

Who Gets Your Food Dollar?

Attention Getter...

Bring in a grocery sack with various food items inside. Take them out one at a time and ask the students how much each cost? Write on the board their guess, and the actual cost.

Next...

Ask your students; **"Where Does Your Food Dollar Go?"** Write on the board all of your students' responses, including the following items: farmers (farm value or return to the farmer), laborers (the money paid to people for processing, wholesaling, and retailing), packaging (food containers, wrappers, etc.), transportation (railroads and trucks), and advertising. There are other costs noted in the American Farm Bureau Farm Facts brochure. (Order copies from www.agclassroom.org/ut.)

Then...

Using either play money or copies of the dollar given, and a pair of scissors, ask the students to estimate and cut off the amount of each dollar they think a farmer receives. This is a good time to incorporate some math skills: half a dollar is 50¢, a quarter of a dollar is 25¢, etc. The correct cut should be slightly less than a quarter (19¢). Using the American Farm Bureau Farm Facts brochure, discuss with the students where the rest of their food dollar goes.

The Extra Step...

Using the actual costs of the food items you brought in for an attention getter, ask the students to calculate how much the farmer received for each product. Simply take the cost of the item and multiply it by .19; this will be an estimate. Products such as macaroni and cheese have very little farm input but a huge labor and packaging input; conversely a steak has less labor and fewer packaging costs and returns more to the farmer.

