36 sec.

*Free loan, also included in Pigs Literacy Kit.*

### Animals in Agriculture: Their Growth and Development

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**AgriScience Kit**

**Grades 4-8**

Self-contained kit includes curriculum and materials needed to teach about animal nutrition and growth. Compare common foods with livestock feed, checking for various nutritional components, and use scale models to learn about livestock weight gain.

*Free loan.*

### Dairy Cow Capers: Exploring Dairy Farming and Nutrition

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

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**Grades K-5**

Explore dairy farming in action. Through videos and books, experience the life of dairy cows on the farm and see a veterinarian at work. Follow the path milk takes from cow to you and learn about the nutritional value of dairy foods.

*Free loan.*

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**mAGic Kit**

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### Earthworms and Vermicomposting

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Be grateful for these underground gardeners and their natural recycling. Learn the anatomy of worms, how they live, and what they do for people and the earth. Includes resource folder, activity guides, and books to help teach about the life of worms.

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### Eggsploring Poultry: Cracking the Egg

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

**AgriLearning Kit**

**Grades K-5**

Learn about chickens, turkeys, & more! This kit is filled with books on embryology, videos, poultry facts, games, and other activities. These materials may be used alone, but are a great supplement to the Eggciting Experiments AgriScience Kit.

*Free loan.*

**Farm Animals**

By Lynn M. Stone (2002)

**Book** **Grades K-3**

Learn about different farm animals and why they are raised in this informative book by author/photographer Lynn M. Stone. Part of the "Life on the Farm" series, Farm Animals contains simple, educational text, full-color photos, and a glossary.

*Free loan.*

**Fun With Farm Animals**

(2001, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Activity Guide** **Grades PreK-K**

This booklet contains a wealth of farm animal-related activities that are perfect for young children. Coloring, cutting, counting, and matching are just a few of the skills your students can master as they complete these activities.

*Free loan. Also included in the Preschool - 2nd Grade Ag Literacy Barn.*

**Horses**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-8**

From rounding up cattle on the ranch to providing therapy to the disabled, horses have changed our world. Learn about different types of horses and their uses today. Includes books, teacher's guide, and an interactive CD-ROM on horses and ranching.

*Free loan.*

**Inflatable Cow**

(Midwest Dairy Association)

**Visual Aid** **All ages**

She's a lovable, transportable Holstein cow. She's not life-size, but she is definitely big enough to attract attention! Display her in the classroom as you study dairy foods and nutrition, or use her in the library during National Agriculture Week.

*Free loan.*

**Pigs on the Farm**

(2010, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**AgriLearning Kit** **Grades PreK-3**

Plan the perfect pig unit with this extensive kit. Includes vocabulary activities, lessons across the curriculum, books, and DVDs. Students will have fun learning about pigs and modern agriculture.

*Free loan.*

**Poultry mAGic**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**mAGic Kit** **Grades 4-8**

Graph incubation periods of poultry breeds, explore osmosis, discover poultry dishes from around the world, and more. Bring ag topics to life with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

*Free loan.*

**Producers, Pigs & Pork**

(2008, National Pork Board)

**Lesson Kit** **Grades 3-6**

Five detailed lessons, a storybook, lesson presentation DVD, and resources CD make this a user-friendly tool for teachers. Engaging content will help students learn about the care involved in raising farm animals that provide us nutritious food.

*Free loan. Also included in the Pigs Literacy Kit.*

**Rising Star Horse Camp**

(2003, American Quarter Horse Foundation)

**CD-ROM** **Grades 3-6**

Go on an interactive journey through barns and pastures, trail rides and riding centers as he teaches you about the many unique qualities of horses. Learn what horses eat, how they think, how to care for horses, and much more.

*Free loan. Also included in the Horses Literacy Kit.*

**See How they Grow: Farm Animals**

(1995, Sony Wonder)

**Video** **Grades PreK-2**

See how the barnyard is a perfect playground for chickens, pigs, calves and lambs as they frolic toward young adulthood. See the first hours of life, the first shaky steps into the world. Animated examples show how each animal grows. 30 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Sheep**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-6**

Learn all about raising, feeding, and shearing sheep with this fun kit. Books included explore how wool from sheep is made into sweaters and how dogs help to care for some sheep. Kit includes a resource binder and books about sheep.

*Free loan.*

**Summer On The Farm 2: Animals**

(1995, Chris Fesko Enterprises)

**Video**

**Grades K-5**

Chris Fesko invites you to her farm to experience rural life. This video focuses on her livestock, emphasizing the development of a calf to a milk cow. A wonderful informative video that kids of all ages will enjoy. 30 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Things We Can Learn from a Cow and a Worm**

(1996, National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

**Poster**

**Grades 5-6**

This 22" x 24" colorful educational poster with accompanying activities demonstrates the positive role ruminants, especially cattle, play in our environment. Earthworms are also featured as an example of natural recycling.

*Free loan, or obtain from NCBA at [www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com).*

**Treasury for Children**

By James Herriot (1974-1991)

**Book**

**Grades 3-6**

This beautifully illustrated book contains a total of eight short stories about James Herriot's days as a country veterinarian in Yorkshire. This is a wonderful book to read aloud or for older children to enjoy on their own.

*Free loan.*

**Veterinary Medicine: It's More Than You Think**

(American Veterinary Medical Association)

**DVD**

**Grades 4-12**

This video will introduce your students to exciting career possibilities waiting for them in veterinary medicine. Interviews with students, college deans and veterinarians. English and Spanish. 29 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Vrrrooommm 2: Dairy Farming for Kids**

(1996, Rainbow Communications)

**Video**

**Grades K-4**

Friendly Farmer Bill takes you on a personal tour of a modern family dairy farm. From cows mooing to tractors roaring, this fun, educational, 30-min. video has it all! Follow milk production from growing the herd's feed to seeing cheese being made.

*Free loan. Also included in the Dairy Cow Capers AgriLearning Kit.*

**Watch Me Grow: Farm Animals**

By Lisa Magloff (2005)

**Book**

**Grades K-2**

Beautiful photos and simple text introduce young children to the life stages of farm animals from birth to adulthood. Readers will "watch" chickens, sheep, cows, and pigs as they grow.

*Free loan.*

**Why Do Cows Moo? And Other Farm Animal Questions**

By Catherine Ripley (1998)

**Book**

**Grades K-3**

Why do ducks waddle? How does a chick get out of the egg? Why do horses sleep standing up? What's a ewe? Entertaining while factual, this book takes young readers on a walk through a farm fair to learn all about animals.

*Free loan.*

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## Food & Nutrition

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**Arianna's Nutrition Expedition**

(2005, National Dairy Council)

**Teacher Guide**

**Grades 3-6**

Classroom activities designed to teach students the importance of good nutrition and physical activity. Includes: teacher and student CD-ROMs, activity plans, poster, and overhead transparencies.

*Free loan or obtain from the National Dairy Council at [www.nutritionexplorations.org](http://www.nutritionexplorations.org).*

**Candy and Chocolate**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades 3-8**

Explore where candy comes from with this kit. Learn the history of candy and chocolate, and how they are processed today. Kit includes books, teacher's guide, sample lessons, and video all relating to candy and chocolate production.

*Free loan.*

**Chef Combo's Fantastic Adventures in Tasting and Nutrition**

(National Dairy Council)

**Lesson Kit**

**Grades PreK-K**

Chef Combo has cooked up 46 activities organized around popular early childhood themes such as seasons, shapes, and the five senses. Program includes 218-page teacher's guide, puppet, poster, and audiocassette.

*Free loan.*

**Choose Well**

(2006, Cattleman's Beef Board & National Cattleman's Beef Association)

**Lesson Kit** **Grades 3-6**

Use this math and nutrition based curriculum to study the food groups, how to make smart food choices, appropriate serving sizes of food, and why physical activity is such an important part of staying healthy. Includes lessons, DVD, CD-ROM game, & more!

*Free loan, or obtain from NCBA at [www.teachfree.org](http://www.teachfree.org).*

**Dig In! An Expedition to an Ancient Culture**

(1998, National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

**Lesson Kit** **Grades 3-4**

This kit uses the ancient Egyptian culture and its pyramids to teach fundamental lessons about the Food Guide Pyramid, good nutrition and physical activity. Contains a full-color poster, audio cassette, teacher's guide, and blackline masters.

