

Our mission is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among New Jersey educators and students. You can learn more on our website

newjersey.agclassroom.org



***Happy Holidays
from New Jersey Agriculture
in the Classroom!***

During this season of holiday feasts, ask your students to think about how many people are involved in providing all the food they eat and get them thinking about careers in agriculture. Check below for all of our novel lessons, perfect for engaging restless students before the winter break!



Lessons of the Month

***Jobs That Help
Feed the World
Grades PreK-5***

If you ask your students "where does your food come from?" most likely they will answer "the grocery store." In these lessons, students will meet all the people who ensure there is food in the grocery store.

In our lesson for grades PreK-2, available [here](#), students look at eight pictures of people with jobs in agriculture, including soil, plant, and insect scientists. In small groups, they then discuss which jobs they think are most interesting and why.

Our lesson for grades 3-5, available [here](#), is a rousing game that explores 16 careers in agriculture.

[Click to subscribe](#)

**Apply for a Scholarship
to Attend
National Agriculture in
the Classroom's
June Conference**

The very best place to learn how to incorporate agriculture into your teaching is National Agriculture in the Classroom's annual conference, which will be held in Minneapolis from June 23 to June 26, 2025.

Teachers of all grades PreK-12 can apply for a scholarship that covers the conference registration and up to four nights lodging. You must act fast, however, as the scholarship application deadline is December 15. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

Each student receives one career card. Students then rush around explaining their jobs and learning about the jobs of others. The game ends when the first student has met someone from each of the 16 careers.



Lessons of the Month

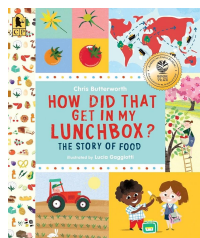
Journey 2050: Careers Grades 6-12

Journey 2050 is a free online game for students in grades 6-12 that asks the question "How will we sustainably feed 10 billion people by the year 2050?"

The game includes seven different lessons. In the first lesson on sustainable agriculture, students try to manage a virtual farm in another country, attempting to earn money while maintaining soil quality and conserving water. You can learn more about Journey 2050 [here](#).

In Journey 2050's *Lesson 6: Careers*, each small group of students is assigned one item from a food shopping list. The groups are then given five minutes to brainstorm all the careers that played a role in producing that food and create a career web. Groups then share and compare their results.

You can find the lesson for grades 6-8 [here](#), and the lesson for grades 9-12 [here](#).

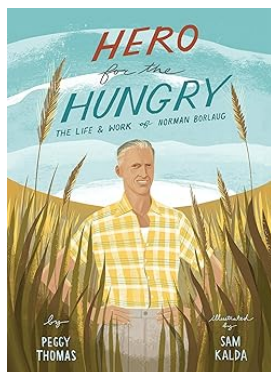


Library Corner

How Did the Get In My Lunchbox? By Chris Butterworth Grades K-3

Young children look forward to opening their lunchboxes. But how did all that delicious food get there? Who made the bread for the sandwich? What about the cheese inside? Who plucked the fruit? And where did the chocolate in that cookie get its start?

From planting wheat to mixing dough, from climbing trees to machine-squeezing fruit, or from picking cocoa pods to stirring a vat of melted chocolate, this book follows the steps involved in producing some common food.



Library Corner

Hero for the Hungry By Peggy Thomas Grades 6-9

This biography of Norman Borlaug, the Nobel Prize-winning agricultural scientist and plant pathologist, explains how his innovations in crop varieties fed millions of people around the world.

Meet a New Jersey Farmer
Alan Habiak of Habiak Farms



What is the most important thing you want students to know that you learned on the farm?

It is a lot of work, and there is no time limit to one's day. When something breaks, you need to fix it and your day's plans will change. As the saying goes: you've got to make hay when the sun shines.

Tell us your farm story.

I started the Christmas tree business in 1991 on eight acres of my grandfather's farmstead, with a friend from Rutgers Farm where I worked. That first year, I had a brand new baby at home, so I only worked one weekend, toward the end of the season. We sold six trees that year. I later worked the business with my brother.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part is socializing with my farmer friends.

What is your biggest challenge on your family farm?

The biggest challenge we have in all of farming is the weather. There is a short window to sell Christmas trees, and the public likes to come to the farm on a crisp winter day.

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