

# Educating About Agriculture

## Recommended Book List



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU  
FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture® has provided these books for your review. Please take the time to review the books provided and create for yourself a list of books for purchase. These books may then be submitted to your school or librarian to recommend for purchase to improve the books available to your students that provide accurate information about agriculture. These books are not perfect but do a reasonably good job of portraying agriculture as a modern industry.

The Foundation sells only a portion of these books. Titles with an asterisks \*\* can be ordered at [www.agfoundation.org](http://www.agfoundation.org) under Resource Orders. All other titles can be ordered directly from the publisher, book supplier or online book vendor. As of this date all the books listed are in print.

11/15/10

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# American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture®

## Recommended Reading List

The Foundation recommends these books for the agricultural literacy efforts being conducted across the country. **These books are not for sale through the Foundation unless they have an \*\* asterisk.** They must be ordered through normal distribution channels. Books being used with our formal Accurate Ag Books program and Book of the Year are identified. For corresponding educator guides visit our website: [www.agfoundation.org](http://www.agfoundation.org)

### Animals & Foods from Animals

#### Aquaculture

**Fishing** by Ann Love, Jane Drake and Pat Cupples  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-5533-7422-0

Best for ages 6-11

The title of this book is misleading because it is about much more than just fishing. It addresses fish farming, research, fish hatcheries, fish stocking of streams and lakes, methods developed to enable fish to move around hydro-electric dams, and the use of fish as food, fertilizer and feed.

#### Eggs and Poultry

**Chickens** by Emily K Greent  
Price:\$16.38  
ISBN: 978-1-60014-064-8

Best for ages 4 – 8

A basic introduction to chickens and how they live on the farm. Simple text and full color photographs. Developed by literacy experts for students in kindergarten through third grade.

**Chickens Have Chicks** by Lynn M. Stone  
ISBN: 0-7565-000-1

Best for ages 3 - 7

How does a chick get out of the egg? This and many other chicken-related questions are answered by this book. Each chapter title asks a question, and the text attempts to answer that question. While the book does focus on free-range chickens, the text also discusses eggs being hatched in incubators and chicks needing heat lamps in lieu of their mother's feathers. The text is accompanied by wonderful photography and a section of fun facts. This book contributes to a great learning experience.

**Chicks and Chickens** by Gail Gibbons  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-8234-1939-8

Best for ages 4-8

As always, the author has done an admirable job of describing chickens: breeds, life cycle, origins, anatomy, behavior, egg structure, hatching and egg production. While she does depict large farms in an accurate way, the majority of the illustrations depict small free-range birds and behavior. She does not promote one structure over the other, however. The illustrations are a

mixed bag. Some are very accurate, others poor. The first page of the book is an example of poor illustrations. The hen looks like her back is hunched and the head of the chicken in the forefront looks like it are in pain. Also illustrations of people are poor. The strengths of the book outweigh these weaknesses, but they should be addressed as the book is used.

**Chickens on the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-7368-9142-0

This book in Schuh's series continues to accurately portray animals on the farm. In this book learn the different parts of the chicken as well as where they live, what they eat, and what they produce for humans. The book includes a glossary and an internet site to find more information on.

**Ducks** by Hollie Endres

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 978-1-60014-112-6

Learn the characteristics and behavior of farm ducks through crisp photos and simple text.

**Ducks on the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-7368-3423-0

This book introduces the reader to ducks on the farm. The book explains the different parts of the duck (bill, feathers etc) the book also explains the difference between a duck and drake. The book explains to the reader that ducks are raised for meat, eggs, and feathers. The book includes a glossary and websites where to find additional information.

**Face-to-Face With The Chicken** by Christian Harvard

Best for ages 7-9

Price: \$9.95

ISBN: 1-5709-1455-9

While this book almost exclusively depicts chickens in a free-range setting, it does so realistically and that is why we are recommending it. It discusses pecking order although it avoids the most unpleasant aspects of that behavior. It includes the need to have a rooster to have fertile eggs that will hatch but does not mention that most eggs are not fertile and a rooster is not needed to produce eggs. It depicts an embryo developing inside the egg and a chick hatching. What is most appreciated about this book is that it does not shy away from discussing predators and depicts both a fox and weasel in photographs and text. It also discusses rats, cats and dogs as serious predators. Almost no other book on free-range chickens includes this information or if any information is included, the impact and problems are downplayed. If this book is used, the incorrect information about battery-raised chickens needs to be corrected. Neither the photo nor description is accurate. These chickens are not force fed. They are provided free access to food and water and eat and drink as they choose.

**Farm Animals - Turkeys** by Holly Enders  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-086-0

Best for Ages 4-8

This early reader book provides very basic information about turkeys. This is one of the few books in the farm animal series that we are recommending. Why? Because this is a topic not commonly found. The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type but what it contains is largely accurate. While there is not much content there is also no negative content. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

**From Egg to Chicken** by Robin Nelson  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN: 0-8225-4662-0

Best for ages 4-8

This is one in a series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The major flaw in the book is that all of the images are of free-range chickens and old fashioned methods of egg hatching and chick rearing. The book ends with a glossary.

**Geese** by Hollie Endres  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN: 0-7368-3424-9

Best for ages 4-8

Discover the daily lives of geese and how they live together on a farm. Basic text supports relevant photos.

**Geese on the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 978-1-60014-084-6

Best for ages 4-7

This book introduces the reader to geese on the farm. It includes the different parts of the goose as well as the difference between a gander and a goose. The book shows how geese live on a farm and what they eat. The book also includes a glossary and websites where the reader can find extra information.

**Turkeys on the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 978-0-7368-9384-8

Best for Ages 4-7

This book introduces the reader to turkeys on the farm. It shows the different parts of the turkey as well as the difference between a tom and a hen. The book explains that turkeys are raised for their meat and shows how farmers feed and take care of the turkeys. The book includes a glossary as well as websites where the reader can find extra information.

**What's for Lunch, Eggs** by Claire Llewellyn  
Price: \$18.80  
ISBN: 0-516-21547-7

Best for Ages 6-8

Unlike most other books that describe the chicken and egg relationship, this book does not avoid the image of poultry in cages. It also depicts free-range chickens and hens sitting on a nest. The book ends with an excellent glossary and foods made with, or from, eggs.

**Where Do Chicks Come From?** By Amy E. Sklansky  
Price: \$15.99  
ISBN: 0-06-028892-2

Best for ages 4 - 7

The excellent illustrations of the egg-laying anatomy of the hen, structure of the egg, and embryo to chick development process and hatching process qualify this book for recommendation. The one short-coming of this book is that it only depicts chickens in a free-range setting and hatching eggs on a nest. Educators in the process of incubating eggs can discuss that issue when they read this book. This book receives high marks in discussing which eggs are fertile, why and which eggs are not. It actually contains a page explaining that the eggs children eat for breakfast are not fertile.

## **General Farm Animals**

### **Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2009**

**Busy Barnyard** by John Schindel  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN13:978-1-58246-168-7

Best for ages 1 ½ -3

While this book mainly depicts farm animals in a free-range, diversified farm manner, its rhyming text will captivate young children and begins the process of connecting non-farmers to farmers in a very pleasant way.

**Farm Animals** by Jennifer Blizin Gillis  
Price: \$19.93  
ISBN: 0-7565-0670-0

Best for Ages 4-7

This book is one of the better books in the series. It actually provides a better photographic portrayal of the animals it describes than other books in the series of specific animals. For example, the book in the series on pigs only depicts free-range hogs. The photo in this book depicts market hogs in group confinement. The animals look healthy and contented. The other book would have benefited immeasurably by including this photo. That does not mean that this book is perfect. It misses the opportunity to address the fact that cows only give milk after having a calf by stating that dairy cows start giving milk when they are two. If one did not know better, one would believe that on the heifer's second birthday she instantly becomes a cow and begins giving milk. Another photo depicts a hen sitting on a nest of hay while the text describes hens in cages with conveyors collecting eggs. Those points are minor flaws in an otherwise acceptable book. The book ends with a short vocabulary list and a few trivia questions.

**Farmers Care About Their Animals** by Dan Yunk

K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 978-0-9797653-2-2

For generations Kansas farmers and ranchers have cared for and nurtured their livestock. These dedicated men, women and children work from sun up to sunset - every day of the year - to ensure animals on their farms and ranches receive the best care possible. Farmers and ranchers are dedicated to producing the healthiest livestock. Doing so provides the highest quality and safest food on the planet.

**Feels Real On the Farm**

Best for toddlers and pre-schoolers

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-7641-5856-2

With stunning photographs, simple words and five different textures for little hands to touch and feel, the farm animals in this delightful book come to life! This book is a must for tactile exploration and vocabulary building by non-readers.

**First Look at Farm Animals** By: Laura Gates Galvin

Best for Prek-k

ISBN-13: 978-1607273097

With First Look at Farm Animals, children will learn all about farm animals. From pigs to ducks, children are bound to enjoy the lively illustrations and large photographs.

**Life Cycle of a Cow** By Colleen Sexton

Best for Elementary

ISBN-13: 978-1600144516

Weighing around 1,300 pounds, an adult dairy cow produces about 90 glasses of milk every day! Young readers will learn the different stages of a cow's life cycle, watching as calves grow into heifers and then adult cows.

**Little Star...Raising our First Calf** by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney (edited by Rebecca Long Chaney)

Best for ages 5-7

ISBN13: 978-0-9818-4680-4

While it is not realistic to believe that these young twins wrote the book it is obvious that they are familiar with the beef cattle pictured in it and that they are comfortable as farm kids. The colorful photographs help tell the story of life of a cattle farm and how young cattle are raised. Several pictures are inadvisable as recommended activities for children this young. You may wish to caution listeners or readers of the book to that fact.

## **Grazing**

**Amazing Grazing** by Cris Peterson

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 1-5639-7942-X

This author, well know to the agricultural community, has produced another outstanding book. The book's main focus is on rangeland grazing but the book does have information of value to

readers anywhere in the country. Using the stories of three Montana ranchers, Cris describes the love ranchers have for their land, efforts to preserve and enhance the environment and raise a healthy food source for America's consumers. She depicts that their efforts care for their cattle and enhance the wildlife habitat on their ranches.

## Horses

**Caring for Your Horse** by Erin Monahan

Best for ages 6-10

Price:

ISBN13: 978-1-4296-1256-2

While most books targeting this age level simply entice children to love horses, this one also provides practical instruction about the care having a horse requires. The book covers where horses need to live, supplies needed for horses, veterinary care, brushing and grooming, stall cleaning, hoof cleaning, hoof trimming, and horse behavior. The book ends with a glossary and Internet sites.

**From Horse to Foal** by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 0-8225-0941-5

This is one in a series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The book strength is that it contains excellent photographs including several of a newborn foal. The book ends with a glossary.

**Horses** by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$6.95 (paperback)

ISBN: 0-8234-1875-8

As with all of Gail Gibbon's books she has done a thorough job in describing all aspects of horses and horse care. Unlike most of her books this one has problems. The first problem appears on the page describing gaits. The illustration depicting the gallop shows all four feet off the ground and at least one foot should always be in contact with the earth. The second is in describing the horse's eyesight. The description makes it sound as though the horse can look behind itself and the description of the eye size should state "relative to body size." The third deals with the pronunciation of breed names. The other benefits outweigh these concerns but they should be addressed when using this book.

**Horses** by Emily K. Green

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$16.95

ISBN 978-1-60014-067-9

A basic introduction to horses and how they live on the farm. Simple text and full color photographs. Developed by literacy experts for students in kindergarten through third grade.

**Horses Have Foals** by Lynn M. Stone  
Price: \$19.93  
ISBN: 0-7565-0002-8

Best for Ages 4-7

The excellent photos of young foals enhance this book and bring a smile to any animal-lover's face. The high-quality text includes accurate terminology and explanations. The book even explains that gray horses begin life dark and gradually turn gray. It enhances that explanation with several photos as examples. It also depicts foals in a wide array of ages instead of just newborns as most books do.

**Okey-Dokey, Oakie** by Peggy Sundberg  
Price: \$13.00  
ISBN: 978-0-9721057-9-8

Best for Ages 4-7

Oakie is the newest horse at Cowgirl Peg's ranch. She is thrilled to be there, but feels anxious about making new friends. Follow her through her encounters as she meets the other animals at the ranch and learns the importance of making "smart choices". [www.cowgirlpeg.com](http://www.cowgirlpeg.com)

**The Horse: Faster than the Wind** by Valerie Tracqui  
Price: \$9.95  
ISBN: 1-57091-450-8

Best for Ages 7-10

While this book focuses on wild horses, it provides many facts about horse characteristics and behaviors that are valuable. Excellent photos of wild horses, including a mare giving birth and stallions fighting, enhance the book. The book ends with a section on wild horse issues. While this section of the book is very limited, it would provide the opportunity to begin a dialog about damage wild horses can do to fragile environments and competition with native species.