*Free loan, or obtain from NCBA at [www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com).*

**Eggs 101: A Video Project**

(2008, American Egg Board)

**DVD** **Grades 4-Adult**

This PBS-produced video can be shown in its entirety or by chapter. It portrays many facets of the egg industry, including an overview of hens and eggs, history, and egg farms. DVD includes a detailed teacher's guide.

*Free loan. Also included in the Poultry mAGic Kit and Food & Nutrition: Intermediate Literacy Kit.*

**Exploring Planet Pizza**

(Indiana Farm Bureau, 1998)

**Video Kit** **Grades K-5**

A spacecraft will land on Planet Pizza and explore the planet's surface, consisting of dough, cheese, tomato sauce, and sausage. Students will also discover history, geography, and math with the included teaching materials. Video length is 12:28 min.

*Free loan. Also available in the Pondering Pizza AgriLearning Kit.*

**Fit for a King: The Smart Kid's Guide to Food & Fun**

(1997, American Academy of Pediatrics)

**Video Kit** **Grades 3-5**

This kit includes a fun yet educational 9-min. video, leader guide, reproducible activity sheets, and poster, all designed to help children and their parents understand the role of nutrition and regular physical activity in a healthy lifestyle.

*Free loan or obtain from NCBA at [www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com).*

**Food & Nutrition: Intermediate**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades 4-8**

Where does food come from? How is it made? How does it get to your table? From growing foods to eating them, and all the steps in between, this kit has the answers. Includes a resource binder, books, and more.

*Free loan.*

**Food & Nutrition: Primary**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades PreK-3**

Where does food come from? How is it made? How does it get to your table? From growing foods to eating them, and all the steps in between, this kit has the answers. Includes a resource binder, books, several videos, and more.

*Free loan.*

**Food Fun for Kids**

(National Pork Producers Council)

**Lesson Folder** **Grades 4-6**

What do cosmetics, pet food, and linoleum have in common? Teach your students about the many uses of hog by-products, the Food Guide Pyramid, & preparing international recipes with pork. Lessons and recipes will satisfy both curiosity and tastebuds!

*Free loan.*

**Food Safety Curriculum**

(Western Illinois University/C-FAR)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades K-12**

This guide would be a useful addition to the nutrition or health curriculum at any grade level. Contains age-appropriate information and lessons on foodborne illness, hygiene, the importance of kitchen cleanliness, cleaning and sanitizing, etc.

*Free loan.*

**Fresh from the Family Farm**

(1995, ZMedia, Inc.)

**Video** **Grades 1-3**

Join seven-year-old Nick as he experiences the fun of visiting Steve's family farm. From tomatoes to tractor rides, you and your students will be a part of the action, helping Nick solve the mystery of growing fruits and vegetables. 30 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Fueled for Flight**

(1998, National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

**Video Kit** **Grades 5-6**

This kit is designed to help students learn science and math skills using a space theme approach. Nutrition and fitness are used to convey key concepts for everyday healthy living. Includes activities, video, teacher's guide, and activity masters.

*Free loan, or obtain from NCBA at [www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com).*

**Giant Cheeseburger**

(Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Visual Aid** **All ages**

Attract lots of keen attention with this giant fabric cheeseburger! What better way to teach students of all ages where their food comes from than by taking apart a cheeseburger to analyze its contents. Wheat, beef, tomatoes, milk -- it's all there.

*Free loan, or request pattern.*

**Giant Pizza**

(Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Visual Aid** **All ages**

Attract lots of keen attention with this fabric pizza! What better way to teach students of all ages where their food comes from than by taking apart their favorite food to analyze its contents. Wheat, pork, tomatoes, milk, fungus -- it's all there.

*Free loan, or request pattern.*

**Incredible Classroom Eggsperience, The**

(1997, American Egg Board)

**Video** **Grades 2-6**

Follow these students as they complete a demonstration on the nutritional value of eggs. Learn about the production, nutritional value, and many uses of eggs in cooking. See how eggs can be included in a healthful diet. 17 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Inflatable Cow**

(Midwest Dairy Association)

**Visual Aid** **All ages**

She's a lovable, transportable Holstein cow. She's not life-size, but she is definitely big enough to attract attention! Display her in the classroom as you study dairy foods and nutrition, or use her in the library during National Agriculture Week.

*Free loan.*

**Investigating Grains**

(2010, DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Curriculum Kit** **Grades 6-12**

Supplement a foods unit on grains with this highly interactive, hands-on kit. Students will explore several important grains using grain samples, photos, and descriptions. They will also learn details about where and how each grain is produced.

*Free loan.*

**Little D's Nutrition Expedition**

(2005, National Dairy Council)

**Teacher Guide** **Grades 1-3**

Little D the dragon will teach students about the importance of good nutrition and physical activity. Includes: student and teacher CD-ROMs, activity plans, and poster.

*Free loan, or obtain from National Dairy Council [www.nutritionexplorations.org](http://www.nutritionexplorations.org).*

**Make Mine Milk**

(National Dairy Council)

**Video** **Grades 2-5**

This highly entertaining video teaches elementary kids where milk comes from, how it is transported and processed, and how it contributes to a nutritious diet. Integrates geography, science, and math. 27 minutes.

*Free loan. Also included in the Dairy Cow Capers AgriLearning Kit.*

**Maple Syrup**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-8**

Early each spring maple trees are tapped, bottles are prepared, and sap is boiled, all to make maple syrup. Follow the process of maple sugaring and learn from some of the people involved. Kit includes several books, teacher's guide, and video.

*Free loan.*

**MVE-TV: The Channel for Moderation, Variety & Exercise**

(1994, National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

**Video Kit** **Grades 7-12**

This kit uses the power of prime time TV to deliver light-hearted, long-lasting messages that will help students learn to enjoy a healthful, balanced diet based on informed choices. Includes video, leader's guide, poster, and black-line masters.

*Free loan.*

**My Pyramid for Kids Level 1**

(2005 USDA Food and Nutrition Service)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 1-2**

These lessons are designed to teach students about the new food guide pyramid. The lessons integrate nutrition with science, math, health, and language arts. Physical activity is also emphasized.

*Free loan, or by request at [www.mypyramid.gov/KIDS/](http://www.mypyramid.gov/KIDS/)*

**My Pyramid for Kids Level 2**

(2005 USDA Food and Nutrition Service)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 3-4**

These lessons are designed to teach students about the new food guide pyramid. The lessons integrate nutrition with science, math, health, and language arts. Physical activity is also emphasized.

*Free loan, or by request at [www.mypyramid.gov/KIDS/](http://www.mypyramid.gov/KIDS/)*

**MyPyramid Pocket Chart**

(Dairy Council of Wisconsin)

**Learning Game** **Grades PreK-4**

Here is a great teaching tool to help your students understand USDA's MyPyramid. A large Pyramid pocket chart and a set of colorful food photographs allow children to place foods into their proper groups while learning about healthy eating.

*Free loan.*

**New Look at Pork, A**

(National Pork Producers Council)

**Video Kit** **Grades 6-12**

This packet contains lesson plans on general nutrition, reading & comparing food labels, selecting cuts, and safety procedures for preparing meat. Each lesson relates to the accompanying video. Kit also includes poster, recipes, & flashcards.

*Free loan.*

**Nutrition Bracelets Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit** **Grades 1-5**

Students create their very own beaded bracelet to represent daily servings in each food group of MyPyramid and remind them to make healthy choices.

*Free loan.*

**Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

**AgriLearning Kit** **Grades K-5**

Take a look at a slice of agriculture--a pizza slice. Through books & videos, see how the ingredients on your pizza begin on farms, are processed, distributed, and made into a delicious meal. Explore "Planet Pizza" and visit a real "pizza farm!"

*Free loan.*

**Safe Food Journey, The**

(1995, National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

**Poster** **Grades 2-4**

Detailing the journey food makes from the farm to students' homes, this colorful 22" x 32" educational poster provides processes to promote a safe food supply at every "stop." Reverse side of poster contains worksheets and activities.

*Free loan, or obtain from NCBA at [www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com).*

**School Wellness Tool Kit**

(2006, Cattlemen's Beef Board and Cattlemen's Beef Association)

**Teaching Guide** **Grades 1-8**

Get information on the USDA's new MyPyramid program and help create and implement your school's nutrition and wellness plan with this informative guide. Includes resource links, reproducible handouts, and MyPyramid posters.

