

**Purpose:**

Full- and part-time jobs related to agriculture and the food sector account for 10.5% of total U.S. employment. In Colorado, agriculture employs more than 170,000 people across the state. Students discover the high quantity, quality, and diversity of agricultural careers available in seven career pathways.

**Cross Curricular Connections and Colorado Academic Standards:****4th & 5th Grade Reading, Writing, and Communicating:**

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes. (CCSS: RL.5.4)
- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (CCSS: RL.4.1)
- By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. (CCSS: RI.4.10)

More standard connections can be met by using any of the suggested lesson plans to go with this *Reader*.

**How to use:**

Use this *Colorado Reader* during your reading or social studies time. Another option is to send these items home with your students (or include in homework/enrichment packets) to complete at home on virtual learning days. Or use during substitute days. **This is also a great issue to send home with students to complete during the summer.** Pass out one copy of the *Colorado Reader* to each student. Ask students to read the *Colorado Reader*, completing the activities within the *Reader* as they go. Make copies of the Student Exploration sheet on the back of this page and pass out to each student. To further enhance learning, incorporate any of the additional lessons from the Curriculum Matrix that are identified on the back.

**Lesson Plans to go with this Reader**

The Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix is an online, searchable, and standards-based database for K-12 teachers. The Matrix contextualizes national education standards in science, social studies, and nutritional education with relevant instructional resources linked to Common Core Standards. Below are a few lesson plans that could be used in conjunction with this *Colorado Reader*. Go to [www.GrowingYourFuture.com](http://www.GrowingYourFuture.com) and click on Curriculum Matrix (on the Home Page or under the Educator's Tab), search each title within the Curriculum Matrix to find these lesson plans.

**AgVenture: Sourcing Ag Careers (Grades 6-8):** Students consider the scope of careers related to the science, art, or practice of agriculture and examine career opportunities that are part of the five agricultural pathways.

**Agriculture Pays (Grades K-2):** Students discover that agricultural careers are interconnected and that agriculture influences many parts of their daily lives.

**Career Gaming (Grades 6-8):** Students will explore careers in the fields of agriculture and natural resources through online research. They will check their understanding by playing Career Trek—a board game that requires students to identify careers in agriculture and natural resources.

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**Charting Agricultural Careers (Grades 6-8):** Students will use infographics and charts to explore the careers that produce food, clothing, shelter, and fuel along with a variety of agricultural STEM careers requiring critical thinkers and problem solvers.

**Find Your Future Career (Grades 3-12):** Students will discover the variety of agricultural careers available and consider their career paths in terms of economics, interests, and suitability to their personal talents and characteristics.

**From Soybeans to Car Parts (Grades 3-5):** Students learn about soybeans and investigate the collaborative work of an agricultural scientist and engineer who found new uses for an agriculture product (soybeans). This lesson can be used as an opportunity to discuss careers in science and engineering, biobased products, and the use of renewable resources.

**Journey 2050 (Grades 6-12): Lesson 6 - Careers for 2050 and Beyond!** Students will explore careers related to agriculture, identify personal interests within agriculture or a related field and discuss how agricultural professionals can impact world food.

**Additional Lessons for K-12 Instruction:**

There are a wide variety of additional FREE ready-to-use lesson plans, companion resources, kits, maps/infographics, and movies/videos for K-12 instruction about agricultural careers. These are available by searching the word “careers” on the Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix available at [AgClassroom.org](http://AgClassroom.org) or simply use this link: <https://bit.ly/3Lakh3C>

**Additional Resources**

**www.AgExplorer.com** - Through this website users can learn about 235 unique careers in agriculture, search for careers, match career interests, access educational requirements and link to current job openings. The website also features videos that highlight how each of the eight agricultural pathways and agricultural education are part of the global solutions to feeding the world.

**www.AgCareers.com** - Learn more about agriculture career profiles and education profiles on this website.

# Student Exploration

## Careers in Agriculture

### Word Search

C G T F O F Y E E T Q N M D J T X H N F  
 U O R E L E N T N M U U E G O N D C V Z  
 B U N A C G R A U T G V R K C E O O V L  
 T U V S I H T U R R E S C G X M O M Q Z  
 S O S N E N N I T L B O H H G N F M K L  
 R T E I U R T I O L T I A G R O N O M Y  
 C E N O N I V P C S U T N E A R E D D S  
 R R C A O E E A E I N C D E I I P I E E  
 M C O N L R S V T S A L I G N V A T S C  
 A R I P D P I S N I E N S R P N C Y I I  
 M S M S S L A P P W O I E S G E S T G V  
 T M A N A G E M E N T N R Z E A D G N R  
 N A I R A N I R E T E V I E X L N C E E  
 N A I T I T E I D R H S P S H O A W R S  
 O N R E T S E R O F R O K M T S L S H E  
 I I R E G G O L G E W T F L O R I S T F  
 T M B U Y E R J E E H C N A R W P F Z L  
 A A T Q R W E R R Q H O X L E D N O A N  
 R L Z Q T Q A B N A J N H Q A F P P O P  
 N X R J F C D N M D V E H M N C B W O V

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|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Accountant      | Dietitian   | Merchandiser |
| Agriculture     | Engineer    | Nutritionist |
| Agronomy        | Environment | Plants       |
| Animal          | Fisheries   | Power        |
| App             | Flavor      | Ranch        |
| Business        | Florist     | Ration       |
| Buyer           | Food        | Sales        |
| Careers         | Forester    | Services     |
| Commodity       | Grain       | Technician   |
| Conservationist | Landscape   | Turbine      |
| Crops           | Livestock   | Turf         |
| Designer        | Logger      | Veterinarian |
| Developer       | Management  | Welder       |

### What do you like to do?

In the space below, list all of the activities you like to do and the subjects you like to learn. You might find your future career in one of these areas!

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