

General Agriculture **STUDENT ACTIVITY**

Instructions: After watching the Farming Feeds Alabama video titled General Agriculture, answer the following questions. Listen to and watch the video carefully as most questions can be answered based on what the farmers say or the images shown. Questions marked with an * may require additional research.

1. In addition to farming, list some other occupations/backgrounds that are helpful to have as a farmer.
2. What percentage of the world population farms? What percentage of the population needs to eat?
3. How is it possible for so few people to provide food for over 7 billion people?*
4. About how many chances does a farmer get to grow a crop in his or her lifetime?
5. Where does Alabama rank in U.S. poultry production?
6. What is the top industry in Alabama?
7. In what ways does one farm have an economic impact on the state?
8. What new technologies do farmers use?
9. Name a few benefits of using technology on a farm.

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10. Farmers used to till or plow fields before planting. What is the term for fields that are not plowed?
Why is this an important practice for farmers to adopt?

11. How do farmers define sustainability?

12. Why are farmers committed to protecting the environment?

13. How can American farming help others around the world?

14. What are some crops harvested in fall?*

15. What are some crops harvested in spring?*

16. How many people does one farmer feed?*

17. What do you think is required of someone who cares for animals?*

18. Define the term sustainability.*

General Agriculture

TEACHERS KEY

Access the General Agriculture video at www.FarmingFeedsAlabama.com or through the jump drive provided in your Farming Feeds Alabama Teacher Resource Guide.

Run time: 6:13

1. In addition to farming, list some other occupations/backgrounds that are helpful to have as a farmer.
 - Stock broker, business manager, accountant, vet, mechanic, welder
 2. What percentage of the world population farms? What percentage of the population needs to eat?
 - a. Less than 2 percent
 - b. 100 percent
 3. How is it possible for so few people to provide food for over 7 billion people?*
- Allow for creativity in this answer, but it could mention things like - doing better every year to be sustainable and economic, using technology, using biotech seeds to produce stronger plants, taking the best care of crops and animals as they can
4. About how many chances does a farmer get to grow a crop in his lifetime?
 - Around 40 to 50 chances (years of active farming from early '20s to retirement)
 5. Where does Alabama rank in U.S. poultry production?
 - 2nd in the nation
 6. What is the top industry in Alabama?
 - Agriculture
 7. In what ways does one farm have an economic impact on the state?
 - Land leased, employees, inputs they buy or stuff they spend money on
 8. What new technologies to farmers use?
 - GPS to drive machinery
 - Smartphones
 - Satellite
 - Big data - real-time tracking
 9. Name a few benefits of using technology on a farm.
 - Efficiency, precision, ability to be more judicious
 - Improve yields
 - Drought tolerant plants
 - Knowing exactly what's going on at that point in a field
 - Better crops

General Agriculture

TEACHERS KEY

10. Farmers used to till or plow fields before planting. What is the term for fields that are not plowed?
Why is this an important practice for farmers to adopt?
- No-till
 - Helps save top soil, holds soil together, don't need as much fertilizer
11. How do farmers define sustainability?
- It's what keeps a farmer's business afloat
 - Growers must make a profit, so he must take care of soil. Otherwise, the farmer would be out of a job.
 - It's allowing farmers to stay on the land making crops for years to come.
12. Why are farmers committed to protecting the environment?
- It's their business.
 - Farmers have to take care of land so it will take care of them, and they don't make any more land
 - To save it for the next generation
 - So they have good product to sell
13. How can American farming help others around the world?
- Efficiency of farming – using what they have (land, seed, equipment) to make more than others thought possible.

The following questions require additional research.

14. What are some crops harvested in fall?*
- Corn, cotton, peanuts
15. What are some crops harvested in spring?*
- Wheat, oats, canola
16. How many people does one farmer feed?*
- 155
17. What do you think is required of someone who cares for animals?*
- Allow for creativity in this answer, but it could include
- Daily checks on animals
 - Feeding animals
 - Ensuring they have water supply in freezing temperatures or drought
 - Field rotation so animals always have fresh, healthy pasture to graze
 - Performing medical checkups and treating sick animals
 - Caring for new mommas and their babies (calves, lambs, etc.)
18. Define the term sustainability.*
- Allow for creativity in this answer, but it could include
- Maintaining the land so future generations can also farm there
 - Protecting crops so the farmer reaps a harvest and can pay bills at the end of the growing season