**A Day as a Farmer Game**

1. Directions: You and your group will become a farmer. You and your group will make decisions for your farm. You will start with $100 for your farm so you can operate for the day. Everyone will use the tracker to fill in the boxes. **The alarm goes off, it’s time to get up and start feeding the animals. What time is it?** (Let’s look at big clock) *Farmers need to be able to tell time so we are going to add that to the chart paper.*
2. **You’re off to feed the animals, each animal cost different amounts depending on how much time they take to care for and how much food they eat. What types of animals do you have on your farm?** choices: cows $20, pigs $10, horses $30, chickens $5, cats $2, dogs $3
   1. Write down animal choices and how much money each animal will cost on your tracker sheet. Then subtract that total from $100 total and find out how much you have left for the day.
   2. Each animal takes 30 minutes to feed, use the clock to help you figure out how long it takes to feed the animals.
   3. *Discuss that farmers need to be able to identify money and add/subtract to know how much money they have left. Add these skills to the skill list. (This will not be on student copy)*
3. **It’s time for breakfast. You love to eat eggs and bacon.**
   1. If you have chickens on your farm add $2 and if you have pigs add $4 to your daily money since you will not have to pay for breakfast.
   2. If you do not have chickens subtract $2 and if you do not have pigs subtract $4 from your daily money.
   3. Add another 30 minutes to your clock for breakfast.
4. **Back to work. Today’s list to get done includes:** 
   1. Baling hay
   2. Mowing the lawn
   3. Fixing the tractor
   4. Bring crops to the local elevator

**Which chore do you think is the most important to get done first and why? (Teacher Copy –***Have students discuss in small groups, share in large group and vote which job they should do first. Continue through the list keeping track of the time and money spent for each job. Don’t forget to stop for lunch and supper!)*

* **Bale hay: your tractor costs $10 in diesel to bale hay. It takes 3 hours to get this job done with help from a friend or 5 hours by yourself. Do you want help?** (yes: subtract $20 to pay the helper and 3 hours to the clock, no: add 5 hours to the clock and record what time it is now)
  + **(Teacher’s copy:** *discuss what skills were needed to get this job done and add to the list)*
* **Mowing the lawn: your grass is getting super tall. Your large yard costs $5 in gas and takes 1 hour** (subtract $5 and add 1 hour to the clock)
  + **(Teacher’s copy:** *discuss what skills were needed to get this job done and add to the list.)*
* **Fixing the tractor: you can take the tractor to the local dealer and have them fix it or you can fix it yourself, which one will you choose?** (fixing it yourself costs $15and takes 2 hours or bringing it to a dealer costs $30 and takes 1 hour. Add your time to the clock and subtract your costs from your money)
  + **(Teacher’s copy:** *discuss what skills were needed to get this job done and add to the list.)*
* **Hauling your crops to the elevator: You sold some of your crops and need to bring them to the local elevator. It costs you $20 in diesel, but you get $50 for the crops. How much did you gain? Add that amount to your total money. This takes you 2 hours to get the job done, subtract that from your time.** 
  + **(Teacher’s copy:** *discuss what skills were needed to get this job done and add to the list.)*

1. **LUNCH: Around noon take a break and eat some lunch. Did you pack a lunch or will you go to Casey’s for lunch?** (Ham and Cheese sandwich with a bag of chips is what you packed today. Subtract $1 if you packed your lunch. Subtract $5 if you went to Casey’s.) **Keep working on getting your list done.**
2. **SUPPER: Around 6 p.m. you stop for supper. You grill hamburgers and have sweet corn as a side.** (If you have cows subtract $1 for the buns if you don’t have cows subtract $5 for the burgers and buns.) **Keep working on getting your list done.**
3. Did you get all your work done in time? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What time did you get finished? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How much money do you have left? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion Questions: Get with another group and talk about these questions**

* **What skills did you have to use throughout the day?** (Go through your list)
* **What could the farmer use the hay he baled for?** (Discuss the uses of hay for different animals, bedding, food, sell to other farmers.)
* **How did you decide which job you should do first?**
* **Would you switch the order of jobs you did now that you know more about how much time and money each job involves? Which ones and why?**
* **If you had any extra time at night or money left over what would you spend that time/money on?** (Guide students on if that would benefit the farm or be a waste of money. What could they spend money or time on that could benefit the farm?)

**\*Add on fun (Teacher Copy): If you want to add some twists into the game at certain times you could change the weather, have equipment break, and you can add in extra costs or headaches to the farmer’s day.**

**4:00 the elevator closes. If you didn’t get your crops hauled to town you will have to add it to the list tomorrow and subtract $30.**

**5:00 it begins to rain, if you don’t have the hay baled or lawn mowed it will have to go on tomorrow’s list and will cost you $15 for each one that didn’t get done.**

**6:00 the deal closes, if you didn’t get the tractor fixed you will have to do it yourself.**