**My First Horse** by Linda Bozzo  
Price: \$22.60  
ISBN13: 978-0-7660-2753-4

Best for ages 6-8

Developed in conjunction with the American Humane Association (not to be confused with the The Humane Society of the United States [HSUS]), this is an excellent book for young horse lovers. The text directs students with the proper care, feeding and housing of a horse. Any child working to convince his/her parents to buy a horse needs to read this book to understand that owning a horse requires a great deal of work and should not be undertaken lightly.

**Horses on the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 0-7368-9382-2

Best for ages 4-7

This book, like the rest in the series is a good introduction to animals on the farm. This book shows how horses work on and off the farm as well as the parts of a horse. The book also explains the difference between a stallion and a mare. The only part about this book we didn't like was it showed a farmer using a horse to plow a field, which isn't current. The book also includes a glossary and websites where the reader can find extra information.

**Horses and Ponies** by Anne Milbourne  
Price: \$4.99  
ISBN: 9-978079451397-9

Best for ages 6-8

This 32-page book provides a wealth of information about horses and ponies physically and behaviorally. The book's accurate text is accompanied by both photographs and illustrations to depict specific topics and traits. This is an excellent text for young readers with an interest in horses. The book concludes with an excellent, if brief, glossary and directions to the publisher's web site for additional information on four separate topics.

**The Pebble First Guide to Horses** by Zachary Pitts  
ISBN13: 978-1-4296-1708-6

Best for ages 7-14

This is not a story book about horses; it is a horse encyclopedia by breed. Thirteen breeds of horses commonly found in the United States are identified in a photograph and then information is provided about height, weight, colors, origin, uses, and facts. The book ends with a glossary and Web site recommendations.

**Pet's Point of View, Horse Sense** by Beth Gruber  
Price: \$22.60  
ISBN: 0-7565-0702-2

Best for ages 7-13

As with the other books in this series, this text provides an excellent overview of the horse, its evolution, relatives, anatomy, gaits, care, equipment and history. The book includes fun facts, record breakers, a timeline, and superstars. It ends with an excellent glossary and resources.

**Ruby the Diva Clydesdale** By: Ramona Lampe  
ISBN: 1616638699

Best for elementary school

Diva - There is simply no other way to describe Ruby. This beautiful black Clydesdale lives quite the pampered life at the C3 Horse Farm. She has an aura of majesty about her, and demands to be the center of attention. Join this special horse as she trains to pull the carriage, competes in the Draft Horse Show at the state fair, and brings new life into the world with her adorable baby. Children will love Ruby, the Diva Clydesdalean informative tale about life in the world of Clydesdales.

## **Milk, Dairy Cattle, and Dairy Products**

**Cheese Primer** by Steven Jenkins  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 0-89480-762-5

Best for ages 14 – Adult  
& Teacher Reference

This detailed book provides a wealth of information about cheeses of all shapes, sizes, flavors, and origins. From a description of how cheese is made to classifications and consumption, all the basics are covered. Country by country, region by region, cheese by cheese, this complex topic is examined, dissected and savored. The book includes both domestic and European cheeses. Even farm sources are identified. If you want to understand cheese, this is the book for you.

**Clarabelle** by Cris Peterson  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-59078-310-8

Best for ages 4-7

This most recent book by Cris Peterson is, as always, an accurate depiction of agriculture. Clarabelle represents the average dairy cow in a modern dairy operation. The images depict a free stall cattle operation, a modern milking parlor, bulk tanks holding milk and the total feeding operation. Separate images identify the various components of her complete dairy ration. This book would be a great addition to help dispel the myth of the horrors of the 'factory farm' by the accurate portrayal of a clean modern dairy operation. A new addition to the author's series, this book contains a glossary.

**Cow** by Jules Older  
Price: \$7.95  
ISBN: 0-88106-956-6

Best for ages 5-8

This is a book about cows with colorful artwork and cool cow facts. Ever wonder why ice cream sundae isn't called ice cream Thursday? Having trouble telling a Jersey from a Holstein? Are you confused about the difference between a cow and a bull? This book has the answers and much, much more. It is a lively and fun compilation of facts and images.

**Cows** by Emily K. Green  
Price: \$16.38  
ISBN 978-1-60014-065-5

Best for ages 4-8

A basic introduction to cows and how they live on the farm. Simple text and full color photographs. Developed by literacy experts for students in kindergarten through third grade.

**Cows Have Calves** by Lynn M. Stone  
Price: \$19.93  
ISBN: 0-7565-0001-X

Best for ages 4-7

This book (part of the "Animals and Their Young" series) discusses the basics of how dairy calves arrive, what newborn calves do, what they look like and what happens as they grow older. The real-life photographs help to simplify complex concepts and make this book a great read for parents and children. Key terminology and concepts make this book acceptable despite a photo of free-range chickens running with calves.

**Cows On the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 978-0-7368-9143-1

Best for ages 4-7

Schuh's book shows the reader using clear and colorful pictures the different types of cows on the farm. From Holstein to Black Angus Schuh introduces what cows eat and what they produce for humans to consume. Book includes helpful glossary and further learning suggestion websites.

**Dairy** By: Nancy Dickmann  
ISBN: 1432969846

Best for elementary school

Make a place for dairy in your diet. These foods make up some of the yummiest meals, and this book gives readers tips on how to incorporate the nutritional value of milk and cheese into diets in a healthy, balanced way. Read this book to learn about how to eat well and use MyPlate.

**The Delicious Dairy Group** By: Sally Lee  
ISBN: 1429671599

Best for elementary school

You're hungry. What should you eat? With MyPyramid and Healthy Eating, it's easy to decide. Find out WHERE OUR MILK COMES FROM, what nutrients WE GET from the milk group, AND how many servings you need EACH day.

**Extra Cheese, Please** by Cris Peterson  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN: 1-56397-177-1

Best for ages 6-9

Cris Peterson's first book tells the story of her own farm and the journey of milk from cow to mozzarella cheese on a pizza. It begins with the birth of a calf and acknowledgement that a cow must have a calf before she can give milk. The book details cattle feed (silage and grain), shows the herd being milked in a pipeline system, milk pick up and sampling, the cheese making process, and concludes with a recipe for cheese pizza. The book includes a glossary and list of books for further reading.

**From Cow to Ice Cream** by Bertram T. Knight  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-516-26066-9

Best for ages 5 -7

From cow to consumption, this well photographed book tells the story of ice cream. It depicts the total process from milking cows to finished ice cream products. It includes milking cows in a milking parlor, mountains of raw sugar in a warehouse and the refining process, natural flavor additives, processing milk into ice cream, making ice cream sandwiches, the freezing process, and retailing. It even has a page dedicated to quality control. The book ends with the happy faces of children consuming ice cream and six types of ice cream novelties.

**From Grass to Glass** by Stacy Taus-Bolstad  
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-4661-0

Best for ages 7-10

As with the other books in this series, this is an excellent book. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cow to milking and processing. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a short glossary.

**From Milk to Cheese** by Roberta Basel  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4285-3

Best for ages 7-10

This is a great book in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cow to cheese to

consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a page on the largest cheddar cheese ever made, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

**From Milk to Cheese** by Shannon Zemlicka  
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-1387-2

Best for ages 7-9

As with the other books in this series, this is an excellent book. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cow to milking and processing into cheese. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a short glossary.

**From Milk to Ice Cream** by Roberta Basel  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4285-3

Best for ages 7-10

As with the previous book, this is a great book in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cow to ice cream to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a page on George Washington's love of ice cream, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

**Hooray for Dairy Farming!** by Bobbie Kalman  
Price: \$7.95  
ISBN: 0-86505-664-1

Best for ages 7-12

This book provides a nice overview of dairy cows and dairy farms. It depicts four of the five major breeds without specifying their names. While some of the images are no longer modern for the most part this book does a nice job of depicting dairy accurately. They use a very nice selection of photographs to enhance the text. The text provides information about pasteurization, various barn structures, milking, cheese making, hoof trimming and calving. The book concludes with a short glossary and recipe for making banana milkshakes.

**Let's Find Out About Ice Cream** by Mary Ebeltoff Reid  
Price: \$4.95  
ISBN: 0-590-73800-3

Best for ages 5-8

Children want to know how ice cream is made. They may ask how you get the nuts in it, or how it gets to the store without melting among many other questions. This book takes you on a field trip to an ice cream factory with real photographs and simple language.

**Little Joe** by Sandra Neil Wallace  
ISBN: 978-0375854507

Best for elementary school

This is a sweet book about the relationships among three generations of farmers—Eli Stegner, his father, and his grandfather. It is also about Eli's connection to the first calf he

gets to call his own. Little Joe is destined to be a winner at the county fair cattle show, but that blue ribbon will pretty much insure that he goes to the highest bidder and then to the butcher. Such is the reality of farm life. However, Eli and Joe are in for a happy ending, as are the boy and his father, whose relationship evolves from one of prickly distance to mutual understanding, thanks to the gentle influence of Eli's grandfather. A helpful diagram shows the parts of a beef animal. This thoughtful, tender book will appeal to those readers who are familiar with the Stegners' world, and many more will be able to identify with the highs and lows of familial love

**Milk Comes from a Cow?** by Dan Yunk

Best for ages 3-7

Price: \$8.00

ISBN: 978-9797653-0-8

Follow urbanite Kailey as she discovers where milk comes from and how it arrives in her home. While Kailey's grandparents don't come from a farm, they know farmers and understand this part of agriculture. They lead Kailey on a visit to a dairy farm and show her that milk does not come from the grocery store. The book accurately depicts cows feeding in a free stall operation. They also answer the question, "Does chocolate milk come from a brown cow?" Unfortunately, the brown cows depicted with this revelation appear to be beef cows rather than Brown Swiss, Jerseys, Ayrshires, or Guernseys (all brown or brownish dairy breeds). Produced by, and available from, the Kansas Farm Bureau, a lesson plan will be developed to accompany this book.

**The Milk Makers** by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 0-689-71116-6

As with all of Gail Gibbons' books, she depicts agriculture accurately in the text. This is one of her weaker books from an illustration standpoint. The book describes the five common breeds of dairy cattle, other animals that give milk humans consume, feeds cattle eat, the digestion process, the milking process, how milking machines work, quality control, the basics of milk transportation and processing, pasteurization, homogenization, retailing and consumption. The book ends with an illustrated glossary of terms and dairy products.

**Out and About at the Dairy Farm** by Andy Murphy

Best for ages 5-10

Price: \$22.60

ISBN: 1-4048-0041-7

This lively trip to the dairy farm introduces calves, heifers and milkers. Full-color illustrations and fact-filled text take us through meadows, barns and a milking parlor. Each book features a topic-related activity, an index, a vocabulary list and fascinating fun facts. As with most books this one does include a few stereotypical images but the content is one of the best we've found. It also includes multi-cultural images of farmers and students and a female farmer, always a plus.

**Thanks to Cows** by Allan Fowler

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-04924-0

This early-reader book gives a nice overview of cows. It uses correct terminology and accurately depicts milk production. It is limited in the information it provides but considering the age of the target audience, this is sufficient.

**What's for Lunch, Milk** by Claire Llewellyn

Best for Ages 6-8

Price: \$18.52

ISBN: 0-516-2040-3

Colorful, high-quality photographs complement the text and tell more than half of this story. The book accurately depicts modern dairy production and processing with a couple of exceptions. On the pages immediately following the accurate explanation of dairy production, the photo is of a beef cow as the text explains why a cow can give milk. The next photo depicts cows feeding on silage in a confined area but the text states that cows spend most of the year grazing in fields. The other images of modern dairy production and processing are rarely if ever depicted in children's books and that makes this a recommended addition. An excellent glossary will help build vocabulary.

