

How Many Hats Does a Farmer Wear?

Background Information

Though only 2 percent of the American people are needed as farmers today, about 20 percent are involved in the agricultural industry. More than 22 million Americans now work in agriculture and ag-related fields. Here are some agricultural career areas.

Agricultural Production - agronomist, animal breeder, aquaculturist, beekeeper, mushroom grower, peanut producer, rice farmer, tree farmer.

Agricultural Processing/Distribution - Christmas tree grader, food and drug inspector, fruit distributor, grain broker, meat cutter, quality control supervisor, machinery supervisor.

Agricultural mechanics/Engineering - ag construction engineer, diesel mechanic, equipment operator, land surveyor, machinist, parts manager, soil engineer, welder.

Agribusiness - aerial crop duster, ag equipment dealer, animal groomer, computer analyst, farm auctioneer, feed ration developer, fertilizer plant supervisor, field sales representative, kennel operator, poultry hatchery manager, salesperson.

Resource Management - animal ecologist, environmental conservation officer, forest fire fighter, forest ranger, game warden, ground water geologist, soil conservationist, water resources manager.

Agricultural Research/Health Sciences - animal nutritionist, avian veterinarian, biochemist, botanist, entomologist, food chemist, plant geneticist, pomologist, veterinarian.

Horticulture/Forestry - floral designer, forester, golf course superintendent, greenhouse manager, landscape architect, log grader, turf producer.

Ag Specialist - ag accountant, ag corporation executive, ag educator, ag journalist, ag lawyer, ag loan officer, ag market analyst, computer specialist, farm investment manager, rural sociologist.

A farm or ranch background certainly isn't a requirement for any of these careers. Instead, the various careers demand different training, skills, desires, and needs. These professions are so diverse, there's a career to satisfy almost everyone somewhere in agriculture.

Materials

- Worksheets, pg. 24 & 25, one each for every student
- Scissors
- Metal clasps
- Crayons or markers

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Worksheet Instructions:

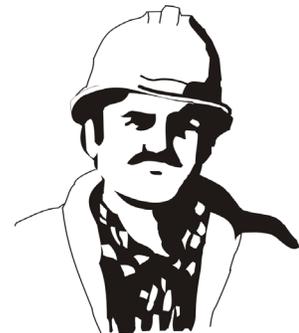
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Photocopy the two pages with three circles for each student. Do not photocopy front and back. Have the students cut out all three circles and fasten them in the center with a brad. Make sure the largest circle is on the bottom and the smallest is on top. The students will be able to spin all three circles separately. Ask the students to find a hat on the middle circle and put it on the farmer's head. Then try to find the words which best describe what the farmer does when wearing that hat. 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?



Answer Key:

Veterinarian - Must be able to recognize early signs of disease in animals; assist at birth of animals; administer medicine to sick animals.

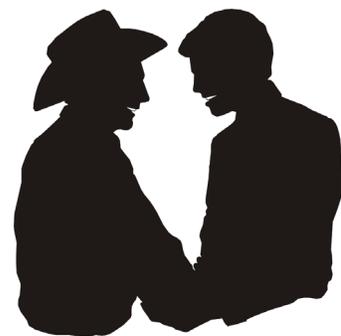


Engineer - Must know how to plan and construct fences and buildings; build irrigation ditches and control the flow of water; use natural resources to grow products useful to man.

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; must be responsible for making payments and meeting payrolls; must keep track of equipment, products, and land.

Nutritionist - Must know how to prepare feed rations for best growth and production of livestock.

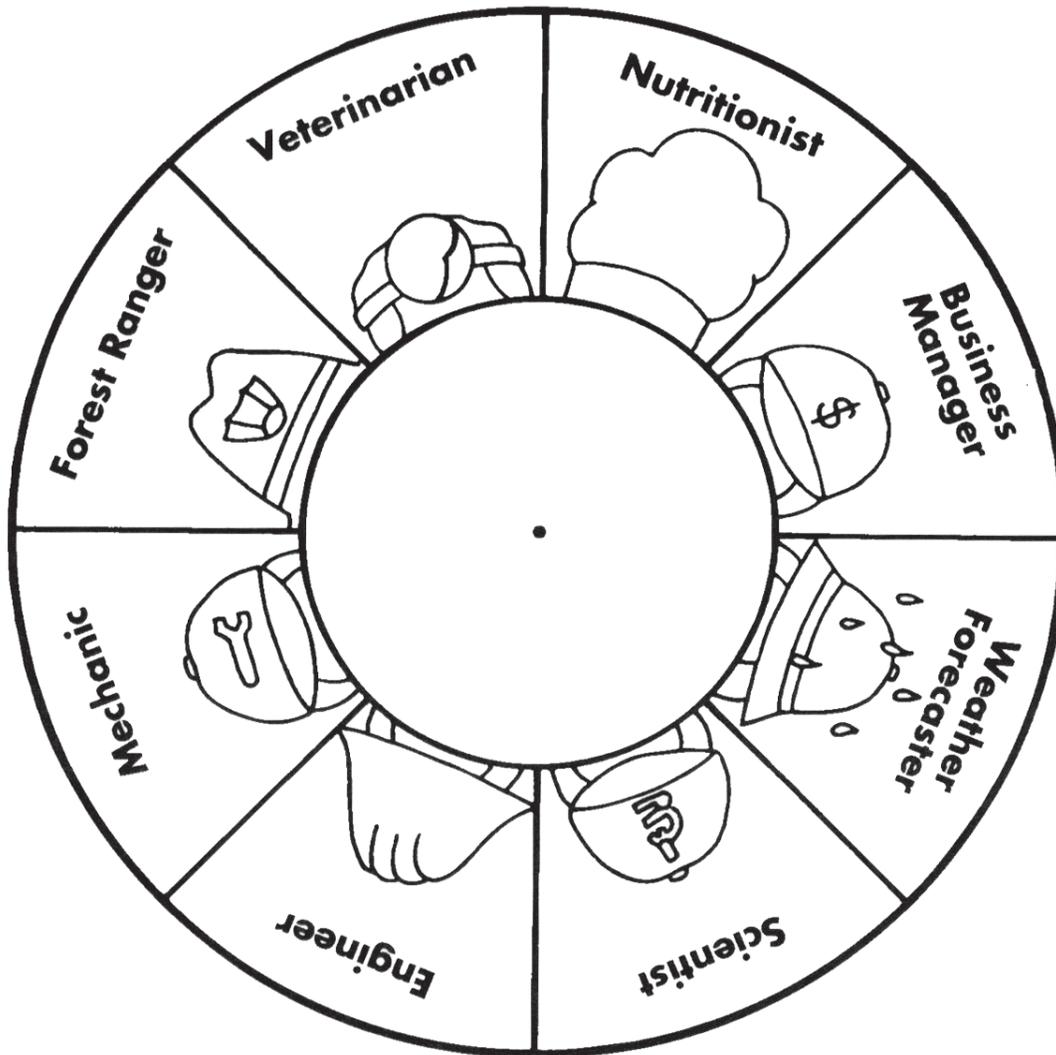


Forest Ranger - Must be able to recognize the various kinds of trees; detect fires and know the methods for controlling them; clear trees from land and prevent soil erosion.

Scientist - Must understand soil composition and determine the best fertilizer and seed for largest production; the effect of chemicals on animal and plant life.

Weather Forecaster - Must understand weather and climate; must be aware of possible weather changes and how to prepare for these changes.

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