*Free loan, or download from [www.teachfree.com/HealthySchoolNutrition.aspx](http://www.teachfree.com/HealthySchoolNutrition.aspx).*

**Science and Our Food Supply**

(2001, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades 6-12**

A supplemental curriculum which uses inquiry to introduce the fundamentals of microbiology while imparting important public health information. Includes middle & high school teacher's guides, food safety reference guide, and video.

*Free loan.*

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## General Agriculture

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**ABC's of Illinois Agriculture**

(Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Coloring Book** **Grades PreK-2**

This engaging, 30-page coloring book uses the alphabet to teach young children about Illinois agriculture. Each letter stands for an ag-related word and that page contains a message to read, a picture to color, and space to print the word.

*Free in limited quantities.*

**Adventures Around the Farm**

(2008, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**AgriLearning Kit** **Grades PreK-3**

This kit contains vocabulary, books, videos, lessons and activities designed to teach students about farming. The fun and exciting activities will help students understand agriculture and how it relates to their daily lives.

*Free loan.*

**Ag in the Classroom School Calendar**

(Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Activity Calendar** **Grades K-8**

This Aug.-July calendar features color photos of agriculture. Each month focuses on an ag topic with interesting daily facts. Classroom activity ideas are also included. Distributed to all K-8 teachers each fall.

*Provided free to all DeKalb County K-8 teachers each year. Limited number of extra copies available.*

**Agriculture Books for Children**

(2004, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Book list** **Grades PreK-8**

This list of over 300 books was developed by the Illinois Farm Bureau and updated in 2004. Ideal for teachers and librarians, the list serves as an excellent reference for those looking for accurate, agriculture-related books for children.

*Free copies available by request or download from [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org).*

**Agriculture Counts Lesson Plans**

(2006, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades K-12**

This collection of lessons, structured for grades K-12, uses surveys and censuses as the basis for showing why agricultural statistics are important in today's world and incorporates ag into English, math, geography, science, & social studies. 76 pgs.

*Free loan, or download from [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).*

**Agriculture is Every Day**

(2001, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Video** **Grades 2-6**

Gives students a season-by-season overview of ag while highlighting urban topics such as hydroponics, greenhouses, & transportation. Children will learn that agriculture is all around them every day in both the city and the country. 18 min.

*Free loan.*

**Agriculture Measures Up: Using Mathematics in Agriculture**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**AgriScience Kit** **Grades 3-8**

Students calculate areas and perimeters of enclosures as they study the most economical use of fencing, estimate weights and volumes using a simulated grain bin, and determine how much fertilizer is needed for a problem lawn. All materials included.

*Free loan.*

**Agriculture's Air Force**

(1997, National Agricultural Aviation Association)

**Video** **Grades 5-8**

Learn how the people of agricultural aviation are environmentalists. Although they use pesticides in their work, they care deeply about utilizing the safest means of ridding our food and fiber crops of insects, weeds, and diseases. 11 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Alphabet Soup Activities**

(Tennessee Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom)

**Activity Guide** **Grades PreK-6**

This 40-page guide contains an ag activity for every letter of the alphabet. Try Alphabet Apple Bingo, Detecting Starches and Fats, or Gardening in a Glove with your students. Each lesson indicates grade appropriateness and includes extension ideas.

*Free loan.*

**Baseball and Agriculture Charm Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit** **Grades 2-6**

This activity allows children to use baseball to relate agriculture to their daily lives. Students will see how all of the products and equipment used at a baseball game come from agriculture.

*Free loan.*

**Bill Nye the Science Guy: Farming**

(Disney Educational Productions)

**DVD** **Grades 4-7**

Billy Nye explores the science of farming. DVD includes: indexed chapters correlated to National Science Standards, interactive glossaries and quizzes, Spanish translation, and on-disk implementation guide.

*Free loan.*

**Connecting to Agriculture**

(1998, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Video**

**Grades 5-8**

Exciting, fast-paced video connects agriculture to students' lives. Highlights corn, cotton, apples, milk, and soybeans while telling the story of ag and how it relates to economics, science, and business. Includes lesson plan guide for teachers.

*Free loan.*

**Corn, Cows, Pigs & Tractors: Guided Reading**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades 3-4**

Developed by two local teachers, this kit contains guided reading exercises for four nonfiction books: Corn Belt Harvest, Life on a Pig Farm, Clarabelle, & Fantastic Farm Machines. Six copies of each award-winning title are included in the kit.

*Free loan.*

**Eggs 101: A Video Project**

(2008, American Egg Board)

**DVD**

**Grades 4-Adult**

This PBS-produced video can be shown in its entirety or by chapter. It portrays many facets of the egg industry, including an overview of hens and eggs, history, and egg farms. DVD includes a detailed teacher's guide.

*Free loan. Also included in the Poultry mAGic Kit and Food & Nutrition: Intermediate Literacy Kit.*

**Farm Charm Lesson Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit**

**Grades K-5**

Farms are the primary source of our food, shelter, and clothing. The Farm Charm reminds us of the importance of farms in our lives and the need to protect the environment. Learn the importance of farming with the adapted text "If it Weren't For Farmers."

*Free loan.*

**Farm Magazines**

(Various)

**News Magazine**

**All ages**

Clip pictures from modern agricultural publications to create an agriculture bulletin board, or for student collages. The possibilities are endless! Even some of today's textbooks do not depict modern farms and equipment. These magazines do!

*Free to classrooms.*

**Farm Puzzle**

(2000, Indiana Farm Bureau)

**Puzzle**

**Grades 3-5**

Colorful, appealing drawings and interesting ag facts make this 60-piece puzzle a joy to assemble. Use during a farm unit to occupy those early finishers, or include in a learning center with a farming topic. Finished puzzle measures 11"x15".

*Free loan or order from Indiana Farm Bureau at [www.infarmbureau.org](http://www.infarmbureau.org).*

**Farming Game, The**

(1979, George Rohrbacher)

**Board Game**

**Grades 6-12**

Known as "The Game Invented on the Seat of a Tractor," this board game introduces players to the challenges and risks of modern farming. The object of the game is to grow your farm large enough to quit your job in town and farm full-time. Don't go broke!

*Free loan. (5 sets available.)*

**Field Guide to Utah Agriculture in the Classroom, Vol. 1**

(Utah Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom)

**Activity Guide**

**Grades K-6**

Although developed for Utah teachers, this guide contains a number of great activities that are appropriate anywhere and in any curriculum. You and your students can try spinning and dyeing wool, making biodegradable packing material, and more.

*Free loan, or download activities from Utah Ag in the Classroom at <http://extension.usu.edu/aitc>.*

**Field Guide to Utah Agriculture in the Classroom, Vol. II**

(Utah Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom)

**Activity Guide**

**Grades K-6**

This follow-up to Utah AITC's first field guide is full of excellent activities that will help you integrate agriculture into any subject you teach. Grow living necklaces, make cornbread in a bag, and teach about the principles of supply & demand.

*Free loan, or download activities from Utah Ag in the Classroom at <http://extension.usu.edu/aitc>.*

**Fun on the Farm**

(2001, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Activity Guide**

**Grades PreK-K**

This booklet contains a wealth of farm-related activities that are perfect for young children. Coloring, cutting, counting, and matching are just a few of the skills your students can master as they complete these activities.

*Free loan. Also included in the Preschool - 2nd Grade Ag Literacy Barn.*

**Fun With Farm Animals**

(2001, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Activity Guide**

**Grades PreK-K**

This booklet contains a wealth of farm animal-related activities that are perfect for young children. Coloring, cutting, counting, and matching are just a few of the skills your students can master as they complete these activities.

*Free loan. Also included in the Preschool - 2nd Grade Ag Literacy Barn*

**Fun With Plants**

(2001, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Activity Guide**

**Grades PreK-K**

This booklet contains a wealth of plant-related activities that are perfect for young children. Coloring, cutting, counting, and matching are just a few of the skills your students can master as they complete these activities.

*Free loan. Also included in the Preschool - 2nd Grade Ag Literacy Barn.*

**General Agriculture**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades 3-5**

Take a closer look at modern agriculture! Kit includes farm literature, curriculum/activity books, posters, videos, grain samples and more. Perfect for a cross-curricular unit on agriculture--incorporates social studies, language arts, math, and science.

*Free loan.*

**Genetics and Biotechnology**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades 6-12**

Learn about the genetic code, the cell cycle, reproduction, and basic genetics. Understand the principles behind the most recent advances in biotechnology, and explore how DNA technology is being used to benefit agriculture and people today.