## **Sheep and Goats**

**Farm Animals - Goats** by Emily Green

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$15.95

ISBN13: 978-1-60014-066-2

This early reader book provides very basic information about goats. It identifies goats as part of a series about farm animals. This is one of the few books in that series that we are recommending. Why? Because this is a topic not commonly found but a growing segment of agriculture for meat and milk. The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type but what it contains is largely accurate. The one area for concern is that goats can climb trees easily. The photo shown does depict this but they can't climb trees as other animals can. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

**Farm Animals - Sheep** by Emily Green

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13: 978-1-60014-069-3

This early reader book provides very basic information about sheep. It is probably the best book in this series about farm animals. This is one of the few books in that series that we are recommending. Terminology used is correct and it shows shearing the fleece accurately. It does depict finished wool clothing but not the process from sheep to clothing. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

**Goats on the Farm** by Mari C Schuh

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 978-0-7368-9380-0

This book, following along with the series "on the farm" shows the reader all about goats on the farm. The book introduces the reader to the different parts of the goat, a buck vs. a doe as well as

what goats eat, and where they live on the farm. The book also shows how we get milk from goats. The book includes a glossary and websites where the reader can find extra information.

**Lambs (Watch Lambs Grow)** by Anne Wendorff

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$16.38

ISBN: 978-1-60014-241-3

Baby sheep are able to stand and drink their mother's milk within a few minutes of being born. Explore the behavior and characteristics of these cute creatures through sharp photos and leveled text

**Hooray for Sheep Farming!** by Bobbie Kalman

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 0-86505-669-2

As with the other books in the series, this book provides a nice overview of sheep and wool production. It depicts the diets of sheep, the work of sheep dogs, shearing, guard animals, sheep breeds and the measures taken to keep sheep healthy. An interesting photo depicts the complete fleece shorn from a sheep being held by two girls. The book concludes with a short glossary and information about carding and spinning wool into yarn. This book is a well written and illustrated source of information.

**Sheep Have Lambs** by Lynn M. Stone

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$19.93

ISBN: 0-7565-0004-4

This is one of the better books in the series. The photos match the text quite nicely and both are fairly accurate. This would be a good early book for students to learn about sheep. The book ends with a short vocabulary and few trivial questions.

**Sheep on the Farm** by Marci C Schuh

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-7368-9145-5

This book introduces the reader to sheep on the farm. It includes the different parts of the sheep as well as the difference between a ram and a ewe. The book shows how sheep live on the farm and are raised for their meat, wool and milk. The book also includes a glossary as well as websites where the reader can find additional information on sheep.

## **Small Animals**

**Cats on the Farm** by Marci C Schuh

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-7368-3422-2

This book shows how cats help around the farm. It starts off by naming the different parts of the cat (ears, paws etc) and then tells the difference between a tom and a queen cat. The book shows children where cats live and how they help to catch mice on the farm. The book includes a glossary and websites with more information.

**Dog Days** by Beth Gruber  
Price: \$22.60  
ISBN: 0-7565-0698

Best for ages 7-12

While it may seem strange to include a book about dogs in a list of agricultural books, dogs do have a role on farms and the serving humans. Having a book that accurately portrays dogs and their history serving humans is also important to provide students with accurate information about animals. This book does just that. It provides information on dog roles, breeds, social structure, history, communications, terminology and equipment. It instructs the reader on the proper way to interact with dogs and what their body language tells the observer. It also gives good tips on animal care. The book closes with trivia and a glossary.

**Dog on the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh  
Price: \$22.60  
ISBN: 0-7565-0698

Best for ages 4-8

This book introduces the reader to the many duties of the dog on the farm. The book shows the reader different kinds of dogs that work on farms and ranches, the different parts of the dog, what the dog eats and where the dog lives on the farm. The book includes a detailed glossary and companion websites with more information.

**Farm Animals - Cats** by Holly Enders  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-111-9

Best for Ages 4-6

This early reader book provides very basic information about cats. It identifies cats as living on farms as part of a series about farm animals. This is one of the few books in that series that we are recommending. Why? Because it depicts farm cats accurately as few books do. It has a photo and description of a cat chasing a large mouse in the dark and the next page depicts a different cat with a small mouse caught in its mouth and the text reads, "This cat got a mouse!" The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

**Farm Animals - Dogs** by Holly Enders  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-083-9

Best for Ages 5-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about dogs. It identifies dogs as working members of a farm population as part of a series about farm animals. The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type and the content is limited. However the photographs enhance the text and depict the work of dogs accurately. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

**Farm Animals - Rabbits** by Holly Endres  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-085-3

Best for Ages 5-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about rabbits. It identifies rabbits as part of a series about farm animals. This is one of the few books in that series that we are recommending. Why? Because this is a topic not commonly found but a growing segment of agriculture for meat and wool. The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type but what it contains is largely accurate. The one area for concern is that it indicates that rabbits should be let out of their cages to hop around the farmyard for exercise. Please share with the students that farmers would not do this because the rabbits would run away and the farmer would not be able to catch them. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

**Rabbits Have Bunnies** by Lynn M. Stone

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$19.93

ISBN: 0-7565-0005-2

This book provides excellent information about rabbits. While the text explains that this is a book about bunnies raised on farms or pet rabbits, the photos only depict rabbits and bunnies that are not confined. Rabbits are photographed in leaves, surrounded by plants, among vegetables, standing in a field of dandelions, and nestled in colorful apples. As with another book in this series, the photos are less accurate than the text and if another book were available this one would probably not be recommended. However, the text does tell a fairly accurate story. The book ends with a short vocabulary and a few trivia questions.

**Rabbits on the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-7565-0698

This book introduces the reader to rabbits on the farm. It includes the parts of the rabbit as well as the difference between a buck and a doe. The book shows what rabbits eat and how people take care of them. It also includes a glossary and websites where the reader can find extra information.

## **Swine**

**Life on a Pig Farm** by Judy Wolfman

Best for ages 3-7

Price: \$23.93

ISBN: 1-57505-236-9

Focused on the 4-H projects of two girls, this book tells their story and that of their farm. Unfortunately, in that process it reinforces many stereotypes about hogs. This is a farm that has their sows on pasture and is using boars for breeding rather than artificial insemination. The hogs wallow in mud and one photo shows a hog half submerged in water. It would appear as though the hog is in a pond and the wallow is the muddy embankment. The text explains that hogs have no sweat glands and that this is how they keep cool. Other photographs show the two girls riding their sows and wheeling a shoat in a wheel barrow. However, these shortcomings are balanced by the depiction and description of their preparation, training for the show and fair day. That portion of the book is exceptional. So too are pictures of newborn piglets, clipping needle teeth, iron shots, ear notching and other day-to-day chores. The book concludes with excellent fun facts, references, Web sites, and a glossary.

**Fig** by Jules Older  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 0-88106-109-3

Best for ages 4-8

Using the humor that readers have come to expect, Jules Older's text explores the life of a pig. While it does depict hogs splashing about in mud, it accurately explains why they do so. Packed with facts, figures, geography and science, this resource would provide answers to most basic questions about swine.

**Piglets (Watch Animals Grow!)** By Colleen Sexton  
ages 4-8  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN: 978-1-60014-169-0

Best for

Spend a day on the farm watching piglets grow. Straightforward text accompanies vivid photos of developing piglets.

**Pigs** by Emily K Green  
Price: \$16.38  
ISBN 978-1-60014-068-6

Best for Ages 4-8

A basic introduction to pigs and how they live on the farm. Simple text and full color photographs. Developed by literacy experts for students in kindergarten through third grade.

**\*\*Pigs an A-Z Book** by Susan Anerson & JoAnne Buggey  
Price:\$ 9.95  
ISBN: 978-1-926781-00-6

Best for ages 5-8

This colorful easy to read book is best for PreK or Kindergarten. The book introduces students to pigs and pork while they learn their ABCs. Each letter has a word about pigs beginning with that letter. The book also includes pictures and information to help students understand each agriculturally related word.

**Pigs Have Piglets** by Lynn M. Stone  
Price: \$19.93  
ISBN: 0-7565-0003-6

Best for Ages 4-7

This book opens with a heart-tugging photo of two piglets asleep. The photo is so vivid one can almost feel how soft the piglets are. The book's major shortcoming is that pigs are only depicted in a pasture setting (free-range). It is the weakest book in the series. The text explains many things the photos avoid and is mostly accurate. Considering the lack of accurate books about swine, this one meets the minimum standard for recommendation. If a better book were available, this book would not be included in the list. The book ends with a short glossary and a few trivia questions.

**Pigs on the Farm** by Mari C. Schuh  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 0-7368-9144-7

Best for Ages 4-7

Part of the “on the farm” series this book continues to accurately portray animals on the farm. The book introduces the different parts of the pig as well as the difference between a boar and a sow. The book shows where pigs live on the farm as well as what they eat and explains how they are grown for their meat. The book also includes a glossary and a companion internet site listed in the back.

**\*\*Pigs & Pork in the story of agriculture** by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Buggey

Best for ages 8-11

Price: \$9.95

ISBN: 978-1-926781-01-3

This fun and colorful book introduces elementary students to the five stages of pigs and pork as they make their way from farm to table. Each stage is explained in a separate chapter and each chapter is color coded. This series of books presents easy-to-read text blocks, illustrated with photos and captions. Important facts about pigs and pork are highlighted in tinted boxes to reinforce their importance. The book includes extra pig and pork activities.

## Composting

**The Magic School Bus Meets the Rot Squad** by Joanna Cole

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$3.50

ISBN: 0-590-40023-1

Take a trip into a decomposing log and explore the organisms that help make compost. As with the other books in the Magic School Bus series, this book helps students examine a potentially unpleasant topic without the “ick” factor. This book also deals with the insects and mammals that aid in decomposition.

**The Worm Café** by Binet Payne

Best for ages 14- Adult,  
and Teacher Reference

Price: \$25.95

ISBN: 0-942256-11-5

This is a comprehensive instruction guide about worm composting. It explains setting up and properly operating a composting system from A to Z. This book’s 13 chapters contain information that could be used by teachers as instructional activities and as a set-up and operation manual for vermiculture. The book closes with a high quality reference list, student worksheets, a pre- and post-test, and bibliography.

**Worms Eat My Garbage** by Mary Appelhof

Best for ages 14- Adult,  
and Teacher Reference

Price: \$12.95

ISBN: 0-942256-10-7

If you are interested in a comprehensive instruction guide about worm composting this is the book for you. It explains setting up and properly operating a composting system from A to Z. This book’s 14 chapters ask and answer almost any question a beginning worm composter could pose. The appendices contain information which could be used by teachers as instructional activities. The book closes with a high-quality reference list and glossary.

**Worms Eat Our Garbage** by Mary Appelhof  
Price: \$22.95  
ISBN: 0-942256-05-0

Best for ages 14- Adult,  
and Teacher Reference

This resource is the follow-up book to the previous book listed. Note the similar title. This teacher resource is a comprehensive set of classroom activities about worm composting. The activities are, for the most part, educationally sound although the authors could improve on the written objectives, connection to standards, and delineate evaluation components. This text should not be viewed as the final authority on the many topics included. Its description of Rachel Carson and her capability as a scholar and biologist would be challenged by true research scientists. There are also objectionable anthropomorphized animals in a few sections.

## **Cooking**

**All in Just One Cookie** by Susan E. Goodman  
Price: \$16.99  
ISBN: 0-06-009092-8

Best for ages 6-12

Focused around all of the ingredients that are used to make chocolate chip cookies, this book takes the reader and listener on a world-wide exploration. The trip is complete from butter produced by local dairy farms in the United States to Madagascar vanilla beans. The flour page explains how challenging it used to be to harvest wheat and the miracle preformed in a couple of hours by a modern combine. It also includes the mining information for salt and baking soda. This is an unusual find. The book's sole shortcoming is the anthropomorphized animals which are used to tell the story. As the teacher utilizes this resource, that issue can be addressed.

**Cook-A-Doodle-Do** by Janet Stevens  
Price: \$17.00  
ISBN: 0-15-201924-3

Best for ages 4-8

In this work of fiction, a rooster and his eager assistants set out to make strawberry shortcake. Rooster is glad to have the help but none of the helpers know how to cook so Rooster forges ahead to teach the helpers the basics of cooking and baking with entertaining results. While a book containing anthropomorphized animals would normally not pass our scrutiny, this one cannot be resisted. It provides great opportunities to build correct vocabulary and teach basic cooking skills.

**Kids Cooking**  
Price: \$13.95  
ISBN: 0-932592-14-7

Best for ages 6-12, Teacher  
and/or Parent Reference

As with other Klutz Press books this book provides great information in a fun and colorful manner. It includes great simple recipes for kids to do with their parents or another adult. It includes recipes for play dough, face paint, giant soap bubbles and Fido's People Biscuits (doggie treats).

**Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice** by Sylvia Rosa-Casanova  
Price: \$5.99

Best for ages 6-10

ISBN: 0-689-84249-X

Using the pot of rice with chicken, Mama barter with her neighbors to create a bountiful meal. As she does so she also takes her granddaughter, Lucy, on a marvelous cultural tour of the neighborhood. Woven throughout the book are the Spanish names for a variety of foods.

**The Science Chef** by Joan D'Amico

Price: \$12.95

ISBN: 0-471-31045-x

Best for ages 7-16 or adult  
use with younger children

One hundred fun food experiments and recipes are explored in a variety of topics in this 180 page book. The book explores questions from "How does yeast make bread rise?" to "What makes popcorn pop?" and "Why does whipped cream froth?" in a series of 20 chapters. The book also includes cooking skills, safety rules, nutrition in a nutshell, food safety and a nice glossary.

**The Usborne First Cookbook** by Angela Wilkes

Price: \$18.99

ISBN: 9-780794-51479-2

Best for ages 6-12  
with adult supervision

The colorfully illustrated recipes of this book will interest children in learning to cook and developing basic cooking skills. The easy to use recipes often require little or no cooking. The book closes with handy hints, tips for preparing vegetables, basic kitchen equipment and an excellent glossary.

## **The Earth and Nature**

**Crinkleroot's Nature Almanac** by Jim Arnosky

Price: \$16.00

ISBN: 0-689-80534-9

Best for ages 6-11

Crinkleroot hikes through the traditional seasons starting with spring and honeybees. As the book progresses it divulges Crinkleroot's observations of nature and wildlife. It includes picture puzzles and descriptions of important concepts such as "habitat" and "pollinate" and some fun quizzes and nature activities that make learning about the outdoors active and fun. The mysteries of popcorn are explored in the trip through summer.

**I Can Read About Seasons** by Robyn Supraner

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-8167-4719-9

Best for ages 7-11

This colorful book explains why we have seasons and how they impact plants and animals. Each season provides both text and illustration to explain where we are in the earth's revolution around the sun and what dates each season brings. This is a great addition to help student understand what causes each season.

**Our Seasons** by Grace Lin

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 13-978-1-57091-360-0

Best for ages 5-10

Evocative haiku poetry accompanies season-related questions and answers about weather, the natural world, and the human body. The colorful pictures enhance the text to explain weather phenomenon and other natural phenomenons. Why do leaves change color? Why do I tan? Why do I see my breath? Why do bees like flowers? Read this book and find the answers.

**The Reasons for Seasons** by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$16.89

ISBN: 0-8234-1238-5

As with almost all of Gail Gibbons' books, this one is well illustrated and accurate. The book is a wonderful combination of science (the Earth's revolution around the sun, equinoxes, solstices, impact of the Earth's axis on seasons, etc.) and history. Ancient and modern practices are nicely tied together to describe the impact of the seasons on the natural and human world.

**Seasons (A True Book)** by Paul P. Sipiera

Best for ages 8-10

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-20677-X

This book examines why the seasons change. The history of telling time and predicating the seasons and its impact on culture (from ancient times to today) is explored in text and pictures.

**Book of the Year**

**Seed Soil Sun** by Cris Peterson

Best for ages 6-9

In *Seed Soil Sun*, Cris Peterson describes the seemingly miraculous process by which air and water combine with seed, soil, and sun to create nearly all the food we eat. Using the corn plant as an example, she takes the reader through the story of germination and growth of a tiny corn seed into a giant plant reaching high into the air with roots extending over six feet into the ground. The book also discusses the make-up of soil and the amazing creatures that live there from microscopic one-celled bacteria to moles, amoebas, and earthworms.

**Sunshine Makes the Seasons** by Franklyn M. Branley

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$16.89

ISBN: 0-06-059204-4 – hardcover

This book, focused completely on the sun-earth relationship, is an excellent resource for explaining the concept of seasons. The text even includes an excellent, student-centered technique that uses a pencil and orange to depict the seasons. This makes the information real.

**Water Wise** by Susan Blackaby

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$14.99

ISBN: 978-1-4048-5257-0

The book is an easy way to introduce children to water conservation. The book is colorful and funny and includes a very simple water cycle explanation. The book also includes a glossary and an extra activity in the back for further learning on how to conserve water.

## **Entomology and Foods From Insects**

**Bees** by Ann Heinrichs

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$7.95  
ISBN: 0-7565-0165-2

This book nicely summarizes details of bees. It describes the kinds of bees, bee structure, how honey bees function and live in both a natural environment and a man-made one, and how bees make honey and wax. It also explains beekeeping, why bees sting, provides insight into killer bees, and how bees benefit us. The book includes a glossary and reference list.

**The Bee Tree** by Patricia Polacco  
Price: \$6.99  
ISBN: 0-698-11696-8

Best for ages 5-7

This work of fiction would be a great way to introduce students to bees. It also extols the virtues of reading. The adventure of chasing the bee back to its hive (the bee tree) provides a romp for a variety of people and animals as they join in the chase. That chase ends, of course, by gathering and eating the honey.

**Beekeepers** by Linda Oatman High  
Price: \$14.95  
ISBN: 1-56397-486-X

Best for ages 6-9

This is a beautifully crafted story about a girl, her grandfather and the passing of a legacy to be a beekeeper. The soft oil paintings and simple illustrations leave the readers with a warm feeling of shared experience between grandfather and granddaughter. This book fosters positive feelings about bees and beekeeping but does not provide a great deal of information about bees.

**Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!** By Mary Reid  
Price: \$5.99  
ISBN: 0-590-39792-3

Best for Ages 4-6

The best part of this early-reader book is the wonderful, up-close photos of insect anatomy. Each page focuses on one term and concept. Unfortunately for the title, not all of the insects identified are actually bugs. The last two pages provide information which an adult may read and share with the child.

**Bugs for Lunch** by Margery Facklam  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 0-188106-271-5

Best for ages 5-8

This chipper picture book is full of recipes that may not be everyone's favorite dish. Bugs make tasty treats for many creatures, even humans. In simple rhyming verses this book offers a list of critters that regularly dine on insects. It includes an illustrated glossary that expands on these basics, providing a plethora of fun facts. This book captures the world with realistic details and pictures that will appeal to the "yuck factor" in every child.

**Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method** by Sally Kneidel  
Price: \$18.95  
ISBN: 1-55591-118-8

Best for ages 10-18,  
and Teacher Reference

This book contains more than 100 hands-on experiments for children that involve insects, worms and other creepy crawly things such as fungus. It provides detailed descriptions, directions, and ideas. This is a book for those who would like to seriously develop experiments.

**Creepy, Crawly Caterpillars** by Margery Facklam

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-316-27342-2

A combination of attractive and informative materials brings to life a metamorphosis of a butterfly, the anatomy and behavior of a caterpillar and dozens of other creepy, crawly insects. The colorful, magnified pictures help make this book great learning material for children.

**Face to Face With The Ladybug** by Valerie Tracqui

Best for ages 5-10

Price: \$9.95

ISBN: 1-57091-453-2

Useful to begin a discussion of beneficial insects, this book describes the life cycle, environment and characteristics of the ladybug. The book includes bright, colorful photographs that capture the ladybug beetle in its natural habitat.

**From Caterpillar to Butterfly** by Deborah Heiligman

Best for ages 6-10

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-06-445129-1

With lovely, fun illustrations this book takes the child on a journey through the life and metamorphosis of the butterfly from caterpillar to butterfly as the title suggests. After exploring that process and transformation it describes major butterflies students are likely to encounter and where they may see each, and provides four locations across the United States where they could learn more about butterflies.

**From Flower to Honey** by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0717-8

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The excellent photographs depict a mixture of modern production and processing equipment and practices. The book ends with a glossary.

**Hooray for Bee Keeping!** by Bobbie Kalman

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 0-86505-668-4

This book provides a nice overview of honey bees and beekeeping. It depicts bee structure, social structure and work assignments, making honey, pollination, hive structure, collecting honey, processing and using beeswax. An interesting addition to this book is the animals that prey on honeybees. The book concludes with a short glossary and two recipes. This book is a well written and illustrated source of information.

**How Bees Make Honey** By Louise Spilsbury

Best for Elementary

ISBN-13: 978-1429655361

Did you know that bees make honey that they can eat, and we can eat it too? How do bees make honey? Explores this topic with colorful pictures and easy to understand text.

**Life Cycle of a Bee** by Colleen Sexton

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 978-1-60014-305-2

Bees begin their life cycle as eggs in honeycomb cells. Every day, a queen bee can lay as many as 2,000 eggs. Young readers will study a bees growth from egg to grub to pupa to adult.

**The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive** by Joanna Cole

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$5.99

ISBN: 0-590-25721-8

Once again, Ms. Frizzle's students board the magic school bus for a class trip, this time to watch a beekeeper. Once the children turn into bees and the bus turns into a beehive, Ms. Frizzle leads them on an informative tour and explains the communication systems, inter-workings of the beehive and the social structure of one of the most beneficial insects.

**The Honey Makers** by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 0-688-17531-7

Gail does a wonderful job explaining how bees make honey. The detail of both the text and illustrations provides a wealth of information. It explains bee social structure and roles, pollination, honey making, beekeeping, harvesting honey, and includes a beekeeper's diary and fast facts. This book is a great addition to any library that wants to include bees and honey in its topic list.

**Insects** by Steve Parker

Best for ages 8-14

Price: \$5.99

ISBN: 0-7894-2215-8

Insects from definitions to habitats, metamorphosis, and anatomy are covered in this 61-page book. Insects of all sizes, shapes and functions are included. This is a nice book to provide an overview of insects without a student being bogged down with too much detail. It provides factual information for this age group.

**It's a Butterfly's Life** by Irene Kelly

Best for ages 6-11

Price: \$16.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8234-1860-2

An amazing amount of information flits on these pages just as the butterflies and moths do. The colorful and accurate illustrations depict a wide array of different butterflies and moths, their caterpillars, eggs, and even the chrysalis of some. The book discusses what and how butterflies eat and behave; their life cycle, mating, and metamorphosis; their anatomy; the predators that prey on them; and how they camouflage themselves as protection. Interesting information that

will really capture some students is a practice that butterflies engage in called puddling and the correct name for caterpillar droppings. The book concludes with examples of plants that butterflies like to visit and a few amazing facts.

**Nature's Friends, Ladybugs** by Ann Heinrichs

Best for ages 6-11

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 0-7565-0167-9

This is a very nice book about the beneficial insect ladybug beetle. The text describes the beetle's anatomy, their diets, overwintering, and predators. It closes with a very short glossary, trivia and additional resources to consult.

**Praying Mantises (A True Book)** by Larry Dane

Best for Ages 7-13

Price \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-26769-8

This book about the fascinating praying mantis is significantly enhanced by detailed photographs which capture praying mantises in all stages of life. The photographer has captured images of praying mantises mating, laying eggs, hatching, emerging from the egg case, dangling to the ground, stalking and consuming their prey, and molting. The text and photos take an amazing look at the various forms of camouflage employed by this insect in a variety of environments. A challenging glossary is included.

**What if there were no Bees?** By Suzanne Slade

Best of Elementary school

Grassland ecosystems can be found on nearly every continent. Countless animals and plants live in them. So what difference could the loss of one animal species make? Follow the chain reaction, and discover how important honey bees are.

## **Farms and Farming**

**A Day in the Life of a Farmer** by Heather Adamson

Best for ages 4-6

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 978-0-7368-4674-5

Spend a day with farmer Dave. Go along with him as he feeds animals, drives a tractor and brings in the harvest. The book includes a glossary, a suggested readings list and websites where the reader can find additional information.

**A Day with the Animals at Upland Hills Farm** By: Farmer Nate

ISBN: 1449737919

Farmers Steve and Leslie Webster take their grandchildren around to see the farm animals. As the children visit each of the animals, your child will learn terms, concepts, and fun details about cows, goats, pigs, eggs, chickens, ducks, geese, sheep, and the sheep wool.

**All Kinds of Farms** by Daniel Shepard

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.75

ISBN: 978-0-7368-2871-0

This colorful and easy to read book has a few sentences on each page about different kinds of farms. The book shows big farms and small farms as well as tropical and cool climate farms. This would be a good book to introduce children to where different types of produce grow. The book also includes an idea for an extra project to do with children.

