

# Agriculture—It's More Than You Think

**Skills:** Language Arts, Social Studies

**Objective:** The student will become familiar with several agricultural careers while developing skills using the suffix “er.”

## Background

When you think of agriculture you probably think of people growing crops or raising cows, pigs, sheep and chickens on a farm. But agriculture means much more than that. The people who work in factories building tractors and other farm machinery are involved in agriculture. People in universities who research new agricultural products and new ways to grow food and fiber are involved in agriculture, too.

The grocer must buy agricultural products to fill the grocery shelves. The restaurant owner must buy agricultural products to prepare and serve his or her customers. The clothes you wear and the furniture on which you sit were probably made from agricultural products.

Today only about 2 percent of the people in this country actually live on a farm or ranch. One American farmer can feed about 125 people, both in this country and around the world. For every American farmer there are another seven people involved in American agribusiness. That includes thousands of businesses and millions of people who process, deliver and sell food to people all over the world. It includes people who teach agriculture in our state universities and scientists who research the insects and diseases that affect our food supply. It includes bankers who loan money to farmers and ranchers so they can buy the equipment they need, and it includes the people who build and sell that equipment. Agribusiness includes the truckers who haul the cattle to market, the florist who sells a dozen red roses and even the check-out clerk at the grocery store.

The average person works 2,000 hours a year and 80,000 hours in a lifetime. That means the average person works from the time he or she is 20 until the time he or she is 60, for an average of 40 hours a week, 50 weeks a year. Fortunately, there is an

## P.A.S.S.

### GRADE 2

**Reading**—7.1abc,2

**Writing**—2.1,2; 5.2

**Oral Language**—1.1; 2.2

**Social Studies**—5.2

### GRADE 3

**Reading**—2.2,4; 6.1ab,2a

**Writing**—1.5; 2.1,2,3

**Oral Language**—1.1; 2.5

**Visual Literacy**—3

**Social Studies**—3; 4.4; 5.1

## Ag-Related Careers

- restaurant owner
- agricultural journalist
- veterinarian
- caterer
- clothing manufacturer
- dietician
- florist
- agronomist
- banker
- turfgrass specialist
- truck driver
- environmental scientist
- agricultural supplies sales associate
- agricultural engineer
- forestry aide
- game farm manager
- dairy farmer
- golf course groundskeeper
- plant genetics researcher
- county agricultural agent
- vocational agriculture instructor
- agricultural machinery mechanic

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

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amazing variety of job possibilities, and those possibilities grow and change all the time.

Jobs in agriculture will always be available, because people will always have to eat. Agriculture and related industries provide 22 million jobs. Some of those jobs are listed on page one.

## Language Arts/Social Studies

1. Have students draw pictures showing someone with a job in agriculture.
  - Then have students write job descriptions for those shown in their pictures.
  - Ask for volunteers to share drawings and job descriptions.
2. Read and discuss background material.
  - Write some of the vocations from the worksheet on the chalkboard.
  - Discuss the jobs you have listed, and ask students if they know what they are.
  - Discuss the use of the suffix “er.”
  - Have students guess what the jobs are by looking at their roots.
3. Hand out student worksheets.
  - Review the directions.
  - Read through the root words and definitions.
  - Instruct students to add “er” to each root word to create a job title.
  - Provide dictionaries so students can check spellings of the words.

Note: Additional agriculture-related careers, with descriptions, are listed on the website in the “Additional Resources” section.

4. Bring the job section of the classified ads from some newspapers or other publications.
  - Have students try to identify jobs that are related to agriculture.
  - Have students write resumés and “apply” for some of the jobs.
  - Students may take turns acting as prospective employers and employees, or enlist the help of high school students to conduct job interviews.
5. Contact someone in your community who works in one of the career areas discussed, and invite him or her to visit your class and answer questions.
6. Have students draw new pictures of people in jobs related to agriculture and write job descriptions, in light of what they have learned.