*Free loan.*

**Giant Cheeseburger**

(Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Visual Aid**

**All ages**

Attract lots of keen attention with this giant fabric cheeseburger! What better way to teach students of all ages where their food comes from than by taking apart a cheeseburger to analyze its contents. Wheat, beef, tomatoes, milk -- it's all there.

*Free loan, or request pattern.*

**Giant Pizza**

(Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Visual Aid**

**All ages**

Attract lots of keen attention with this fabric pizza! What better way to teach students of all ages where their food comes from than by taking apart their favorite food to analyze its contents. Wheat, pork, tomatoes, milk, fungus -- it's all there.

*Free loan, or request pattern.*

**Grain Game**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Game**

**Grades 3-8**

This kit includes 4 identical sets of grain samples, matching cards, and answer booklets. The object of the game is to correctly match each of a dozen grains or seeds to its name. Answer booklets contain photos and descriptions, and uses of each.

*Free loan.*

**Green Eggs and Agriculture**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades PreK-4**

A collection of ideas to celebrate ag and Read Across America Day through Dr. Seuss' books. Outlines agricultural lessons and related resources to use with nine of the Dr. Seuss books, including The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, and The Lorax.

*Free loan.*

**Growing Better Every Day: Using Genetics to Improve Agriculture**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**AgriScience Kit**

**Grades 6-8**

Colored paper clips are used to illustrate genes and chromosome chains in an easily understood, hands-on activity. A germination study teaches about genotypes and phenotypes. This self-contained kit will make teaching genetics easy!

*Free loan.*

**Growing Season: The Story of a Family Farm**

(1997, Pigtail Productions)

**Video**

**Grades PreK-2**

Reconnect to the cycle of life and its seasons on the land. Follow machinery preparation, planting, harvesting, and hay baling. Help milk the cows and see the actual birth of Sadie the sow's piglets, a sensitive introduction to the facts of life.

*Free loan.*

**Illinois Ag Mags**

(Illinois Ag in the Classroom)

**Thematic Newspaper** **Grades K-8**

Each 4-page, 11x17" issue of the Ag Mag contains information on specific ag topics along with math, science, social studies, and language arts activities. Topics include Pumpkins, Apples, Corn, Soybeans, Pizza, Pork, Water, Earth Day, and many more.

*Free of charge. Call for available topics. May also be downloaded from [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org).*

**Illinois mAGic**

(2007, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**mAGic Kit** **Grades 4-8**

Learn about our great state with lessons that highlight unique features of Illinois' past & present including crops, livestock, natural resources & more! Explore Illinois with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

*Free loan.*

**Innovations in Agriculture**

(2000, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades 7-8**

Innovations in Agriculture is a great way to infuse food & fiber system concepts into your curriculum! This 335-page guide features 60 teacher-created activities in six subject areas, and each activity is correlated to Illinois Learning Standards.

*Free loan.*

**It's A PUZZLEment!**

(National Farm-City Council)

**Lesson Folder** **Grades K-6**

The purpose of this packet is to show how the products from cotton, sheep, and cattle are manufactured into goods which are important in providing our basic needs. Contains activities in language arts, math, science, social studies, and art.

*Free loan. Also provided in the Unraveling Fibers AgriLearning Kit.*

**Kids, Crops, and Critters in the Classroom**

(2000, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades K-3**

Kids, Crops, and Critters is a great way to infuse food & fiber system concepts into your curriculum! This 295-page guide features 60 teacher-created activities in six subject areas, and each activity is correlated to Illinois Learning Standards.

*Free loan.*

**Kids, Crops, and Critters in the Classroom**

(2000, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades 4-6**

Kids, Crops, and Critters is a great way to infuse food & fiber system concepts into your curriculum! This 356-page guide features 60 teacher-created activities in six subject areas, and each activity is correlated to Illinois Learning Standards.

*Free loan.*

**Nourishing the Planet in the 21st Century**

(Biological Sciences Curriculum Study)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades 4-8**

Study concerns related to population growth & food production. Lessons explore properties of soil, needed nutrients, plant-soil interactions, plant nutrient deficiencies, fertilizers & the environment, & how we will provide for our planet in the future.

*Free loan.*

**Our Busy Farm**

(1997, Scott Taradash)

**Video** **Grades K-5**

Follow this DeKalb County farm family as they show you the planting, growing, and harvesting seasons on the farm. See how different kinds of equipment function and help people work. Experience farm life all the way to the fair. 35 minute video.

*Free loan.*

**Preschool-2nd Grade Ag Literacy Barn**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades PreK-2**

This brightly painted wooden barn is filled to the rafters with age-appropriate activity ideas, books, puzzles, puppets, display items, and more. A perfect tool to introduce young learners to farming and agriculture!

*Free loan.*

**Project Seasons**

(1995, Shelburne Farms)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades PreK-6**

A collection of nearly 150 seasonal, interdisciplinary activities and teaching ideas. Through investigation and hands-on activities, students discover concepts about the natural world. Learn about wool, corn, soils, worms, trees, cows, and wheat.

*Free loan or purchase from Shelburne Farms at [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org).*

**Safety Bracelets Supplies**

(2008, DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit** **Grades K-5**

Stop. Look. Think twice. Is it safe? Proceed with caution. Each colored bead on the bracelets children will make is a reminder of what to do to be safe. Kit includes beads, cord, and handouts.

*Free loan.*

**Scenes of Science: Videos From the Agricultural Research Service**

(2004, USDA Agricultural Research Service)

**Video** **Grades 6-12**

Interested in science as a career? This DVD contains 23 brief videos on a wide range of recent scientific discoveries at ARS. Topics include foods and health, crops and environment, farm animals, new products, and insects. 43 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Seasons On the Farm**

(2008, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**AgriLearning Kit** **Grades PreK-3**

This kit includes vocabulary activities, books, videos and lessons; all designed to enhance students' understanding agriculture throughout the four seasons. Students will relate practices such as planting and harvesting to the appropriate seasons.

*Free loan.*

**Shopping for Agriculture**

(2007, National Ag in the Classroom)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 3-5**

A collection of lessons relating grocery store foods to agriculture. Lessons address skills in science, geography, health, spelling, and math.

*Free loan.*

**Short Course on Biotechnology, A**

(1999)

**CD-ROM** **Grades 6-12**

This CD-ROM offers a concise overview of the biotechnology industry today. The narrated presentation shows why biotech products are safe, how they are helping people around the world, and why they offer so much promise for our future.

*Free loan.*

**Teacher-Created Lessons & Units**

(Various)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades PreK-8**

Why "re-invent the wheel?" Gather great ideas from your peers as you browse through a selection of agricultural lessons and units created by area teachers. Gain insight from others who have found creative ways to infuse ag into their classrooms!

*Available for review in the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Library.*

**Ten Things Kids Want to Know About Farming**

(2001, American Farm Bureau Federation)

**Video & Lesson Plans** **Grades 4-6**

This video is a useful tool for teaching about such fundamental concepts of food production as what can grow on an acre, what constitutes soil, and how much water is needed to grow a crop. Answers questions kids commonly ask about farming. 22 min.

*Free loan, or purchase from AFBF (see address at end of guide).*

**Unraveling Fibers: More Than Just Clothes**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

**AgriLearning Kit** **Grades K-5**

Unravel the mysteries of the fibers that make up our clothing and a multitude of other items we use daily. Through hands-on activities, books, a video, and fiber samples, discover the origins of many natural fibers such as cotton, wool, and silk.

*Free loan.*

**Vrrrooommm 1: Farming for Kids**

(1996, Rainbow Communications)

**Video** **Grades K-4**

Join Farmer Bill in this award-winning video as he engages your students' imaginations with the noise and live action of hi-tech farm equipment. Follow vegetable and grain production from planting to harvest on a modern family farm. 30 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Winter On The Farm**

(1996, Chris Fesko Enterprises)

**Video** **Grades K-5**

This video shows that chores like milking cows and feeding the livestock continue through the winter months. Jobs like shoeing horses, chopping wood, trimming trees, and preparing machinery for spring keeps the farm family busy. 25 minutes.

*Free loan.*

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## Insects

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### Honeybees

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

#### **Literacy Kit**

**Grades PreK-4**

Learn all about bees and honey with this box of resources. Includes a video, full-color honeybee study posters, puppets, books on bees and beekeeping, lesson and craft ideas, and a coloring book.

