

# Many Hats of an Iowa Farmer

## Grade Level(s)

2nd Grade

## Estimated Time

30 minutes

## Purpose

Students will understand that farmers must complete many different types of tasks for their jobs and why those tasks are important.

## Materials

- How Many Hats Does a Farmer Wear?
- Guess that Hat - Cards
- Day in the Life of a Farmer by Heather Adamson
- Scissors
- Round Head Fasteners
- Colors

## Vocabulary

**Farmer:** A person whose job is to grow crops and raise livestock for food, fiber, and fuel

**Agriculture:** Producing crops and livestock for food, fiber, and fuel

**Livestock:** Domesticated animals that are raised to produce food, fiber, and fuel

**Crops:** Crops, such as corn and soybeans, that are raised for food and fuel

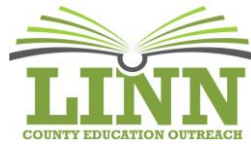
**Technology:** Advances in agricultural production with the aid of new science and information

## Interest Approach – Engagement

Ask students to list jobs in their community. What do their family members do? What do they do every day?

## Background - Agricultural Connections

Farming is an occupation that requires farmers to do many different jobs on a day to day (or even season to season) basis. In many lines of work, people complete the same tasks every day, but for farmers, tasks have a great deal of variability throughout the day, week, or year. Farmers must be proficient in the completion of many different types of jobs, which is often called “wearing many hats.” This can also be referred to as being a



“jack of all trades” – having skills in a variety of different trades or ability to complete many different jobs. Some of the many hats’ farmers wear include:

### **Veterinarian**

Props: Scrubs, syringe, stethoscope

Duties: Identifies health problems in his/her livestock. Helps deliver baby animals when problems occur. Administers vaccines and medicine when necessary.

### **Business Manager**

Props: tie, calculator, brief case

Duties: Watches the market and decides when to sell crops and livestock. Makes business deals. Buys and sells land and equipment. Calculates profit and whether a new business venture will be profitable. Manages employees, keeps financial records, sends bills, and distributes checks.

### **Mechanic**

Props: Gleaner hat, wrench, mechanic’s shirt/overalls.

Duties: Fixes tractors, trucks, and implements when problems occur. Sometimes he/she makes repairs in the farm shop, but during busy times of the year repairs are often made in the field.

### **Construction Worker**

Props: tool belt, hard hat, screwdriver, safety glasses

Duties: Builds fence and buildings. Makes repairs to fences, loading chutes, etc. Pours concrete and prepares the foundation for new buildings.

### **Electrician**

Props: Electrical tape, wire stripper, hard hat, spool of wire

Duties: Properly installing wire to bring electricity to bins, grain dryers, shops, augers, and farm machinery.

### **Plant & Soil Scientist (Agronomist)**

Props: Magnifying Glass, insect holder, soil test kit, Ottilie/Pioneer seed hat.

Duties: Monitors crops for insect and disease problems. Needs to be able to identify different soil types on his/her farms and know what those soils need to produce a bountiful crop.

Talking point: Iowa farmers are true professionals by bringing a variety of educational experiences to their agriculture business. For example, most farmers are trained and certified in the use of ag chemicals.

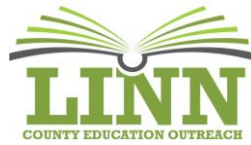
### **Truck Driver**

Props: Trucking Co. Hat, Road Map, Steering Wheel

Duties: Hulls grain to the farm or elevator, transports feed for his/her operation.

### **Nutritionist/Chef**

Props: chef’s hat, measuring cup, feed sample



**Duties:** Prepares feed rations for the best health and development of livestock.  
**Talking point:** Farmers make sure that their livestock (cows, pigs) are healthy because they are raising the animal for human consumption. Farmers make sure there is not too much fat on the animals.

### **Computer Technician**

**Props:** laptop case (ask the student to pretend it is heavy). Also, say that this person could be holding a GPS Unit.

**Duties:** Uses technology to farm the land more efficiently

**Talking point:** Thanks to modern technology, such as biotechnology, global positional systems and conservation tillage, farmers are producing more food on fewer acres with fewer inputs.

### **Inventor/Engineer**

**Props:** Calculator, graph paper, pliers, wrench

**Duties:** Often makes changes to farm equipment so that they work better and does the job he/she needs them to do. Develops new tools and machines that make work easier.

**Talking point:** A farmer invented a Shover, which is two tools in one: a shovel at one end with a detachable hammer on the opposite end. The Shover saves time and frustration when building and repairing fences and other farm tasks by combining a shovel and a hammer in one easy-to-carry tool.

