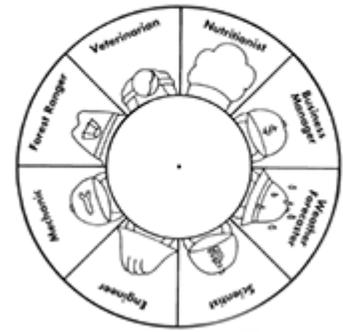


Many Hats of a Farmer

Engage 2-6 grade students with this fun activity that focuses on the career paths available in agriculture!



Background Information:

The job of a farmer requires much more than knowing about crops. Today's farmers use computers and global positioning systems (GPS) to help determine where to plant crops. Other aspects of a farmer's job requires knowing about animal science, weather, and stock markets, among many other things! They use this knowledge to make important decisions every day!

Materials Needed:

- *How Many Hats Does a Farmer Wear* activity sheet
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- 1 metal brad

Discussion Starters:

Read through the following list of agricultural careers:

- Veterinarian - Must be able to recognize early signs of disease in animals, assist at birth of animals, and administer medicine to sick animals
- Engineer - Must know how to plan and construct fences and buildings, build irrigation ditches and control the flow of water, and use natural resources to grow products useful to people
- Mechanic - Must be able to operate and maintain both simple and complicated machinery, make repairs, and keep machines in good working order
- Business Manager - Must be able to balance accounts, sell farm produce to the market, be responsible for making payments and meeting payrolls, and keep track of equipment, products, and land
- Nutritionist - Must know how to prepare feed rations for best growth and production of livestock
- Forest Ranger - Must be able to recognize the various kinds of trees, detect fires and know the methods for controlling them, and clear trees from land and prevent soil erosion
- Scientist - Must be able to conduct experiments that help answer agricultural questions like which crops grow best in a particular climate or soil
- Weather Forecaster - Must understand weather and climate, be aware of possible weather changes, and know how to prepare for these changes

Directions:

1. Cut out the three circles on your activity sheets and stack them on top of each other so that the largest circle (the one with the career descriptions) is on the bottom and the smallest circle (the one with the farmer) is on the top. Fasten them in the center with a brad so that all three circles spin separately.
2. Find a hat in the middle circle to put on the farmer's head and then match up the words that best describe what the farmer does when wearing that hat.
3. Discuss these questions: Why is it important for a farmer to have a basic understanding of all these careers? What other careers must a farmer use? Do you know people in your community who specialize in any of these eight career areas?