*Free loan.*

### Insect Adventure: An Interactive Insect Information Experience

(2006, Illinois Ag in the Classroom)

#### **CD-ROM**

**Grades 4-6**

You've been shrunk to an insect's size and must make your way through a cornfield, forest, and lawn to reach help. Along the way, you meet many insects that are either harmful or beneficial. Which should you eliminate? Learn details of 29 new insects.

*Free loan. (Also available in the Insect mAGic Kit.)*

### Insect mAGic

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

#### **mAGic Kit**

**Grades 4-8**

Capture students' interest as they study butterflies, grasshoppers, honeybees, and boll weevils while honing skills across four subject areas. Bring ag topics to life with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

*Free loan.*

### Insects: Agriculture's Foes or Friends

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

#### **AgriScience Kit**

**Grades K-8**

Students study the parts of a grasshopper and compare it to close relatives, study and compare honeybee queens, drones and workers, and study the role of the honeybee in plant pollination. Insect specimens included for hands-on exploration.

*Free loan.*

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## Machines

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### Farm Machinery

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

#### **Literacy Kit**

**Grades 3-8**

Introduce your students to the farm machinery they most often see in the fields of our area. This kit contains 1/64 scale model tractors and other equipment, books about tractors, and photos of each implement "in action."

*Free loan.*

### Janice VanCleave's Machines

By Janice VanCleave (1993)

#### **Book**

**Grades 4-8**

Subtitled "Mind Boggling Experiments You Can Turn Into Science Fair Projects," this book contains 20 hands-on activities that illustrate how and why different machines work. Children can explore gears, levers, wheels & axles, ball bearings, and more.

*Free loan.*

### LEGO Dacta Simple Machines

(1995, LEGO)

#### **Hands-on Activity Kit**

**Grades 2-4**

Your students will love learning how simple machines work as they construct and manipulate wheels & axles, pulleys, levers, and gears. Each kit contains a teacher's guide and 12 individual LEGO Dacta sets for 24 students working in pairs.

*Free loan.*

### LEGO Early Simple Machines

#### **Hands-on Activity Kit**

**Grades K-1**

Young students will learn how simple machines work as they create their own using simple diagrams and easy-to-handle LEGO Duplo blocks. Six identical sets allow children to work in pairs.

*Free loan.*

### Machines mAGic

(2007, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

#### **mAGic Kit**

**Grades 4-8**

Learn the history of farm machinery & the impact of modern farming techniques. Hands-on exercises identify simple machines within machinery parts & estimate farm costs. Check out this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

*Free loan.*

**Problem Solving On The Farm**

(1998, Chris Fesko Enterprises)

**Video** **Grades K-5**

Teach problem solving skills to your students through actual problems as they occur. Situations range from routine equipment repair and animal healthcare to unexpected events such as a tractor fire and an overturned wagon. 25 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Simple Machines Made Simple**

By Ralph St. Andre (1993)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades 3-8**

"Simple machines help us do work by trading force for distance" is all the technical information you will need to teach this unit. Clearly presented, step-by-step lessons and inexpensive, easy-to-find materials make this guide attractive to teachers.

*Free loan.*

**Tractors, Cotton-Pickers and the Stuff Kids Wear**

(1995, Just Our Size Videos)

**Video** **Grades K-6**

This video will fascinate your students as they discover how their favorite pair of blue jeans came from a tiny cotton seed. The entire process from seed to jeans is portrayed. Silk, wool, and flax are also discussed as they pertain to our clothing.

*Free loan. Also included in the Unraveling Fibers and Adventures Around the Farm AgriLearning Kits.*

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## Natural Resources

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**Agriculture & the Environment**

(2004, American Farm Bureau Foundation For Agriculture)

**Teaching Guide** **Grades 5-9**

This guide contains six sections, each focusing on a separate environmental concern and containing an activity. Sections include water quality, endangered species, food safety, wetlands, and pest management. Includes sources for further research.

*Free loan, or order from AFBF at [www.ageducate.org](http://www.ageducate.org).*

**Agriculture Renews Our Planet: Growing Energy for the Future**

(ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**AgriScience Kit** **Grades K-8**

How can we best use our natural resources? Which are renewable vs. non-renewable? Students make biodegradable plastic from corn and compare soy ink with petroleum-based ink. All necessary materials included with curriculum in a handy tub.

*Free loan.*

**And Your Point Is? The Story of Point & Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention**

By Deborah Rodney Pex (2001)

**Booklet** **Grades 3-6**

This booklet describes how pollution gets into our water. Information is provided in an engaging, storybook format with helpful illustrations along the way. Children will learn about causes and prevention of point and nonpoint source pollution.

*Free loan.*

**Biomass: Lesson Plans on Alternative Fuels**

(2005, South Carolina Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 7-12**

Contains lessons focusing on biomass products (environmentally friendly energy resources derived from agricultural by-products.) Includes important vocabulary and information on environmental concerns, natural resources, recycling, and much more.

*Free loan.*

**Caretakers All**

(National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

**Poster and Lesson Kit** **Grades 3-4**

This useful environmental program includes six hands-on lessons about the care of animals, water, land, plants, resources, and the community through a powerful series of full-color prints and engaging black-and-white masters.

*Free loan.*

**Circles of the Earth Bracelets**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit** **Grades K-5**

The Earth is a circle of interconnected cycles. Where do people fit? Students use colored beads and cord to represent the Earth, its resources, and its life-giving cycles. Great for Earth Day!

*Free loan.*

**Claude's Got the Scoop on Soil!**

(2006, Natural Resources Conservation Service)

**CD-ROM** **Grades 3-6**

Soil is an amazing material, providing part of the basis for human existence. This interactive cd-rom will entertain while teaching soil's importance. The goal is to promote wise choices to help protect our soils so that they may sustain life on earth.

*Free loan. (Also available in the Soil Literacy Kit and the Soil mAGic Kit.)*

**Environmental Pathways: Youth Investigating Pollution Issues in Illinois**

(2001, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades 5-6**

The goal of this guide is to develop critical thinking skills which will enable students to understand and make independent decisions regarding both current and future environmental issues. Includes extensive background information and 17 activities.

*Free loan. May also be downloaded or ordered from [www.epa.state.il.us/kids/teachers](http://www.epa.state.il.us/kids/teachers).*

**Ethanol and Its Use as a Motor Vehicle Fuel**

(Illinois Corn Growers Association)

**Booklet** **Grades 6-12**

This guide will help students understand the conversion of corn to ethanol and its use as fuel for vehicles, pros & cons of encouraging increased use of ethanol, and the energy relationships between agriculture, science & technology, and society.

*Free copies available for educators.*

**Forestry**

By Jane Drake (1998)

**Book** **Grades 3-6**

Forestry explores an important and controversial American industry, looking at everything from the methods used to cut trees to the planting of new seedlings. Travel with the logs to the mills, see what happens inside a sawmill and pulp & paper mill.

*Free loan.*

**Fun With the Plant Nutrient Team**

(Potash & Phosphate Institute)

**Activity Guide** **Grades K-3**

This 24-page educational activity book features the three major plant nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium while helping students understand soil conservation and science in agriculture. Teacher's guide also available.

*Free loan. (Also available in the Seeds and Plants Literacy Kit.)*

**Garbage Day!**

(1994, ChildVision Educational Films)

**Video** **Grades K-4**

Where does the garbage go? Find out as Billy and his dad join garbage man Gus and follow trash from the curb to landfills and recycling centers. Marvel at the machinery and people needed to process trash.

*Free loan.*

**Good Earth, The**

(2000, National Association of Conservation Districts)

**Video** **All ages**

The Good Earth is a five-minute odyssey that explores the visual wonders of our living planet, and a tribute to all of those who help care for it. Re-live the wonders of our Earth in this inspiring video you'll want to see again and again.

*Free loan.*

**Guide to Fun Recycling Projects for Educators**

(2001, Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades K-12**

This publication is designed to increase environmental awareness and achieve long-term behavior changes to ensure wise use of our natural resources. Contains 60 lessons and recycled product craft ideas. Aligned to IL Learning Standards. 159 pages.

*Free loan.*

**Mission Possible!**

(1999, Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 9-12**

Subtitled "Students Building Solutions for Their Community's Recycling Needs," "Mission Possible!" presents lessons on solid waste management and related materials emphasizing the 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Aligned to IL Learning Standards.