**An A-MAZE-ing Farm Adventure** By Jill Kalz  
ISBN-13: 978-1404860384

Best for Elementary school

There's only one way out. Will you find it? Or will you get confused in the corn? Hung up in the hay? Detoured by the dairy cows? Get ready for an A-MAZE-ing Adventure through all sorts of farms!

**Century Farm: One Hundred Years on a Family Farm** by Cris Peterson Best for ages 7& up  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 1-56397-710-9

The book explores farming over the ages and includes some excellent pictures and descriptions. The book tells the story of the family that lives in the original farmhouse and shares meals in the same kitchen. The book also shows the reader a lot of the hard work involved in keeping a farm running through the ages.

**The Dish on Food and Farming in Colonial America** By: Anika Fajardo  
ISBN: 142967217X

The colonial era in America was a difficult time. Colonists struggled to make a life in this strange land. In fact, you might be surprised by some of the things they did in order to survive. From odd underwear to morbid medical practices, learn all of the surprising details of life in colonial America.

**Farm** By Elisha Cooper  
ISBN-13: 978-0545070751

Best for Elementary school

There is so much to look at and learn about on a farm - animals, tractors, crops, and barns. And children feeding animals for morning chores! With lyrical writing and beautiful illustrations that capture the rhythms of the changing seasons, Elisha Cooper brings the farm to life.

**Farm Crops** by Lynn M. Stone  
Price: 22.79  
ISBN: 1-58952-092-0

Best for ages 6-9

This book provides a nice overview of crops produced on farms. The text is enhanced with excellent photographs of modern farming images. While the Jersey cow grazing clover could be improved from a conformational perspective, she could not look more contented, standing knee-deep in clover with her eyes closed as she munches on a mouth crammed full of clover. The one major error is a photo labeled as Montana hay that is clearly straw. However, this is more than made up for by an image of dwarf-apple trees and a picker harvesting with the proper equipment. The author does a nice job of depicting and explaining the regional differences in crop production and why they occur.

**Farm Patterns** by Nathan Olson  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6732-0

Best for ages 4-8

While this book does not teach a great deal about farming it enhances the image of farms and farming with its beautiful photographs and explanations of the patterns and sense of order on our farms and ranches.

**Farming** by Gail Gibbons  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-8234-0682-2

Best for ages 4-8

Each season in this book brings to life a new chore or activity on the farm. This book about farming portrays not just one particular farm but a universal one. This book shows how real-life activities and chores on a farm can produce crops and food, indoors or outdoors, despite the forces of nature that may impact the farm. This book is traditional in concept but excellent in some depictions!

**Farmer George Plants a Nation** by Peggy Thomas  
Price: \$17.95  
ISBN: 978-1-59078-460-0

Best for ages 9-11

Besides being a general and the first president of the United States, George Washington was also a farmer who enjoyed experimenting with seeds, tools and fertilizers. He also tinkered with plows and designed a sixteen-sided barn, and plotted the location of each new tree he planted. In this wonderfully illustrated book the reader will learn how George's created a self-sufficient farm at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

**Farm Hands** By: Tom Rivers  
ISBN: B0071GHE64

Tom Rivers introduces readers to the rigors of farm labor and some of the people who do the grueling work, including cabbage cutter "King Kong" and apple-picking pro "Stretch." You'll also meet the elusive "Joshua," who abandoned the cabbage crew in a rainstorm.

**Farmers and Ranchers** by Dan Yunk  
ISBN: 978-0979765322

Best for elementary school

Farmers and Ranchers Care about their Animals (Pre-3rd) was written to educate youth about the importance of animal care. This guide provides the principles of animal wellbeing, answers to frequently asked questions, key messages, fun facts, and additional resources for teachers to utilize in their classrooms.

### **Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2008**

**Farmers Market** by Carmen Parks  
Price: \$11.95  
ISBN: 0-15-204881-2

Best for ages 4-7

Rise and shine, it is market day! This book was developed with fresh vegetables and fruits in mind! The story recounts a family trip to the farmer's market through the eyes of a small girl. The setting is southwestern as is the scenery.

**Farmers Market Measurements** By: Dawson J. Hunt Best for elementary school  
ISBN: 1429668466

Don't you love to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables from a farmers market? Let's follow a farm family through the seasons and learn about measurements along the way.

**Going to a Farm** By: Rebecca Rissman Best for elementary school  
ISBN: 143296075X

This book teaches readers about what field trips are, why people take field trips, and what you can learn from a field trip to a farm.

**Living on Farms** by Allan Fowler Best for ages 5-7  
Price: \$4.95  
ISBN: 0-516-21564-7

This short, early-reader book gives a brief overview of farms and farming. It is a bit simplistic but as an early-reader book one cannot expect too much. For the most part, it depicts images and texts of modern farms after the introduction.

**Our Farm:**  
**Four Seasons with Five Kids on One Family Farm** by Michael Rosen Best for ages 12&up  
Price: \$18.95  
ISBN: 978-1-581-96067-9

Our Farm is a vivid portrait of a year in the life of one family and their small Ohio farm. Told through the voices of the five Bennett children and their parents, this inside look at contemporary rural American tells a tale both familiar and fascinating. Join Caleb, Chase, Cayne, Grey and Ali as they go about their everyday lives bailing hay, tending cattle, and raising chickens on a 150 acre farm.

**Senses on the Farm** by Shelley Rotner Best for Prek-K  
Price:\$11.50

This book shows life on the farm is explored through the five senses as we see the calf's big ears, touch the soft wool of a lamb, hear a hungry horse chomp, smell the fresh cut hay and taste the farm fresh milk. Beautiful, focused photographs capture the simplicity and charm of life on a farm.

**This Farm** Best for ages 4-7  
Price: \$15.93  
ISBN: 978-073681-717-2  
Spanish/English Edition  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6022-2

This is an early-reader book with short question/and or statement sentences. The questions are not answered in text but the students can find the answers in the accompanying photograph.

While the content is minimal this would be a very good book for a teacher to use to begin to teach reading for content and developing observation skills and question answering for the earliest learners. It could also be used as an interactive reading activity between parent and young child to develop their observation skills and have a participatory reading experience for the child. The Spanish/ English edition has the sentence in both Spanish and English on each page. This is most useful for helping Spanish-speaking children to learn English.

**Unusual Farms** by Brenda Haugen

Best for ages 6- 8

Price: \$19.93

ISBN: 0-7565-0668-9

This delightful book examines farm production that many do not connect as a type of farming. It provides high quality photos and brief explanations for ostrich, bison, llama, fish, silk, trees, and bamboo farms. Unfortunately, it takes one step too far and includes wind farms. While wind turbines may be an increasingly visible component in the rural landscape they really are not “farmed.” The book closes with trivia and a short glossary.

## **Fertilizers**

**The World’s Greatest Fix: A History of Nitrogen and Agriculture** by G. J. Leigh

Price: \$14.95

Best for ages 15 – adult  
and teacher reference

ISBN-10: 0-195-16582-9

ISBN-13: 978-0195165821

This is a book that would serve many audiences in a high school library - social studies, science and environmental studies foremost. While this may not seem like a title of any great interest, any person truly interested in the future of humans, population and the environment, this book is a must. One cannot fully comprehend the challenges facing agriculture unless they understand the requirements of producing food. This book explores early civilizations through today’s modern capability and explains why we are now capable of feeding so many people. The book contains segments on the agriculture of Egyptian, Mayan, Aztec, Chinese, Roman, and English civilizations and their quest to escape famine by producing adequate food on land. The author makes fairly complex information easy to understand and clear for the average adult with an interest in the topic. The work is well documented with 150 footnotes from excellent sources. The nitrogen fixation explanation would serve well in a high school science class (either biology or chemistry).

## **Food and Culture**

**America’s Food** by Lynn M. Stone

Best for ages 5-9

Price: \$27.07

ISBN: 1-58952-314-8

As with Stone’s other books this one has excellent photographs and accurate text. It does a nice job of weaving food and culture and the impact of one upon the other as well as the impact of both on our American culture. A nice inclusion is the description of how foods become accepted in the American melting pot and what each group contributes. One example is the bagel introduced by Eastern European Jews and the fact that Pennsylvania Quakers added cream cheese as a topping. The book ends with a nice glossary and description of a few regional

specialties that are not likely to become regular menu items outside of their region of the country.

**Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know** by Robert Paarlberg                      Best for Adults  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 978-0-19-538959-3

Food Politics carefully examines and explains the most important issues on today's global food landscape, including international food prices, famines, chronic hunger, the Malthusian race between food production and population growth, international food aid, "green revolution" farming, obesity, farm subsidies and trade, agriculture and the environment, agribusiness, supermarkets, food safety, fast food, slow food, organic food, local food, and genetically engineered food. Politics in each of these areas has become polarized over the past decade by conflicting claims and accusations from advocates on all sides. Paarlberg's book maps this contested terrain, challenging myths and critiquing more than a few of today's fashionable beliefs about farming and food. For those ready to have their thinking about food politics informed and also challenged, this is the book to read.

**How did that get in My Lunchbox?** By Chris Butterworth                      Best for Elementary school  
ISBN-13: 978-0763650056

The best part of a young child's day is often opening a lunchbox and diving in. But how did all that delicious food get there? Who made the bread for the sandwich? What about the cheese inside? Who plucked the fruit? And where did the chocolate in that cookie get its start? From planting wheat to mixing flour into dough, climbing trees to machine-squeezing fruit, picking cocoa pods to stirring a vat of melted bliss, here is a clear, engaging look at the steps involved in producing some common foods. Healthy tips and a peek at basic food groups complete the menu.

**Midday Meals Around the World** by Michele Zurakowski                      Best for ages 7-10  
Price: \$22.60  
ISBN: 1-4048-0281-9

Discover what children around the world eat for their midday meals. Menus include one or two meals from North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. It also includes kid-friendly recipes.

**Where Does Food Come From?** by Shelley Rotner and Gary Goss                      Best for ages 4-7  
Price: \$22.60  
ISBN07613-2935-8

This colorful book shows the reader where many different types of food come from. Whether it is an apple on a tree or rice going in wet fields called paddies, the book explores and explains where we get a lot of our different types of food.

## **Food Safety**

**Food Safety (A True Book)** by Joan Kalbacken                      Best for ages 8-10  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-516-20757-1

This book covers various health concerns related to the food we eat and explains and discusses ways to avoid them. Personal responsibility for food safety and the importance of hand washing are stressed.

**Food Safety (A True Book)** by Joan Kalbacken

Best for Ages 7-13

Price: \$20.50

ISBN: 978-0516-2637-79

This book and its accompanying photos provide sound information about food safety for readers at an intermediate level. It contains excellent photos of several microbes as it describes that particular problem. All the essential messages of food safety are included and common myths are avoided. The book correctly describes food safety safeguards, governmental oversight and individual responsibility. It does a good job of explaining pesticides and how food safety is maintained. Unlike many other books on this subject, this book contains information about food allergies. The information is accurate and provides good advice. The important focus on washing hands, fruits and vegetables because of bacterial contamination is excellent. The book ends with a glossary.

**Food Safety** by Sharon Gordon

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$9.99

ISBN: 0-516-22294-5

This book and its accompanying photos provide basic information about food safety for early readers. It contains an excellent photo of bacteria and provides good advice. The important focus on washing hands, fruits and vegetables because of bacterial contamination is excellent. All the essential messages of food safety are included and common myths are avoided. The book ends with a unique photo 'glossary.'

**Germs Make Me Sick** by Melvin Berger

Best for ages 6-10

Price: \$16.89

ISBN: 0-06-024250-7

While this may seem to be a strange addition to a list of recommended books that addresses agriculture, before students can understand food safety they must understand microbes and illness. Hence, this recommendation is made. This is a basic book that explains that germs cause illness and we are surrounded by them. Basic sanitation is covered along with some simple explanations of microorganisms, transmission, the body's immune system and rules for good health. With food safety issues facing agriculture (E. coli contamination), possible pandemics (bird flu), and bioterrorism (anthrax), this is an issue that every citizen needs to understand.

**How to Prevent Food Poisoning** by Elizabeth Scott, Ph.D. and Paul Sockett, Ph.D.

Price: \$14.95

Best for ages 14-Adult,  
and Teacher Reference

ISBN: 0-471-19576-6

This book is a comprehensive examination of food safety. It examines causes of food-borne illness, impacts that are short- and long-term as well as fleeting or permanent, and prevention techniques. It explores food prepared and eaten at home, food prepared at home but eaten elsewhere, and food prepared and eaten outside the home. The authors also detail what conditions may make one most susceptible to food poisoning such as the regular consumption of

antacids. The book closes with a self-assessment quiz, A-Z guide of food poisoning germs and an excellent glossary.

