

# SOCIAL STUDIES & AGRICULTURE

Lessons and resources for grades K-2



Iowa Agriculture  
Literacy Foundation



Agriculture is a topic that students can easily connect to because they encounter it often. Nearly everything we eat, wear, use -- even the fuel that powers the cars and buses we ride in -- comes from plants and animals grown on farms. Agriculture provides perfect real-world connections and makes learning relevant to students.

Agriculture connections in social studies are abundant! Agriculture relates to **geography** (What do farmers grow where and why? How does food get to us?), **economics** (What jobs are needed to produce food? What affects decisions about the food we buy?), and **history** (How is what we eat different than our grandparents? How are farms different?).

## FEATURED K-2 LESSONS

### Goods & Services Near & Far

- [Source Search](#) (products from farms & natural resources)
- [My Farm Web](#) (products from plants & animals)
- [Corn to Cereal & Cotton to Blue Jeans](#) (comparing the steps in producing food & fiber)
- [Agriculture Pays](#) (careers in the production cycle)
- [Many Hats of an Iowa Farmer](#) (job of a farmer, agriculture careers & technology in farming)
- [Farmers are Superheros, Too!](#) (job of a farmer)

### Economics: Wants & Needs, Scarcity

- [A Day Without Agriculture](#) (products from agriculture)
- [Farm Economics & Food Processing](#) (steps in corn production & processing)
- [Farming for Everyone Everywhere](#) (urban agriculture)

- [Let's Go Shopping!](#) (wants & needs, goods & services)

### Natural Resources & Environmental Characteristics

- [Iowa Pork & the U.S.](#) (Why does Iowa produce so much pork?)
- [Agriculture Across the USA](#) (comparing Iowa to other states)
- [Caring for the Land](#) (natural resources)
- [The Soil We Grow In](#) (natural resources)
- [Water Use](#) (natural resources)
- [Water Pollution](#) (protecting natural resources)

### Continuity & Change

- [Farming Then & Now](#) (Change over time)
- [John Deere, That's Who!](#) (John Deere's impact)
- [Iowans Who Made a Difference](#) (agricultural innovators)

# WHERE DOES AGRICULTURE FIT INTO THE IOWA CORE STANDARDS?

## Kindergarten:

- SS.K.10. Give examples of choices that are made because of scarcity.
- SS.K.14. Compare environmental characteristics in Iowa with other places.

## 1st Grade:

- SS.1.11. Compare the goods and services that people in the local community produce with those that are produced in other communities.
- SS.1.13. Explain why people have different jobs in the community.
- SS.1.17. Describe how environmental characteristics and cultural characteristics impact each other in different regions of the U.S.
- SS.1.18. Use a map to detail the journey of particular people, goods, or ideas as they move from place to place.
- SS.1.19. Compare how people in different types of communities use goods from local and distant places to meet their daily needs
- SS.1.21. Compare life in the past to life today within different communities and cultural groups, including indigenous communities.
- SS.1.23. Describe the diverse cultural makeup of Iowa's past and present in the local community, including indigenous and agricultural communities.

## 2nd Grade:

- SS.2.11. Evaluate choices about how to use scarce resources that involve prioritizing wants and needs.
- SS.2.12. Identify how people use natural resources to produce goods and services.
- SS.2.17. Explain how environmental characteristics impact the location of particular places.
- SS.2.18. Describe how the choices people make impact local and distant environments.
- SS.2.24. Describe the intended and unintended consequences of using Iowa's natural resources.

**The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation** serves as a central resource for educators and volunteers who want to teach Iowa's students about agriculture. Information about additional resources, including grants, professional development, and outreach opportunities is available at: [www.iowaagliteracy.org](http://www.iowaagliteracy.org).

## FEATURED RESOURCE

### My Family's Farm book series



These high-quality books are great for reading aloud in a lower elementary classroom. Each book showcases a real Iowa farm kid and their real Iowa farm, helping explain what happens there in kid-friendly terms. Request copies by emailing [info@iowaagliteracy.org](mailto:info@iowaagliteracy.org).