*Free loan.*

**Municipal Solid Waste and the 3Rs**

(2002, Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades K-6**

Although there are many environmental issues, one of the most important to students is the issue of solid waste. This guide describes a complete course of study, taking students from issue awareness through responsible citizen action. 121 pgs.

*Free loan.*

**Municipal Solid Waste and the 3Rs**

(2002, Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 6-8**

Although there are many environmental issues, one of the most important to students is the issue of solid waste. This guide describes a complete course of study, taking students from issue awareness through responsible citizen action. 106 pgs.

*Free loan.*

**Nature of Corn, The**

(1996, Illinois Corn Growers Association)

**Booklet** **Grades 6-12**

This guide will help students understand how corn grows, including a history of corn production, uses of corn and products made from it, corn and air quality, and corn production as it relates to soil and water quality.

*Free copies available for educators.*

**Production Agriculture: Feeding People While Protecting the Environment**

(2001, IMC Global)

**Video** **Grades 7-Adult**

This 10 min. video demonstrates the ways some farmers use the Core 4 (better soil, cleaner water, greater profits for agriculture & a brighter future for all) approach to meet the need for more food without compromising the health of the environment.

*Free loan.*

**Project Seasons**

(1995, Shelburne Farms)

**Curriculum Guide** **Grades PreK-6**

A collection of nearly 150 seasonal, interdisciplinary activities and teaching ideas. Through investigation and hands-on activities, students discover concepts about the natural world. Learn about wool, corn, soils, worms, trees, cows, and wheat.

*Free loan or purchase from Shelburne Farms at [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org).*

**Soil**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-8**

The food we eat, the clothes we wear, even the homes we live in have their beginnings in the soil. Discover the importance of protecting this resource. Learn about soil and conservation with this kit which contains videos, books, & resource packets.

*Free loan.*

**Soil Erosion: The Disappearing Earth**

(2000, University of Illinois Extension)

**AgriScience Kit** **Grades 4-6**

This kit is designed to help students learn about one of the most basic components of our natural world--soil. Hands-on soil activities and experiments center around the highly entertaining book, Secret Agent Worms: The Disappearing Earth.

*Free loan.*

**Soil mAGic**

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**mAGic Kit** **Grades 4-8**

Conduct experiments on soil pH, soil profiles and components, and crop rotation! Learn the unique history of our state and its valuable resource, soil. Unearth soil with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

*Free loan.*

**Things We Can Learn from a Cow and a Worm**

(1996, National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

**Poster** **Grades 5-6**

This 22" x 24" colorful educational poster with accompanying activities demonstrates the positive role ruminants, especially cattle, play in our environment. Earthworms are also featured as an example of natural recycling.

*Free loan or obtain from NCBA at [www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com).*

**Tree Farmer, The**

By Chuck Leavell (2005)

**Book** **Grades 1-4**

A boy confronts his grandfather, a tree farmer, about how he can grow trees with so much love and care only to cut them down. Readers take a journey through the forest to learn the many gifts of trees and our responsibility to care for them.

*Free loan.*

**Water Cycle Bracelets**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit** **Grades K-5**

Create bracelets that depict the water cycle! Colored beads show the paths water takes as it moves through the Earth and its atmosphere. Students reinforce what they have learned by telling the unique water cycle story they create on their wrist.

*Free loan.*

**What is a Watershed?**

By Deborah Rodney Pex (1994)

**Booklet** **Grades 1-2**

Simple text and full-page illustrations in a storybook format describe what a watershed is as well as how it works. Readers will learn how wildlife, rivers, lakes, ponds, farms, the city, and people are all a part of and affect a watershed.

*Free loan.*

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# Plants

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## **A Short Course in Biotechnology**

(1999)

**CD-ROM**

**Grades 6-12**

This CD-ROM provides a video to explain why biotech products are safe, why they are better, and why they offer so much promise for our future.

*Free loan.*

## **Amazing Adventures of the Plantastic Voyagers, The**

(American Crop Protection Association)

**Video**

**Grades 3-5**

This 12-minute video shows how farmers find solutions to many different agricultural challenges, including how they keep plants healthy and protect them from insect damage. Includes discussion guide. Use with the "Benny Broccoli" activity guide.

*Free loan.*

## **Apples**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades K-6**

Red, green, or yellow; sweet, tart, or sour; apples can be enjoyed by everyone! Learn how this tasty fruit is grown, harvested, and processed to get to your home. Kit includes books, activity guides, and a resource binder with loads of apple information!

*Free loan.*

## **Beanie Baby Lesson Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit**

**Grades PreK-6**

Grow a soybean in a plastic bag! Kit contains clear plastic bags, soil crystals, and soybeans. Simply add water and heat and watch your soybeans germinate. Study plant parts and stages of growth with this handy "beanie baby" tub.

*Free loan.*

## **Biotechnology: Applications in Agriculture**

(2000, Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education)

**AgriScience Kit**

**Grades 7-12**

Students will build a DNA model, learn about deciphering genetic codes, discover how electrophoresis is used, and learn ways genetic engineering is used in agriculture. Great follow-up to the "Growing Better Every Day" AgriScience Kit.

*Free loan.*

## **Bread Comes to Life: A Garden of Wheat and a Loaf to Eat**

(2003, George Levenson)

**Video**

**Grades K-6**

Follow a baker as he turns his homegrown crop of wheat into a homemade loaf of bread to eat. Then see the same process on a more commercial scale with a large farm, mill, and bakery. Video accompanies the book of the same title. 22 minutes.

*Free loan.*

## **Corn**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades K-8**

Teach your students about our area's most important crop - CORN! This kit is literally stuffed with cross-curricular materials: posters, recipes, samples of types of corn and corn products, lessons, experiments, literature, videos, and more.

*Free loan.*

## **Cotton**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades K-8**

Explore cotton with this multimedia kit. Learn how cotton is grown, harvested, and processed in the U.S. See the history of this valuable fabric, and how it is used today by people everywhere. Kit contains books, brochures, activities, and samples.

*Free loan.*

## **Cranberries**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit**

**Grades K-6**

Learn all about the "rubies of the bog": cranberries! Find out how these tangy little fruits got their name, the history of the crop, and how cranberries are grown and harvested today. Kit includes videos, activity books, lesson plans, and recipes.

*Free loan.*

## **Cranberry Bounce**

(1991, DeBeck Educational Video)

**Video & Activity Guide**

**Grades 1-6**

Join these children on the cranberry farm and you'll never look at cranberries the same. This entertaining video explores every aspect of one of North America's original food crops. History, biology, sociology, geology & cooking combined. 30 min.

*Free loan.*

**Flowers**

By Lynn M. Stone (2002)

**Book** **Grades K-3**

Get an up-to-date look at flower farming in this fascinating book by author/photographer Lynn M. Stone. Part of the "Harvest to Home" series, Flowers contains simple yet informative text, full-color photos, and a glossary.

*Free loan.*

**Fresh from the Family Farm**

(1995, ZMedia, Inc.)

**Video** **Grades 1-3**

Join seven-year-old Nick as he experiences the fun of visiting Steve's family farm. From tomatoes to tractor rides, you and your students will be a part of the action, helping Nick solve the mystery of growing fruits and vegetables. 30 minutes.

*Free loan.*

**Fun With Plants**

(2001, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Activity Guide** **Grades PreK-K**

This booklet contains a wealth of plant-related activities that are perfect for young children. Coloring, cutting, counting, and matching are just a few of the skills your students can master as they complete these activities.

*Free to teachers who participate in a minimum 1-hour workshop, call (815) 756-6361.*

**Fun With the Plant Nutrient Team**

(Potash & Phosphate Institute)

**Activity Guide** **Grades K-3**

This 24-page educational activity book features the three major plant nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium while helping students understand soil conservation and science in agriculture. Teacher's guide also available.

*Free loan. Also included in the Seeds and Plants Literacy Kit.*

**Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish & English**

By Alma Flor Ada (1997)

**Book** **Grades 3-6**

Vividly painted illustrations accompany each of the many poems in this book. The poems -- one for each letter of the Spanish alphabet -- are about nature's bounty and working in the fields. They are written in Spanish and translated into English.

*Free loan.*

**Getting to the Core: Apples and Orchards**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

**AgriLearning Kit** **Grades K-5**

How do apples grow? Where do all those varieties of apples come from? Learn the answers to these questions and much more! Take an inside look at apples and their history. Includes games, things to make and eat, videos, posters, and books.