**Safe Food for You and Your Family** by Mildred M. Cody  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 1-56561-094-6

Best for ages 12-18,  
and Teacher Reference

This book provides a wealth of information about food safety in a pint-sized book. It provides detailed information about foodborne illnesses, safely storing and preserving food, irradiated food, biotechnology and a host of other topics. This would be a great resource for high school students writing papers on the topic.

## **Gardening - See Also Plants**

**All Kinds of Gardens** by Mari Schuh  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 978-1-4296-3981-1

Best for ages 4-8

A set that covers information that ranges from tools and compost to creepy-crawly residents. It features simple fun text and matching photos that dig into the basics of starting and keeping many kinds of gardens.

**Animals in the Garden** by Mari Schuh  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 978-1-4296-3982-8

Best for ages 4-8

A set that covers information that ranges from tools and compost to creepy-crawly residents. It features simple fun text and matching photos that dig into the basics of starting and keeping many kinds of gardens.

**Beyond the Bean Seed** by Nancy Allen Jurenka  
Price: \$28.00  
ISBN: 1-56308-346-9

Best as a teacher reference

The 11 chapters created by the author in this book provide information, resources, student-centered educational activities that connect the garden to required subjects, games, and recipes for treats. While a great book for teaching ideas and methodology to connect the garden to required learning, this book will not stand alone. It is intended as a teacher companion reference. If your school plans to weave a school garden into its curriculum and would like to have that garden impact education most effectively in a positive way, then this book is an excellent reference, especially for the elementary grades.

**Carrots Love Tomatoes** by Louise Riotte  
Price: \$14.95  
ISBN: 1-58017-027-7

Best for ages 14- Adult,  
and Teacher Reference

As gardens and gardening move beyond the basics, this book would be a good resource for any gardener. It contains companion planting, pest control and fertilization techniques. The text

provides advice on topics which include vegetables, herbs, fruit, grasses and field crops, ornamental trees, and shrubs. A detailed overview of poisonous plants would benefit any reader. The book includes a garden planning section which includes plans for a weekend garden, postage stamp garden, children's garden, kitchen herb garden, able disabled garden (raised), spirit garden, mini-garden and suggestions for window boxes.

**A Child's Garden of Verses** by Robert Louis Stevenson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$18.00

ISBN: 0-689-82382-7

This book celebrates children and nature through poetry. Throughout sixty-six poems, the author recalls the joys of his childhood, from sailing boats down river, to waiting for the lamplighter, to sailing off to foreign lands in his imagination. Its poetry can be used to introduce the topics and techniques to children as well as connect them to agriculture. From golden apples to meadows or climbing cherry trees and enjoying the activities of a cow, these poems celebrate the farm life of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**From Our Fields ... To You** By: Kellie Worrell

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1450758010

This photo book follows produce from planting to harvesting to grocery store shelves. It is a great way to help young people connect with where their food comes from.

**From Seed to Plant** by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 0-8234-1025-0

As with all of Gail Gibbons' books, she depicts information accurately in both text and image. This is one of her stronger books from an illustration standpoint. The book describes plant structure and function. It also includes how seeds move and the mechanisms that enable them to move. The book ends with an illustrated glossary of terms.

**The Garden of Happiness** by Erika Tamar

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$16.00

ISBN13: 0-15-230582-3

This is a story about an inner-city neighborhood's effort to clean up a vacant lot and transform it into a community garden. Colorful, multi-cultural images enhance and help tell the story. A little girl, Marisol, finds a small patch of her own where she plants a large flat seed. As the garden grows, her little seed out grows the rest of the plants, surprises everyone and becomes the happiest plant in The Garden of Happiness. This book would be an excellent resource to initiate planning a school garden or working to plant one in the spring.

**Gardening Wizardry for Kids** by Patricia Kite

Best for ages 6-adult,  
and Teacher Reference

Price: \$14.95

ISBN: 0-8120-1317-4

This colorful book on gardening is an excellent book to introduce children to gardening. Packed with fun activities, facts, folklore, history, and gardening tips it is just the tool needed to get kids

hooked on gardening. Divided into six sections, the book has history, fun activities, directions for science experiments, insect and earthworm-raising tips, and a section on herbs and craft projects.

**Growing a Garden** by Mari Schuh

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 978-1-4296-3984-2

A set that covers information that ranges from tools and compost to creepy-crawly residents. It features simple fun text and matching photos that dig into the basics of starting and keeping many kinds of gardens.

**Grow Your Own Butterfly Farm** By: John Malam

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1432951165

This book looks at how to attract butterflies to your garden by growing wildflowers.

**Grow Your Own Sandwich** By: John Malam

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1432951157

This book looks at how to grow your own tomatoes and turn them into a fun end product! Topics covered include when and where to plant, caring for your plants, and how and when to harvest. This book looks at how to grow your own tomatoes and then make them into a delicious sandwich.

**Grow Your Own Snack** By: John Malam

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1432951149

This book looks at how to grow your own broad beans and turn them into a fun end product! Topics covered include when and where to plant, caring for your plants, and how and when to harvest. This book looks at how to grow your own broad beans and then turn them into a tasty and crunchy snack.

**Grow Your Own Smoothie** By: John Malam

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1432951181

This book looks at how to grow your own strawberries and then turn them into a fun end product! Topics covered include when and where to plant, caring for your plants, and how and when to harvest. This book looks at how to grow your own strawberries and then make them into a delicious smoothie.

**Grow Your Own Soup** By: John Malam

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1432951130

This book looks at how to grow your own pumpkins and then turn them into a fun end product! Topics covered include when and where to plant, caring for your plants, and how and when to harvest. This book looks at how to grow your own pumpkin and then use it to make a delicious homemade soup.

**Inch by Inch** by David Mallett

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-06-443481-8

This book is an illustrated version of the song of the same title. If one wishes to interest students in gardening from an early age this is a great place to begin.

**Lily's Garden** by Deborah Kogan Ray

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-76-131593-4

Lily's grandparents move all the way across the country, but stay in touch with Lily by sending her plants and produce from their new home. Each spread deals with a new month and garden challenge for Lily. Her grandparents' advice helps her cope with the realistic challenges presented by managing a successful garden. This book is also a good exploration of seasonal changes.

**Our Generous Garden** by Anne Nagro

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$12.95

ISBN: 978-0-9793739-4-7

Based on a successful school garden project, this engaging book is written from a child's perspective and is the perfect complement to classroom curriculum and home-based learning. Even better, picky eaters will be intrigued by what they can grow with their own hands, and what they might even try with a delicious recipe! They eat to read text and pop art images grab kids' attention. The book also includes a section on what your garden needs to grow.

**Plant a Little Seed** by Bonnie Christensen

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 159643550X

With a little help from a watering can, bright sunlight, and a lot of patience, two friends plant seeds in their community garden and watch how they grow. Slowly, the seeds turn into sprouts, which grow into stems, followed by leaves and buds! The garden will soon be teeming with life and ready for a harvest season celebration. But until then, the children water and wait and dream...

**Planting the Wild Garden** By: Kathryn Galbraith

Best for Elementary school

ISBN-13: 978-1561455638

A farmer and her son plant vegetables in their garden, and the wind carries a few seeds away. Birds and animals may carry some along with them on their travels. Sometimes the rain washes them away to a new and unexpected location. And sometimes something more extraordinary occurs, as in when the pods of the Scotch Broom plant open explosively in the summer heat, scattering seed everywhere like popcorn. Year-round, we all play a role in the dispersal of seeds throughout our landscape, planting the wild garden together.

**Seeds Go Seeds Grow/Las Semillas se Plantan, las Semillas Crecen** By Mark Weakland

ISBN-13: 978-1429661454

Best for PreK-K

Does a towering sunflower fit inside a tiny seed? Where do seeds come from? What makes them grow? Discover the amazing science of seeds in Seeds Go, Seeds Grow.

**The Summer My Father Was Ten** by Pat Brisson  
Hardcover Price: \$15.95      Paperback Price: \$8.95  
ISBN: 1-56397-435-5      ISBN: 1-56397-829-6

Best for ages 5-13

One of the most touching stories available, this book takes a growing up journey. The cross-generational story uses the vandalism of a neighborhood garden to explore the lessons learned by the author's father. The thoughtlessness of youth is met with real consequences in the life of the elderly gardener. The unsentimental tale of mending one's ways and changing a life is illustrated by beautiful watercolors. If only a few books can be included in a library this is one that is a must for many reasons. Those who know the investment of time, hope and love made by anyone growing a crop will make good use of this story to express that investment.

**This Year's Garden** by Cynthia Rylant  
Price: \$6.99  
ISBN: 0-689-71122-0

Best for ages 4-7

This short book takes us on a year-long journey through a garden. Beginning in winter, the planning takes place for the next growing season. The story follows the activities of each season until we arrive back at winter and begin again.

**Up, Down, and Around** By Katherine Ayres  
ISBN-13: 978-0763640170

Best for Prek-K

From seeds dropping into soil to corn bursting from its stalks, from children chasing butterflies to ants burrowing underground, everything in this vibrant picture book pulses with life — in all directions! Sprightly illustrations set the mood for a rhythmic text that follows nature's course to a feast of backyard bounty.

## **Harvest and Harvest Celebration**

**Harvest Year** by Cris Peterson  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN: 1-56397-571-8

Best for ages 5-9

Cris Peterson captures the concept that every single month food is being harvested somewhere in the United States with colorful and dramatic photos by Alvin Upitis. This book is a collaboration of clear and concise text and a map of harvest locations across the country. With an array of photographs that capture the colorful fields and orchards and a variety of workers and machines and children sampling foods from the year's harvest. While not every state is included, 27 states representing every region of the country are included, from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska to Florida.

**Harvest Time** by Jerry Cipriano  
Price: \$15.93  
ISBN: 0-7368-2926-1  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2926-7

Best for ages 4-7

This is an early reader book with short statement sentences in a large font. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book for a teacher to use to begin to teach reading for

content. The content and pictures could be used to begin to teach about the life cycle and seasons in science. What is particularly nice about this book is that the photographs and text depict how the fruit, vegetables or grain are grown, show the plant as it is either growing or ripe, describe and the harvest process. The strawberry section has an adorable picture of a small boy peaking under the leaves of the strawberry plant searching for the ripe berry. The photographs enhance the text and depict modern agriculture including apples being picked from dwarf trees.

**Harvest Time Subtraction** By: Suzanne Barchers Best for elementary school  
ISBN: 1429668415

Join the Garcia kids on their harvest adventure at their grandparents' apple orchard. See how they use subtraction to help them plan a menu, shop, and set up games.

**A Midwestern Corn Festival: Ears Everywhere** by Lisa Gabbert Best for ages 6-8  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN: 0-8239-5341-6

This book explains the importance of corn as a crop. It explores corn's origins, history, and examines the rides, pageants, and other activities at a corn festival.

### Issues

**Beatrice's Goat** by Page McBrier Best for ages 7-13  
Price: \$16.00  
ISBN: 0-689-82460-2

This beautifully written and illustrated book tells the story of Beatrice, a poor Ugandan girl who longs to go to school. Her family's poverty makes that impossible because they cannot afford the school uniforms or books. The gift of a goat provides the answer even though Beatrice can initially only see the extra work it means. This story begins to teach students that the solution to world hunger is to help people lift themselves out of poverty. Selling her goat's milk allowed her mother to improve her family's nutrition and to send Beatrice to school. The goat's offspring, given to her friend's family, also sent her friend to school. And so the circle widens and multiplies the gift. Written about a real little girl, Beatrice is now a college student in America. Purchase of this book will benefit Heifer Project International.

**Bio-Vision: World Life Sciences Forum Series** Best for ages 14- Adult,  
Price for the Series of Three Books: \$125.00 and Teacher Reference  
ISBN: 3-527-31489-X

While this book series has a hefty price tag, it also contains a wealth of information for any reader truly interested in the effort to reduce poverty and solve global hunger. It approaches the issues from a scientific perspective unlike most other public sources. This is a cross-disciplinary, international account of essential information provided by experts, not pundits, using research-based information not rhetoric. It includes the expertise of 20 Nobel Laureates in volumes with these titles: Agriculture and Nutrition; Bioindustry and Environment; and Human Health. Recommendations support the use of high-tech agriculture whether or not that includes biotechnology. This is information not available from any other source.

