

Task Force Student Handout

You have been selected to serve on a state-wide task force to determine what counties are appropriate for developing industrial facilities to support Minnesota agriculture. The following assumptions can be made:

- There will be enough labor in each of the interested communities or labor will move to the communities to take the new jobs created. Labor costs will be essentially the same in all locations.
- There is both a state and national market for the goods produced.
- The basic geography of the production of crops and livestock will not change during the time the task force is deliberating.

Task Force Responsibility

1. You will be assigned to one of the task force groups listed below.
2. As a group, use the appropriate maps and aspects of the Weber model to identify the counties that are NOT efficient location sites, and also the county that best meets the locational criteria.
3. After analyzing the maps, prepare a one-page report that includes:
 - a. A summary of the task force's conclusion.
 - b. A list and description of the maps used to develop this conclusion.
 - c. A description of how the principles of Weber's model defend the counties that are NOT efficient locations as well as the county that you believe would be the best location for a processing facility.
4. Each group will select a representative to report back to the task force-at-large (class). Each group will prepare a map of the location they selected for their facility and share with the task force-at-large (class). The representatives of each group will explain to the task force-at-large (class) the rationale behind the location of their facility. The one-page report for Step 3 can be used for this explanation, but additional details and information may be necessary to share with the class and fully describe the task force group's decision.

Task Force Groups

- **Group 1**
Koochiching, Stearns, Brown, Norman, Kandiyohi, and Houston counties have applied for a grant to build an ethanol plant with a capacity of thirty million gallons per year. In which of these counties would such a facility be most likely to succeed and why?
- **Group 2**
The counties of Polk, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Anoka, and Cottonwood have applied for a grant to develop an apple processing plant. In which of these counties would such a facility be most likely to succeed and why?
- **Group 3**
The counties of Morrison, Crow Wing, Martin, Clearwater, Pipestone, and Faribault have applied for a grant to develop a beef processing plant. In which of these counties would such a facility be most likely to succeed and why?
- **Group 4**
The counties of Rock, Chippewa, Meeker, Houston, Blue Earth, and Hennepin have applied for a grant to have a pork processing plant. In which of these counties would such a facility be most likely to succeed and why?
- **Group 5**
The counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Carlton, Isanti, Chisago, and Martin have applied for a grant to establish a turkey processing plant. In which of these counties would such a facility be most likely to succeed and why?
- **Group 6**
The counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Carlton, Isanti, Chisago, and Martin have applied for a grant to establish a chicken processing plant. In which of these counties would such a facility be most likely to succeed and why?
- **Group 7**
The counties of Carver, St. Louis, Hennepin, Yellow Medicine, Benton, and Stevens have applied for a grant to establish a vegetable canning and freezing plant. In which of these counties would such a facility be most likely to succeed and why?