*Free loan.*

**Grain Game**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Game** **Grades 3-8**

This kit includes 4 identical sets of grain samples, matching cards, and answer booklets. The object of the game is to correctly match each of a dozen grains or seeds to its name. Answer booklets contain photos and descriptions, and uses of each.

*Free loan.*

**Grain Samples**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Visual Aid** **All ages**

Sometimes pictures just aren't enough to convey a complete understanding, and only the real thing will do. If you're studying Illinois products such as corn, soybeans, or wheat, and would like actual samples for your students to see, these can help.

*Free loan.*

**Nourishing the Planet in the 21st Century**

(2007 BSCS & Nutrients for Life Foundation)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 5-8**

The six lessons in this module are designed to help students understand food production, use the process of scientific inquiry, and recognize the role of science in society.

*Free loan or download from [www.nutrientsforlife.org](http://www.nutrientsforlife.org).*

**Peanuts**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-8**

Whether they are salted, spread, or simply sampled, peanuts are an American favorite. Learn how this legume is grown, harvested, and processed into products as common as paints and shampoos. Kit includes books, teacher's guides, and lesson outlines.

*Free loan.*

**Plant mAGic**

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**mAGic Kit** **Grades 4-8**

Discover plant differences, learn about ecosystems, and see how plants affect the Illinois economy! Also delve into history and explore current issues. Ponder plants with this Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum Kit - it's mAGic!

*Free loan.*

**Pumpkin Patch: A Vine Through Time**

(2000, Partners for Agricultural Literacy)

**AgriLearning Kit** **Grades K-5**

Discover the wonders of pumpkins. Watch tiny seeds grow into several varieties of pumpkins in a time-lapse video and learn how to prepare the soil for next year's crop. Contains books, posters, recipes, craft ideas, and more.

*Free loan.*

**Pumpkins**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-6**

Autumn brings the harvest, fall colors, and best of all, pumpkins! Discover how pumpkins grow, different varieties of the fruit, and various uses for them. Also learn the history of this native squash. Kit includes several books and an activity guide.

*Free loan.*

**Rice**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades 3-6**

Learn all about this unique cereal grain! Find out how rice is grown, see different types of rice, and discover how rice is used in our world today. Kit includes books, videos, posters, recipes, and a resource binder with information on rice.

*Free loan.*

**Seeds and Plants**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-6**

What do different kinds of seeds look like? How do they grow into plants? What do they need to grow? Supplement your unit on plants with this great resource. Kit includes curriculum, books, videos, posters, seed samples, and much more.

*Free loan.*

**Soil Sam Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit** **Grades K-5**

Students will grow their own grassy-haired creatures using grass seed, soil, knee-high hose, a baby food jar, and decorative items like fabric and wiggle eyes. Study germination, plant growth, and the affect of fertilizers on seed growth.

*Free loan.*

**Soybean Science: Polymers and Oil**

(Indiana Soybean Development Council)

**AgriScience Kit** **Grades K-5**

This kit will introduce children to science fundamentals while highlighting the principals of using renewable resources. Students will learn how oils and polymers behave as they make "oobleck," "gluep," soy-based crayons, candles, and more.

*Free loan.*

**Soybeans**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-8**

What do candles, furniture, ink, shampoo, and fuel all have in common? They are all products made from soybeans! Learn about this plant and its many uses in agriculture. Kit includes videos, lesson plans, soybean and soy product samples, and much more.

*Free loan.*

**Those Amazing Kernels of Corn!**

(1997, Indiana Farm Bureau)

**Video/Activity Guide** **Grades K-5**

This multi-media teaching packet presents the story of corn: its production, by-products, and uses in our everyday lives. It's important that children learn about agriculture and this very valuable commodity. Activities, games, and 9 min. video included.

*Free loan.*

**Vrrrooommm 3: Apple Farming for Kids**

(1997, Rainbow Communications)

**Video** **Grades K-4**

The award-winning Farming for Kids video series continues with this live action adventure exploring modern apple production. From pollination to processing, Farmer Bill shares the chronology of how apples are grown and make their way to the market.

*Free loan. Also included in the Getting to the Core AgriLearning Kit.*

**Wheat We Eat, The**

(2010, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**AgriLearning Kit** **Grades PreK-3**

Instantly engage your students as they examine and dissect a stalk of wheat and grind their own wheat kernels. Books, a DVD, vocabulary cards and a bundle of wheat accompany a binder packed with lessons and activities in this kit.

*Free loan.*

**Careers in Horticulture**

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Curriculum Kit** **Grades 7-12**

This set of nine lessons is designed to make students aware of the variety of opportunities that await in the horticulture industry. Lessons will help students explore their skills and awaken interest in today's horticulture industry. Includes a DVD.

*Free loan.*

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## Social Studies, Economics & Careers

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**Agricultural & Natural Resources Careers**

(2006, Utah Agriculture in the Classroom)

**Resource Binder & CD-ROM** **Grades 6-9**

Instructional unit and interactive software for technology, life and careers. This unit is designed to enhance your instruction of agricultural career education. The activities are hands-on and user friendly.

*Free loan or download from [www.agclassroom.org/ut](http://www.agclassroom.org/ut).*

**Agriculture Counts Lesson Plans**

(2006, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades K-12**

This collection of lessons, structured for grades K-12, uses surveys and censuses as the basis for showing why agricultural statistics are important in today's world and incorporates ag into English, math, geography, science & social studies. 76 pgs.

*Free loan or download from [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).*

**Agriculture is Every Day**

(2001, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Video** **Grades 2-6**

Gives students a season-by-season overview of ag while highlighting urban topics such as hydroponics, greenhouses, & transportation. Children will learn that agriculture is all around them every day in both the city and the country. 18 min.

*Free loan.*

**Careers in Horticulture**

(2006, ISBE/Facilitating Coordination in Ag Education)

**Video** **Grades 7-12**

This engaging DVD highlights several young graduates talking about their varied and exciting careers in the horticulture industry. Great tool to introduce students to a growing segment of the ag industry.

*Free loan. Also included in the Careers in Horticulture Curriculum Kit.*

**Celebrate America**

(2002, Cattlemen's Beef Board)

**Video Kit** **Grades 4-5**

Designed for 4th & 5th grades, this multicultural program provides a cross-curricular exploration of the foods and traditions of students' own cultural backgrounds, as well as gather information about how and when their families came to America.

*Free loan, or obtain from NCBA at [www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com).*

**Connecting to Agriculture**

(1998, Illinois Farm Bureau)

**Video** **Grades 5-8**

Exciting, fast-paced video connects agriculture to students' lives. Highlights corn, cotton, apples, milk, and soybeans while telling the story of ag and how it relates to economics, science, and business. Includes lesson plan guide for teachers.

*Free loan.*

**Dedicated To Service: A Career in Veterinary Medicine**

(American Veterinary Medical Association)

**CD-ROM** **Grades 6-12**

Learn about the career of a veterinarian: helping both animals and people. See the many employment opportunities related to veterinary medicine including teaching, practicing, research, and public health. Accompanies the video of the same title.

*Free loan.*

**FACES of Agriculture**

(1999, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture)

**Lesson Folder** **Grades 4-8**

FACES presents ideas for teaching an awareness of and appreciation of our food and fiber system. Includes a poster and lessons that encourage students to think about careers while they develop reading, language, math and social science skills.

*Free loan, or order from AFBF at [www.ageducate.org](http://www.ageducate.org).*

**Farm Facts**

(2007, American Farm Bureau Federation)

**Booklet** **Grades 2-12**

A 31-page overview of U.S. agriculture, including statistics, ag facts, nutrition information, a fold-out poster depicting agricultural products by state, and more. Updated in every two years.

*Free in limited quantities to students and teachers.*

**Farm Facts Lessons: Grades 4-6**

(2008, American Farm Bureau Federation)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 4-6**

Cross-curricular lessons accompany the colorful Farm Facts booklet, a 31-page overview of U.S. agriculture, including statistics, ag facts, nutrition information, a fold-out poster depicting agricultural products by state, and more. Updated in 2004.

