

MANY HATS THE FARMER WEARS

Farmer Duffield farms 300 acres in Washington Twp., NJ. He grows broccoli, pumpkins, corn and watermelons. He also has cows, pigs, a few chickens, and an old rooster named “Rudy”. **FARMER** Duffield puts on his hat and begins his day at sun-up. You will find him driving his old favorite John Deere tractor around his farm daily. For some reason, people think that this is all a farmer does from sun-up to sundown. But the truth is during the day he wears many hats (meaning he has many jobs.) Let’s sit back and listen to farmer Duffield’s story to realize a few of the many hats he wears in a day!

Enjoying his morning ride around the farm he hears an unexpected noise “BANG”! OH NO! he hollers, “Where is my tool box? I think I have a flat tire”. To fix the flat tire, farmer Duffield must now be a **MECHANIC**. He climbs down off his tractor, gets his tool box, and fixes his flat tire. Soon he is on his merry way. . .

While eating lunch, farmer Duffield was watching the local weather channel and they are saying there is “no rain in sight”. Hearing this he must now be a **METEOROLOGIST**. The weather is very important to farmer Duffield’s pumpkins, corn, broccoli and watermelons. Due to no rain, farmer Duffield must decide which crops to water and how much is necessary before

he sets up his irrigation system. Proper watering will help his crops grow.

Besides water for his pumpkins, broccoli, watermelons and corn, farmer Duffield also need fertilizer to help them grow. Farmer Duffield takes a soil sample. He now must be a **SCIENTIST** because he must decide which fertilizer is best to use for each crop and how much he has to measure for the crops. This is very important so his plants will continue to grow and give him a good harvest.

It is getting late in the afternoon. Farmer Duffield's field work is finished. Now his farm animals need to be fed. Farmer Duffield now must be a **NUTRITIONIST**. With his knowledge of animal nutrition he must feed each type of animal their own special food. Farmer Duffield knows that keeping his animals on a feeding schedule and proper diet will help them to grow and to stay healthy.

The sun is setting and the outside farm work is finally done. But, farmer Duffield is not quite finished working. After eating his dinner he must find time for his book work before going to bed. Farmer Duffield now must be a **BUSINESS MANAGER**. Seated at his computer, he pays his bills, keeps his record books, and counts his money to put in the bank. After a few yawns, he then decides to go to bed.

Farmer Duffield is exhausted from all his hard work today on the farm. He gets into bed and soon falls fast asleep. All of the sudden, he hears a loud noise coming from the barn. MOOOOO! MOOOOO! He leaps out of bed, puts on his clothes, and races to the barn to help his favorite cow deliver her first calf. He now is a **VETERINARIAN**. With patience and tender loving care the calf is born. With a smile on his face, farmer Duffield returns back to bed, for the sun will be coming up soon and that old rooster Rudy will start to crow!

So remember.
Each of these jobs is done in reality by ONE farmer so let's review them. (Place hats on top of the farmer's hat as you read the professions, to give a visual of how complicated it can be.)
Let's give these farmers a big hand and – HATS OFF- to the American farmer who works with knowledge and pride to produce an abundant supply of food, fiber and fuel!