**Eco-Freaks: Environmentalism Is Hazardous to Your Health!** by John Berlau

Price: \$25.99  
**ISBN-10:** 1595550674  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1595550675

Best for ages 14 – adult  
and teacher reference

While those in agriculture know that many accusations leveled by environmentalists are not true, this book and several others we are recommending will make you begin to question their stand against other industries as well. This author tackles ag topics and non-ag topics alike in this well-referenced book. Topics include global warming and climate change; the dangers of pesticides like DDT; trees and pollution; fuel economy and the auto industry ; the threat posed by asbestos; the lifesaving role of dams and levees; and plans to "rewild" America. In a surprisingly quick read, the award-winning author shocks, amazes, enlightens and entertains the reader. For any educator determined to teach his or her students not what to think but how to think, this book is a great addition as a counterpoint to what is currently believed about these topics or what students may read in their textbooks.

**Food: The Struggle to Sustain the Human Community** by Jake Goldberg

Price: \$23.00  
ISBN: 0-531-11411-2

Best for ages 12-18

This book's author looks at the struggle to feed the human population from the earliest days through the present. It provides a nice overview of the development of agriculture but comes up short as it explores agriculture's future. Surprisingly, a discussion of biotechnology is absent. This book is recommended in spite of that because it does a credible job in other areas.

**Invasive Species in a Changing World** by Harold A. Mooney

Price: \$37.50  
ISBN: 1-55963-782-x

Best for ages 15-adult, and  
Teacher Reference

As the world becomes smaller, the issue of invasive species becomes evermore probable and their impacts more damaging. Though noxious, invasive species have long been recognized and challenged by agriculture, others are now taking notice with the threat of a bird flu pandemic. Invasions of fire ants and Africanized honeybees have made average Americans realize that this is a very real threat to all. This book provides a well-referenced, comprehensive overview of the issues and looks not only at the ecological implications but also the economic costs.

**Peanut Butter, Milk, and Other Deadly Threats: What You Should Know About Food Allergies** by Sherri Mabry Gordon

Price: \$31.93  
ISBN13:

Best for ages 11 - adult  
and teacher reference

While the title might be scary, the content is excellent and very accurate. The author clearly describes food allergies, dispels many myths and provides an excellent overview of the topic. The author clarifies the differences between true food allergies and food intolerances. It provides specific information about peanut, milk, shellfish and fish, tree nuts, eggs, soy, and wheat allergies. The text addresses not only the physical symptoms, reaction and impacts but it also delves into the social, emotional, political and educational impacts of food allergies. It also explores the research underway to study, understand, prevent and treat food allergies. The book provides information sources, a glossary and references for further research.

**Saving The Planet with Pesticides and Plastics** by Dennis Avery

Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 0-55813-069-1

Best for ages 14- adult  
and teacher reference

Back with the second edition of this controversial book, Dennis Avery again challenges the conventional wisdom with well-referenced facts. This edition expands on the previous publication, tackles some new issues such as intensive meat production for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and deletes or refocuses the discussion on others. This book keeps the discussion current with the changes made in this new edition. Any high school student challenged to examine both sides of an issue would be well served to have this book in the school library. Teachers interested in helping their students to become critical thinkers would be well-served to include this reference as a source of information as they consider what they are teaching and how. For those in agriculture, this book has a new chapter titled “What can Farmers Do?” Our industry and the people we feed deserve that we read it and heed its advice.

**The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World** by Bjorn Lomborg

Price: \$23.00

ISBN-10: 0-521-01068-3

ISBN-13: 978-0521010689

Best for ages 14- adult  
and teacher reference

Bjorn Lomborg begins his book with a preface that explains how he began this journey and why it led to this book. He (a self-professed left-wing Greenpeace member) challenged ten of his brightest statistics students at the University of Aarhus in Denmark to challenge Julian Simone’s claim that environment was getting better not worse. They expected to show, using statistics, that Simon was only spouting right-wing American propaganda. What they discovered was that Simon was correct on a large number of issues. This led to a series of articles explaining their results and grew into a huge Danish debate. This, in turn led to the book and a huge backlash by the environmental community. The book begins by describing the litany of ills we have been led to believe. Then it explores topics which include human welfare, hunger, disappearing forests, energy, resources, prosperity, air and water pollution, acid rain, allergies and asthma, waste, chemical fears, biodiversity, and global warming. He ends by describing the real state of the world. Every high school, college and public library should contain a copy of this book. Every environmental educator should require that his or her students include this author’s documented evidence as they explore issues. English and social studies teachers should provide this resource to their students so that they may explore both sides of these issues. As a model example alone, the author’s inclusion of 2,930 footnotes and 173 charts and graphs of data supporting his claims should be shown to students as a well-written and documented exploration of these issues.

## **Machinery and Equipment**

**Farm Tractor** by Matt Doeden

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6721-4

Best for Ages 4-8

This early reader book captures a great deal of insight into tractors. Students will find out how tractors work and about tractor’s components. Modern tractor technology, structure, and operation are accompanied by information on how a tractor functions. Excellent color photographs of large tractors in a variety of work arrangements enhance the text. Every tractor in

the book has rollover protection. The book includes a glossary, recommended book list and Internet sites.

### **Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2007**

**I Drive a Tractor** by Sarah Bridges

Best for Ages 4-8

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 1-4048-1609-7

Students can learn a great deal about tractors by having this book read to them or reading it themselves. Modern tractor technology, structure, and operation are accompanied by how a tractor functions. The authors have wisely included some tractor safety information such as the slow-moving vehicle sign and what it signifies. The driver explains how he courteously and safely uses the road, aware of cars that may want to pass. While the book depicts only one person on the tractor, it does not actually address this issue. The book includes a vocabulary list.

**The Tractor Goes Farming** by Roy Harrington

Best for ages 3-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-929355-68-7

What can a tractor do? Read this book and find out. The many diversified jobs performed by tractors, on and off the farm, are described and accompanied by excellent photographs. Developed by the American Association of Agricultural Engineers, tractors of all makes and colors are represented. The book also includes a variety of other farm equipment made by a variety of manufacturers.

**Tractors** by Darlene R. Stille

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$21.26

ISBN: 0-7565-0287-X

Through bright colors and informative text, young readers can explore the world of tractors in this book. This book encourages an interest in the machines and activities that they help us with on the farm and beyond.

**Tractors** by Mary Lindeen

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 978-1-60014-061-7

Simple text and supportive images introduce young readers to tractors. Intended for students in kindergarten through third grade.

## **Microorganisms and Fungi**

**The Fungus That Ate My School** by Arthur Dorros

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 0-590-47704-8

This work of fiction is a fun way to introduce fungi to the classroom. During a damp spring break, a science class mold experiment outgrows its jar. Three elementary school students return

from vacation to find an amorphous green shape dominating the lab. This book is a silly, eccentric caricature of how fungus spreads that can be used to introduce how easily all microorganisms spread and how they impact humans.

**Good Mushrooms and Bad Toadstools** by Allan Fowler

Best for ages 6-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-20808-X

This early-reader book explores this world sometimes hidden from view unless one seeks it out. A variety of colorful and interestingly shaped mushrooms and toadstools are depicted. It gives adequate warning that the novice should not pick or eat mushrooms as they can be very dangerous.

**Slime, Molds and Fungi** by Elaine Pascoe

Best for ages 8-14

Price: \$14.22

ISBN: 1-56711-182-3

Beautiful photographs enhance the descriptions of this unlikely subject. From mushrooms to yeast, the organisms in this group are very important to the food system. Some cause damage; others are beneficial. All are essential to moving the composition cycle along. Producers work to control many fungi or to promote others. Some fungi can be fatal while others can provide life saving assistance such as the antibiotic penicillin. The book contains great science experiments and demonstrations, sources for supplies, further readings and an index.

## **Natural Fibers**

**From Plant to Blue Jeans** by John L'Hommedieu

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-20366-5

This wonderful photo essay documents the process of making blue jeans. From the first step of planting cotton to sewing the finished denim into jeans, the process is captured in image and text.

**From Cotton to T-Shirt** by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 7-10

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-4661-0

As with the other books in this series, this is an excellent book. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cotton plant to harvesting and processing. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a glossary.

**From Sheep to Sweater** by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 7-10

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-4661-0

This is the weakest book in an excellent series. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate for what it portrays. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from sheep to sweater. Most of the images depict hand production of yarn and sweater.

We are including the book because there are no others on this topic that provide more modern images or text. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a glossary.

## [Nutrition](#)

**[Eating Well](#)** by Lisa Trumbaur  
Price: \$15.93  
ISBN: 0-7368-2937-7

Best for ages 4-7

This is an early reader book with short statement sentences in a large font. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book to use to teach reading for content as well as good nutrition. The photographs enhance the text and depict a complete array of foods in each food group. Unlike many nutrition books at this age level, this book avoids the use of the food guide pyramid but still uses the food groups. The teacher will need to provide the image of the food guide pyramid if he/she wishes to include it in instruction.

**[The Edible Pyramid](#)** by Loreen Leedy  
Price: \$17.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-8234-2075-9

Best for ages 4-8

While we strive to avoid the anthropomorphic representation of animals we will make exceptions for excellent books. This well-written book on nutrition and the food-guide pyramid is one such example. The text does depicts the normal foods that various animals would consume (the pelican hopes there is seafood while the frogs hope there are fresh flies). Also the author represents all foods equally. On the page depicting protein foods there are seafoods, eggs, turkey, chicken, ham, meatballs, steak, and fish. The text and illustrations are accurate. This would be a great way to introduce the nutritional recommendations of the food-guide pyramid.

**[Healthy Snacks, Healthy You!](#)** By: Sally Lee  
ISBN: 1429671629

Best for elementary school

Part of the First Graphics series, this book has a lot of panels with narrative text and minimal comic balloons to help the beginner get used to the graphic format. All about why snacks are important for the body and what snacks are healthy and why. Gives ideas on how to choose healthy snacks and even presents some interesting choices you may not have thought of before.

**[The Monster Health](#)** by Edward Miller  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN 13: 978-0-8234-2139-8  
ISBN 10: 0-8234-2139-2

Best for ages 7-11

A friendly green monster helps make what could be a dull and dry series of health lectures into a fun romp through life including scattered trivia. Focusing on nutrition and healthy habits, more than two-thirds of the book is nutrition information. The balance focuses on exercise, sleep and healthy habits. While the book is fun, it is also packed with information from the food pyramid, food groups and their nutrients, reading nutrition labels, and mealtime suggestions. Sections of food issues will need explaining to younger students but provide an excellent place to initiate the discussion.

**My Plate and You** By: Gillia M. Olson  
ISBN: 1429671297

Best for elementary school

From your racing brain to your beating heart, your body does amazing things. With big, colorful photos and fun facts, learn how people live, grow, and stay healthy

**The New Food Guide Pyramid, Eating Healthy** by Emily Green  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-531-17850-8

Best for Ages 5-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about the revised food guide pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

**The New Food Guide Pyramid, Fruits** by Emily Green  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-005-1

Best for Ages 9-12

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of fruit to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for fruit foods in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

**The New Food Guide Pyramid, Grains** by Emily Green  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-003-7

Best for Ages 5-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of grains to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for grains in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The text provides good information about how to add a variety of grains in all forms to one's diet. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

**The New Food Guide Pyramid, Meat and Beans** by Emily Green  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-004-4

Best for Ages 5-7

This is the best book of this series on the food guide pyramid. The cover image is of a juicy hamburger with lettuce, tomato onion and a swirl of ketchup. The early reader book provides very basic information about the value of meat and beans to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for all kinds of meats and beans in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The text and photos represent all meats: steak, a pork chop, a chicken breast, eggs, trout, and salmon, and describes the nutrients each adds to one's diet. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

**The New Food Guide Pyramid, Milk, Yogurt and Cheese** by Emily Green

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-000-6

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of milk to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for milk and dairy foods in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

**The New Food Guide Pyramid, Oils** by Emily Green Best for Ages 5-7  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-001-3

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of oils to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for oils in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. In addition to the presentation about beneficial oils, the book also describes fats that are not good for one and that reducing or avoiding harmful fats should be a focus. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

**The New Food Guide Pyramid, Vegetables** by Emily Green Best for Ages 5-7  
Price: \$15.95  
ISBN13: 978-1-60014-002-0

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of vegetables to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for vegetables in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The text provides good information about how to add vegetables to one's diet and the vitamin nutrition found in vegetables. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

**The Powerful Protein Group** By: Sally Lee Best for elementary school  
ISBN: 1429671645

You're hungry. What should you eat? With MyPyramid and Healthy Eating, it's easy to decide. Find out WHERE OUR MEAT COMES FROM, what nutrients meat and beans give US, AND how many servings you need EACH day.