*Free loan, or order from AFBF at [www.ageducate.org](http://www.ageducate.org).*

**Farm Facts Lessons: Grades 7-12**

(2008, American Farm Bureau Federation)

**Lesson Guide** **Grades 7-12**

Cross-curricular lessons accompany the colorful Farm Facts booklet, a 31-page overview of U.S. agriculture, including statistics, ag facts, nutrition information, a fold-out poster depicting agricultural products by state, and more. Updated in 2008.

*Free loan, or order from AFBF at [www.ageducate.org](http://www.ageducate.org).*

**Farm Magazines**

(Various)

**News Magazine** **All ages**

Clip pictures from modern agricultural publications to create an agriculture bulletin board, or for student collages. The possibilities are endless! Even some of today's textbooks do not depict modern farms and equipment. These magazines do!

*Free to classrooms.*

**Farm to Family: Milk's Journey from Cow to Consumer**

(2002, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board)

**Video Kit** **Grades 4-6**

Designed primarily for fourth graders, this program is a good tool for teaching about dairy farming in general or about Wisconsin when studying states in Social Studies. Kit includes a 28-min. video and several reproducible worksheets and activities.

*Free loan. Included in the Dairy Cow Capers AgriLearning Kit.*

**Farming Game. The**

(1979, George Rohrbacher)

**Board Game** **Grades 6-12**

Known as "The Game Invented on the Seat of a Tractor," this board game introduces players to the challenges and risks of modern farming. The object of the game is to grow your farm large enough to quit your job in town and farm full-time. Don't go broke!

*Free loan. (5 sets available.)*

**Farming Through the Ages**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Literacy Kit** **Grades K-8**

With this kit students can learn about life on farms in the past, and explore how farming has changed over the years. Use this kit in conjunction with the General Agriculture Kit to compare farming practices of the past and present.

*Free loan.*

**Grain Game**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Game** **Grades 3-8**

This kit includes 4 identical sets of grain samples, matching cards, and answer booklets. The object of the game is to correctly match each of a dozen grains or seeds to its name. Answer booklets contain photos and descriptions, and uses of each.

*Free loan.*

**Growing a Nation: the Story of American Agriculture**

(2005 USDA, Utah State University Extension, and LetterPress Software)

**CD-ROM** **Grades 6-12**

An interactive CD-ROM that fosters historical thinking and comprehension through narrative accounts with embedded resources and essential questions for discussion. This social studies program supports national standards for teaching history.

*Free loan.*

**Growing Season: The Story of a Family Farm**

(1997, Pigtail Productions)

**Video** **Grades PreK-2**

Reconnect to the cycle of life and its seasons on the land. Follow machinery preparation, planting, harvesting, and hay baling. Help milk the cows and see the actual birth of Sadie the sow's piglets, a sensitive introduction to the facts of life.

*Free loan.*

**Heartland**

By Diane Siebert (1989)

**Book** **Grades K-Adult**

"I am the Heartland, great and wide. I sing of hope. I sing of pride," begins this poetic tribute to the Midwest. Incredible illustrations and moving descriptions will stir feelings of pride and appreciation in the hearts of all who read this book.

*Free loan. Also in Farming Through the Ages, Pre-2nd Grade Barn, & General Ag Literacy Kits.*

**Illinois Agriculture Charm Supplies**

(DeKalb County Farm Bureau)

**Hands-on Activity Kit** **Grades 2-6**

Create a charm to wear around your neck that represent the state symbols of Illinois. This activity will help students learn about Illinois and remember the state symbols. Kit also contains Illinois books and activity guides.

*Free loan.*

**Illinois Agriculture: Innovation and Invention**

(2006, Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom)

**CD-ROM** **Grades 4-8**

This CD ROM is an ideal medium for educators to explore social sciences, geography, science and much more. Students will be engaged and entertained, making Illinois history memorable.

*Free loan. Related resources available at [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org).*

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# Videos

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*Please refer to the Resources by Topic Area section of this guide to find full descriptions of each video. Videos may also be found in AgriLearning, mAGic, and Literacy Kits.*

## **Animals**

Amazing Pig, The  
See How they Grow: Farm Animals  
Summer On The Farm 2: Animals  
Vrrrooommm 2: Dairy Farming for Kids

## **Food & Nutrition**

Eggs 101: A Video Project  
Exploring Planet Pizza  
Fit for a King: The Smart Kid's Guide to Food & Fun  
Fresh from the Family Farm  
Fueled for Flight  
Incredible Classroom Eggsperience, The  
Make Mine Milk  
MVE-TV: The Channel for Moderation, Variety & Exercise  
New Look at Pork, A

## **General Agriculture**

Agriculture is Every Day  
Agriculture's Air Force  
Connecting to Agriculture  
Eggs 101: A Video Project  
Growing Season: The Story of a Family Farm  
Our Busy Farm  
Scenes of Science: Videos From the Agricultural Research Service  
Ten Things Kids Want to Know About Farming  
Vrrrooommm 1: Farming for Kids  
Winter On The Farm

## **Machines**

Problem Solving On The Farm  
Tractors, Cotton-Pickers and the Stuff Kids Wear

## **Natural Resources**

Connecting to Agriculture  
Garbage Day!  
Good Earth, The  
Production Agriculture: Feeding People While Protecting the Environment

## **Plants**

Amazing Adventures of the Plantastic Voyagers, The  
Bread Comes to Life: A Garden of Wheat and a Loaf to Eat  
Cranberry Bounce  
Fresh from the Family Farm  
Those Amazing Kernels of Corn!  
Vrrrooommm 3: Apple Farming for Kids

## **Social Studies, Economics & Careers**

Agriculture is Every Day  
Careers in Horticulture  
Celebrate America  
Connecting to Agriculture  
Dedicated To Service: A Career in Veterinary Medicine  
Farm to Family: Milk's Journey from Cow to Consumer  
Growing Season: The Story of a Family Farm

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# Posters

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*The following laminated posters are available on free loan for classroom and library displays. In some cases, extra unlaminated copies are available free to educators.*

## **Animals**

Baby Farm Animals Poster Set  
Chick Embryo Development  
Dairy Cattle (breeds)  
Did You Know? (dairy facts)  
Farm Animals  
Hog By-Products  
Swine Family Tree  
Things We Can Learn from a Cow and a Worm  
U.S. Sheep Breeds  
Wow That Cow

## **Food & Nutrition**

Bread Comes to Life: A Garden of Wheat and a Loaf to Eat  
Egg, The (diagram of an egg)  
Food Guide Pyramid  
Great Grain Caper, The  
Milk From Cow to You  
Popcorn: From Seed to Snack  
Safe Food Journey, The  
This is the Miracle of Milk!

## **General Agriculture**

Agriculture, A World in Harmony  
America the Bountiful  
Definition of Agriculture  
Five F's of Agriculture, The

## **Insects**

Illinois Moths & Butterflies

## **Machines**

Reshaping the Boundaries of Power (tractors)

## **Natural Resources**

A to Z from a Tree  
Groundwater and Land Use in the Water Cycle  
Illinois' Forestry Industry  
Illinois Furbearers  
Illinois Insects  
Illinois Moths & Butterflies  
Illinois Mushrooms  
Illinois Mussels  
Illinois Prairie Wildflowers  
Illinois Rare Plants Series: When We're Gone, We're Gone  
Illinois Rocks and Minerals

Illinois Salamanders  
Illinois Snakes  
Illinois Trees  
Illinois Turtles  
In the time it took to form 1 inch of soil...  
Mammals from Illinois' Past  
Native Americans and Nature in Illinois  
Soils of Illinois  
Things We Can Learn from a Cow and a Worm  
Water Cycle: Nature's Recycling System  
Your Hometown Clean Water Tour

## **Plants**

A to Z from a Tree  
Apple Varieties  
Arbor Day: A Celebration of Stewardship  
Cotton From Field to Fabric  
Great American Soybean, The  
Having Fun With Peanuts  
How Plants Make Food  
How Seeds Grow  
Illinois Trees  
Indian Corn of the Americas  
Magically Making the World Grow with Soybeans  
Plant a Question, Watch it Grow  
Presenting the Peanut  
Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden  
Pumpkins! Pumpkins! Pumpkins!  
Salad Celebration  
State Tree of Illinois: White Oak  
Surprising Soybean, The  
What is a Fruit?  
What is a Tree?  
What is a Vegetable?

## **Social Studies, Economics & Careers**

Evolution of Agriculture, The  
Farmland Through the Ages  
History of American Agriculture, 1607-2000  
Living Science: Food, Ag & Natural Resources Careers