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<http://www.agclassroom.org/ok>

## Extra Reading

Brooks, Walter R., and Kurt Wiese, *Freddy and Mr. Camphor*, Overlook, 2000.

Collins, David, *George Washington Carver*, Watts, 1990.

Granfield, Linda, *Cowboy: An Album*, Ticknor and Fields, 1994.

Johnson, Sylvia, *A Beekeeper's Year*, Little, Brown, 1994

Maze, Stephanie, *I Want to Be a Veterinarian*, Harcourt, 1999.

Merrill, Jean, and Jan Palmer, *The Toothpaste Millionaire*, Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

## Vocabulary

**agriculture**—The science, art, and business of cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock; farming.

**research**—Close and careful study.

**product**—Something produced by human or mechanical effort or by a natural process.

**fiber**—A natural or synthetic filament, as of cotton, wool or nylon, capable of being spun into yarn.

**agribusiness**—The production, processing and distribution of farm products and the manufacture of farm machinery, equipment and supplies.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Agriculture—It's More Than You Think

Many job titles end with the suffix "er." When you see an "er" suffix added to a verb it usually describes someone who performs a specific action. Read the agricultural root words in the box on the right, and add "er" to each to form new words in the space provided. Challenge: One of the root words needs an extra "e" to form an "er" word. See if you can find the word. Match the words to their definitions. Check your words by looking them up in the dictionary.

<u>job title</u>	<u>definition</u>	<u>root words</u>
1. farmer	— A person who owns or operates a ranch.	1. fArm
2. _____	— A person who owns or serves as an officer of a bank.	2. Garden
3. _____	— A person who works in, operates or owns a mill.	3. gatheR
4. _____	— A person who owns or works on a farm.	4. auctIon
5. _____	— A person trained in forestry.	5. produCe
6. _____	— A person who works in a garden.	6. hUnt
7. _____	— A person who conducts an auction.	7. milL
8. _____	— A person who gathers food to eat.	8. foresT
9. _____	— A person who grows or produces goods or services for sale.	9. trUck
10. _____	— A person who shears sheep.	10. bank
11. _____	— A person who bakes.	11. Ranch
12. _____	— A person who hunts for food to eat.	12. shear
13. _____	— A person or machine that harvests a crop.	13. bake
14. _____	— A person who drives a truck.	14. harvEst

Use the upper case letters to complete the sentence below.

The largest industry in the United States today is \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Agriculture—It's More Than You Think (answers)

<u>job title</u>	<u>definition</u>	<u>root words</u>
1. farmer	—A person who owns or operates a ranch.	1. f <b>Arm</b>
2. <u>gardener</u>	—A person who owns or serves as an officer of a bank.	2. <b>G</b> arden
3. <u>gatherer</u>	—A person who works in, operates or owns a mill.	3. gathe <b>R</b>
4. <u>auctioneer</u>	—A person who owns or works on a farm .	4. auct <b>Ion</b>
5. <u>producer</u>	—A person trained in forestry.	5. produ <b>Ce</b>
6. <u>hunter</u>	—A person who works in a garden.	6. h <b>Unt</b>
7. <u>mill</u>	—A person who conducts an auction.	7. mil <b>L</b>
8. <u>forester</u>	—A person who gathers food to eat.	8. fores <b>T</b>
9. <u>trucker</u>	—A person who grows or produces goods or services for sale.	9. tr <b>U</b> ck
10. <u>banker</u>	—A person who shears sheep.	10. bank
11. <u>rancher</u>	—A person who bakes.	11. <b>R</b> anch
12. <u>shearer</u>	—A person who hunts for food to eat.	12. shear
13. <u>baker</u>	—A person or machine that harvests a crop.	13. bake
14. <u>harvester</u>	—A person who drives a truck.	14. harv <b>Est</b>

Use the upper case letters to complete the sentence below.

The largest industry in the United States today is A G R I C U L T U R E.

