

Jobs That Help Feed The World

*A lesson from the New Jersey Agricultural Society
Learning Through Gardening program*

OVERVIEW: If you ask your students “where does your food come from?” what will they answer? Will they say it comes from the grocery store? In this lesson, students will discuss not only where their food comes from, but who the people are who make sure there is food in the grocery store. From farmer to scientist to mechanic, your students will explore the jobs that help feed the world.



GRADES: K-2

OBJECTIVE: The student will be able to:

- Explain the meaning of the word “agriculture.”
- Describe some jobs that help bring food for people to eat everyday.
- Explain why one job in agriculture is the most interesting to them.

MATERIALS:

Printed pictures of eight jobs in agriculture (see pictures below):

Animal farmer

Botanist

Entomologist

Farm mechanic

Fish farmer

Fruit and vegetable farmer

Soil scientist

Veterinarian

Modification: Depending on the age of your students, you might choose to show a fewer number of pictures.

PROCEDURE:

Begin by asking your students “What did you eat today?” Next ask “Why is food important?” Ask students if they know where their food comes from. After discussion, explain that at the beginning, all food comes from a farm. Ask students if they have ever heard the word “agriculture” and if they know what it means. Explain that agriculture means growing crops or raising animals on the land.

Tell students that there are many people doing jobs that help feed everyone in the world. Ask if they can name some. Tell them that today they are going to see pictures of some jobs in agriculture that they may not have considered.

Hold up each picture one at a time and read the job description. Ask students why they think that job is important. Discuss the students' ideas.

When all the pictures have been shown, post them at different places around the room. Next ask the students to stand by the picture of the job they think would be the most interesting. Allow students time to make their choice. Then ask students that have grouped around the same picture to tell each other why the job is important and why they think it is interesting. After this discussion, ask one student in the group to report the ideas of the group members.

EVALUATION:

Students can describe some jobs in agriculture and explain why they find one the most interesting. Students can define agriculture as growing crops or raising animals on the land.

New Jersey Learning Standards

Social Studies: K-2:6.1.2.EconEM.1, 6.1.2.EconEM.2, 6.1.2.EconNE.1



ANIMAL FARMER



Animal farmers raise animals such as cows, pigs, chickens, and turkeys for food. They also work on dairy farms where cows are raised for milk, and on poultry farms where chickens are raised for eggs.

BOTANIST



Botanists are plant scientists. They research new ways to use plants for food and medicine. They also look for new ways to help plants grow, and they study plant diseases.

ENTOMOLOGIST



*Photo courtesy
Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory*

Entomologists are insect scientists. They often collect insects in fields to study them. Entomologists help farmers protect the bees that pollinate their crops. They also help farmers protect crops from insects that eat them.

FARM MECHANIC



Photo courtesy Rocky Mountain Equipment

Farm mechanics keep the farm machines running and fix them when they break. Many machines are needed for work on the farm, such as tractors, trucks, and the huge machines called combines that harvest grain.

FISH FARMER



Fish farmers raise fish and shellfish in the ocean, in bays, or in ponds. Trout and catfish can be raised this way, as well as shellfish such as oysters and clams. Farming in the water is called aquaculture.

Fruit and Vegetable Farmer



Farmers grow many different kinds of vegetables in fields. They also grow fruit such as apples, peaches, and pears in orchards that are full of trees.

SOIL SCIENTIST



Photo courtesy of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Soil scientists study how to keep the soil on the farm healthy and full of nutrients that vegetables and fruit need to grow. They often collect soil samples from fields and test them to see what chemicals they contain.

VETERINARIAN



Photo courtesy UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

A veterinarian is a doctor for animals. They keep farm animals healthy by giving them check-ups, giving them medicine when they are sick, and making sure they are eating healthy food.