### **Meteorologist**

**Props:** Umbrella, big sunglasses, weather map from newspaper

**Duties:** Understand weather and climate; be aware of possible weather changes and how to prepare for these changes.

**Talking point:** Farmers need to be aware of the weather conditions outside. Farmers can only spray fertilizers when there is little or no wind. And, they want to make sure it will be dry because rain will wash off the fertilizer.

### **Environmental Scientist**

**Props:** Big test tube, water test strips, tree book

**Duties:** Works for protect and conserve our natural resources.

**Talking point:** Farmers take good care of the soil and water because they earn their living from the land. And they want to make sure they are able to pass the land on to future generations.

### **Teacher**

**Props:** Chalk, black board, apple

**Duties:** Teaches the next generation about farming.

**Talking Point:** This is one of the most important jobs of a farmer, and they are often teaching others without realizing it. Farmers usually learn how to be a farmer by watching and working with their parents/grandparents/neighbors. Today most farmers have a college education, but many of the skills needed to be a good farmer cannot be learned in a classroom - they learn by experience and watching others. Note: Saving the teacher for last is a nice way to end the presentation.

## Procedures

1. Farmers are people who raise crops and livestock for food, fiber, and fuel. Farmers work hard every day completing task. These tasks might be done every day while others might be done every month. Let's see what a farmer's day could look like by reading "Day in the Life of a Farmer".
  - What were some of the task the farmer completed?
2. Each of the task the farmer completed, is a different hat the farmer wears to complete their daily job to provide food, fiber, and fuel for the world. Each of these tasks, could also be a person's full-time job or career, too.
3. Today, we are going to learn more about task farmers complete and different careers.
4. Explain that you have a variety of "Guess that Hat" cards that represent the various "jobs" of a farmer. Each card has a job description about the career and clues for students to guess the career.
5. Call on volunteers to come up and read the job description and allow time for students to look at the clues to guess the career. Once, the students guess the careers have a short discussion using the below talking points.
  - Veterinarian
    - Duties: Identifies health problems in his/her livestock. Helps deliver baby animals when problems occur. Administers vaccines and medicine when necessary.
  - Business Manager
    - Duties: Watches the market and decides when to sell crops and livestock. Makes business deals. Buys and sells land and equipment. Calculates profit and whether a new business venture will be profitable. Manages employees, keeps financial records, sends bills, and distributes checks.
  - Mechanic
    - Duties: Fixes tractors, trucks, and implements when problems occur. Sometimes he/she makes repairs in the farm shop, but during busy times of the year repairs are often made in the field.
  - Construction Worker
    - Duties: Builds fence and buildings. Makes repairs to fences, loading chutes, etc. Pours concrete and prepares the foundation for new buildings.
  - Electrician
    - Duties: Properly installing wire to bring electricity to bins, grain dryers, shops, augers, and farm machinery.
  - Plant & Soil Scientist (Agronomist)
    - Duties: Monitors crops for insect and disease problems. Needs to be able to identify different soil types on his/her farms and know what those soils need to produce a bountiful crop.
  - Truck Driver
    - Duties: Hulls grain to the farm or elevator, transports feed for his/her operation.
  - Nutritionist/Chef

- Duties: Prepares feed rations for the best health and development of livestock.
- Meteorologist
  - Duties: Understand weather and climate; be aware of possible weather changes and how to prepare for these changes.
- 6. After reviewing the jobs, ask students:
  - If you were a farmer, which job would be your favorite?
  - Why is it important that farmers know how to do all these different jobs?
- 7. Now, we are going to make a “How Many Hats Does a Farmer Wear?” wheel. Pass out the wheel and fastener to students. Have students cut out the pieces and color the job titles pictures. Assemble the pieces.

### **Did you know? (Ag facts)**

- 2% of Americans are involved in production agriculture
- There are over 200 careers in agriculture
- More than 97% of Iowa farms are owned by families
- There are approximately 89,000 farms in Iowa

### **Organization Affiliation**

Original Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation lesson modified by Buchanan, Delaware and Linn County Farm Bureau.

### **Agriculture Literacy Outcomes**

#### Food, Health and Lifestyle Outcomes

- Recognize that agriculture provides our most basic necessities: food, fiber (fabric or clothing), energy, and shelter

#### Culture, Society, Economy & Geography Outcomes

- Discuss what a farmer does.
- Discover that there are many jobs in agriculture

### **Iowa/ Common Core Standards**

#### Social Studies:

- SS.1.13. Explain why people have different jobs in the community.
- SS.1.11. Compare the goods and services that people in the local community produce with those that are produced in other communities.
- SS.2.12. Identify how people use natural resources to produce goods and services.
- SS.3.13: Identify how people use natural resources, human resources, and physical capital to produce goods and services.

Science:5-ESS3-1: Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth’s resources and the environment.