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 this impact a society’s cuisine, clothing, and shelter?), economics (How does supply and demand change the prices we pay at the grocery store?), and history (Why did people choose to settle in Iowa? What knowledge of raising crops and livestock did they bring? How has technology on farms changed over time?).

**FEATURED 3-5 LESSONS**

**Producing Goods & Services**
- **Source Search** (products from farms and natural resources)
- **Corn: Seed to Cereal** (sequencing steps in growing and processing corn)
- **Right this Very Minute** (diagramming the path of production of various products)
- **Animals in Iowa** (livestock production in Iowa)
- **By-Product Riddle** (uses of Midwest crops)
- **Iowa Specialty Crops – Apples** (Iowa history and geography)
- **Many Hats of an Iowa Farmer** (job of a farmer, agriculture careers & technology in farming)

**Economics: Resources, Cost & Trade**
- **Pigs & Pork: Resources from Farm to Fork** (natural, physical, and human resources)
- **How much is dirt worth?** (natural resources in food production)
- **Supply & Demand**
- **Avian Influenza – Supply & Demand**
- **Bartering Through the Seasons** (wants & needs, supply & demand, trade)
- **That was Then, This is Now** (food prices, change over time)
- **By Land, Air & Sea** (transportation)

**Cultures & Migration**
- **Cultures, Food & Communities Around the World**
- **Eggs in the World of Food Choices** (egg uses around the world)

**Technology & Change**
- **Farm Machines Then & Now** (comparing technology used to grow and harvest corn)
- **History of Iowa Agriculture** (a timeline of Iowa Agricultural History)
- **Family Farms Then & Now** (changes in farms & farming)
- **From Soybeans to Car Parts** (Henry Ford’s innovative uses of soybeans)
- **Vintage Barn Designs** (uses & cultural influences on barn design)
WHERE DOES AGRICULTURE FIT INTO THE IOWA CORE STANDARDS?

3rd Grade:
• SS.3.13. Identify how people use natural resources, human resources, and physical capital to produce goods and services.
• SS.3.15. Analyze why and how individuals, businesses, and nations around the world specialize and trade.
• SS.3.21. Use map evidence to explain how human settlements and movements relate to the locations and use of various regional landforms and natural resources.
• SS.3.28. Explain the cultural contributions that different groups have made on Iowa.

4th Grade:
• SS.4.10. Describe how societies have changed in the past and continue to change.
• SS.4.12. Using historical and/or local examples, explain how competition has influenced the production of goods and services.
• SS.4.14. Explain the reasons why the costs of goods and services rise and fall.
• SS.4.17. Create a geographic representation to illustrate how the natural resources in an area affect the decisions people make.
• SS.4.18. Describe how environmental and cultural characteristics influence population distribution in specific places or regions.
• SS.4.25. Analyze the impact of technological changes in Iowa, across time and place.
• SS.4.26. Explain how Iowa’s agriculture has changed over time.

5th Grade:
• SS.5.13. Describe how goods and services are produced and distributed domestically and globally.
• SS.5.15. Explain how trade impacts relationships between countries.

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.

FEATURED RESOURCE
Iowa Ag Today elementary series

Written at a fourth-grade reading level, these non-fiction magazines are aligned to Iowa Core Standards. Each pack of 25 comes with a teacher guide. Order or view online at iowaagliteracy.org.