**Protein** By: Nancy Dickmann Best for elementary school  
ISBN: 1432969765

Make a place for protein in your diet. Readers will learn that leaner is better when it comes to choosing the healthiest meat or protein for their meals. Read this book to learn about how to eat well and use MyPlate.

**The Quest to Digest** by Mary K. Corcoran Best for ages 4-8  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 1-57091-664-0

Children always wonder what happens after our food is swallowed and where does it go? Follow an apple's journey from the mouth to the small intestines on a quest to learn about the digestive system. Many questions regarding burps, passing gas and vomit will be answered. Accompanied by comic illustrations this book is fun, fascinating and concise for all readers. Although not technically an agricultural topic this resource will help teachers begin to discuss nutrition and healthy food choices as students learn how their body digests food.

**When Vegetables Go Bad** by Don Gillmor and Mary Louise Gay

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 1-55209-261-5

This work of fiction is a great tool to introduce nutrition to younger audiences and encourage them to eat vegetables. The title might mislead you to think the vegetables in the book are spoiling but the story is really about vegetables behaving badly because Ivy refused to eat them. Instead of eating her vegetables, Ivy stuffed them into her pocket. At night when she is sleeping, the vegetables form a taunting chorus in Ivy's sleep and invade her dreams with nasty songs. No matter how Ivy tries to run from this nightmare, the vegetables chase her down and continue their harassment. Once she admits she likes vegetables, the nightmare stops.

**Using My Plate** By: Rebecca Rissman

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1432969854

MyPlate reminds readers to eat a healthy, balanced diet. This title discusses what the breakdown of food groups is and shows that individual needs vary from person to person. Readers will get ideas for creating the best diet for themselves

## **People in Agriculture**

**Borlaug, Volume 1 Right off the Farm** by Noel Vietmeyer

Best for ages Adult

Price:\$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-578-04125-4

This volume highlights the amazing chain of circumstance that produced the Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Borlaug as well as his super-producing wheat. Volume 1 opens this series, laying the foundation for the human drama behind all that hardly known history. It divulges the searing experiences that developed Norman Borlaug's dedication, drive and motivation to help the hungry. A powerful blend of biography, history, science, adventure, and what might be called the American spirit. A replacement for Version 1.0, this particular printing incorporates several hundred modifications that illuminate or enrich the opening saga. This version also omits the previous subtitle [The Mild-Mannered Maverick who fed a Billion People].

**Borlaug, Volume 2 Wheat Whisperer** by Noel Vietmeyer

Best for ages Adult

Price:\$19.95

ISBN: 978-0-578-03856-8

Norman Borlaug is the mild-mannered maverick who lifted the world's food supply and saved a billion lives. He fed the hungry but also created the right environment for a robust rural private sector.

**Eli Whitney and the Cotton Gin** by Jessica Gunderson  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6843-3

Best for ages 7 - 13

This book from the Graphic Library collection is produced in a comic book format that will appeal to the most challenged reader. The book tells the story of the creation of the cotton gin and the difficulties that Eli Whitney had becoming successful. The story does not avoid the impact of the cotton gin had on increasing slavery which is to be commended. It also tells the story of how Eli Whitney ultimately became successful and the impact his success had on the civil war and ultimate freedom of the slaves. The book ends with a timeline of advances made by Eli Whitney, a glossary, a recommended reading list, recommended Internet sites, and a bibliography.

**George Washington Carver: Agriculture Pioneer** by Stephanie Macceca Best for ages 9 – 12  
Price:\$21.95  
ISBN: 978-0-7565-4305-1

Born into slavery, George Washington Carver worked hard, earned a university graduate degree, and eventually became a world-famous expert on plants. By experimenting with peanuts and other plants, he learned how to make many useful products from them. Carver taught students and farmers how to grow plants without damaging the soil. For more information on plants, read *The World of Plants*, another book in the Mission: Science series.

**George Washington Carver: Ingenious Inventor** by Nathan Olson  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5484-3

Best for ages 7 - 13

This book from the Graphic Library collection is produced in a comic book format that will appeal to the most challenged reader. The book tells the story of George Washington Carver's life beginning as a slave, his mother's kidnapping and his adoption by the Carvers. It also tells the story of how George left their home at the age of 12 to go to school and the struggles he endured to become educated and eventually became an educator and inventor. The book ends with a timeline of advances made by George Washington Carver, a glossary, a recommended reading list, recommended Internet sites, and a bibliography.

**George Washington Carver: Scientist and Inventor** by Judy Monroe  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5484-3

Best for ages 7 - 13

Although not as colorful as the previous book, this book provides black and white photographs to enhance a more detailed text. The book tells the same story of George Washington Carver's life beginning as a slave and his adoption by the Carvers. It also tells the story of how hard George struggled to become educated and eventually became an educator and inventor at Tuskegee Institute. This book provides a great deal more information about his work, successes and recognition he achieved later in life. The book ends with copy of the postage stamp issued recognizing him in 1948, fast facts, a timeline of his life, a glossary, a recommended reading list, and recommended Internet sites.

**Louis Pasteur and Pasteurization** by Jennifer Fandel  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6843-3

Best for ages 7 - 13

This is another book from the Graphic Library collection is also produced in a comic book format that will appeal to the most challenged reader. The book tells the story of food borne illness, the discovery of microorganisms and the development of pasteurization to make milk safe. The book ends with a timeline of advances made by Louis Pasteur, a glossary, recommended reading list, recommended Internet sites, and a bibliography.

### **Book of the Year**

**\*\*The Man Who Fed the World** by Leon Hesser  
Price: \$24.95  
ISBN: 1-930754-90-6

Best for ages 12 - adult

While many Nobel Laureates are well know to the public, the one man who has literally saved millions from starvation, Norman Borlaug, still toils in relative obscurity. This well-written, well-researched book details his amazing life and world-changing life's work. Born in 1914 on the Iowa prairie, Norman Borlaug would appear to be the most unlikely of heroes. He attended a one-room school house, flunked the university entrance exam and ultimately be hailed as one of the most influential men of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is no Nobel prize for agriculture so they gave him the Nobel Peace Prize for averting hunger and famine by developing the short variety wheat that would start the "Green Revolution." These miracle wheat varieties would lead Mexico, Pakistan and India from the edge of starvation in the 60s (in spite of huge grain donations from the United States, Canada and Australia) to self sufficiency in grain production. In fact, India became and is still a grain exporter. This is a book about hope and will demonstrate to children and adults alike that one person can change the world.

## **Plants, Foods From Plants and Goods From Plants**

### **Flowers**

**A Field of Sunflowers** by Neil Johnson  
Price: \$3.25  
ISBN: 0-590-96549-2

Best for Ages 4-8

High-quality photographs depict the process of growing sunflowers from preparing the soil through seed production. The book explains phototropism, pollination, and pollinators accurately and would be an excellent resource for teachers explaining these concepts. The community delight in the field of sunflowers and resulting interaction helps readers or listeners appreciate agriculture. The book is a bit less realistic in explaining that the farmer decided not to harvest the field but to leave it to feed the wild birds. Few farmers could afford that luxury.

**The Flower Alphabet Book** by Jerry Pallotta  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 0-88106-459-9

Best for ages 4-8

The author and illustrator of this book have collaborated to produce a stunning bouquet of words and pictures about the world of flowers. This book includes a variety of flowers from A-Z beginning with the Amaryllis and concluding with the Zinnia.

**The Great Sunflower Book** by Barbara Flores

Best for ages 12-Adult

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 0-89815-837-0

Almost everyone enjoys seeing the bright and sunny face of sunflowers in a garden, field, or bouquet. But how many of us know the history of the sunflower or that sunflowers come in many varieties? Did you know that Jerusalem Artichokes are the roots of a sunflower? This book, with its beautiful photographs and well-research information, will provide history, cultural impacts, cultivation, and varieties. Uses are detailed. The book includes a variety of recipes with sunflower seeds and/or oil. It ends with a list of heritage seed sources and reference list.

**It Could Still Be a Flower** by Allan Fowler

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-27308-6

This early-reader book gives the basics about flowers. The book's title is misleading in that the book only focuses only on those flowers which would be readily identified. There are no unusual flowers here or tree flowers other than magnolias or cherry blossoms.

**The Life Cycle of the Sunflower** by Linda Tagliaferro

Best for ages 4-7

(Gail Saunders-Smith Ph.D, Consulting Editor).

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6714-6.

This early reader book captures the development of the sunflower from seed through germination, growth, flower development and pollination and on to seed development. It does not depict commercial sunflower production but focuses on the growth of a single plant. This would be an excellent book to teach about the life cycle of a plant. The book includes a glossary, recommended reading list and suggested Internet sites.

## **Fruits and Fruit Foods**

**Amazing Apples** by Consie Powell

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 0-8075-0399-1

From blossom to pollination to picking, this beautifully illustrated book details how apples grow, their various uses, and the different varieties through an interesting methodology. Each single or double page contains an acrostic poem that describes part of the story. The acrostic words are apple, orchard, leaves, bees, sun, rain, core, worm, bushel, pick, varieties, cider, dried, sauce, pie, basement, and winter. This book also includes a detailed description of apples.

**Apples** by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-8234-1497-3

From blossom to pollination to picking, this beautifully illustrated book details how apples grow, their various parts, and the different varieties. This book also includes instructions on how to plant and care for an apple tree.

**Apples, Apples Everywhere: Learning about Apple Harvests** By: Robin Koontz Elementary  
ISBN-13: 978-1404863880

Autumn is time to harvest apples. Come along on a trip to the apple orchard. Find out how apples are picked and stored. Learn which apples are best for munching. But watch out for the worms!

**Apples (A True Book)** by Elaine Landau Best for ages 7-13  
ISBN13: 978-0-5162-1024-7

As with the other books written by this author, this text provides an accurate and comprehensive look at apples. From the early cultivation of apples in Greece and Rome to the introduction of the apples to Europe and then the America's, the text and photos tell apple's story. This book moves beyond basic reader level and presents the complex story of apple production in a very comprehensive manner. The book ends with a good glossary and recommendations for other books and Web sites. .

**Apples Grow on a Tree** by Mari Schuh Best for Prek-2  
ISBN-13: 978-1429652797

Simple text and photographs describe how apples grow on trees. The images support early readers in understanding the text. The book also introduces early readers to subject specific vocabulary words, which are defined in the glossary section.

**Apples of Your Eye** by Allan Fowler Best for ages 6-8  
Price: \$4.95  
ISBN: 0-516-06026-0

As with other books by this author, this is a good, basic explanation of how apples grow and the foods made from them. While a few of the images are not completely current the information provided is excellent for this age group. Most importantly, the author explains that while apples can grow from seed, apples are grafted (to guarantee the apple variety). The book does a good job of depicting and explaining one type of grafting.

**Apples Here!** by Will Hubbell Best for ages 5-8  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 0-8075-0397-5

From blossom to pollination to picking, this beautifully illustrated book details how apples grow, their various parts, and some of the different varieties. The rhyming text takes the reader on a year-long journey from winter with a young girl and her grandfather to spring with a boy and girl to summer where three children enjoy the orchard and watch apples develop through fall where two boys enjoy the harvest and fresh-from-the-tree apples. Another girl buys apples at a farm market and uses them to make a pie and others include apples in celebrations. The final page is

of a deer also enjoying the apples. The book also includes a detailed description of the apple production process, varieties, history and uses.

**Bananas** by Elaine Landau  
Price: \$24.00  
ISBN: 0-516-21025-4

Best for Ages 8-13

This text provides an A to Z overview of bananas. Banana history, botany, production, types, trade, ripening, nutrition and trivia are wrapped in colorful photos and informative text. The book closes with a glossary, an index and additional resources – books and Web sites.

**Bananas** by Jacqueline Farmer  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-88106-115-8

Best for Ages 7-12

Whatever a child would like to know about bananas can be explored in this colorful text. Banana production, types, trade, ripening, history, nutrition and trivia are wrapped in colorful artwork and informative text. The book closes with banana recipes and jokes.

**The Berry Book** by Gail Gibbons  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 0-8234-1697-6

Best for ages 4-8

Gail Gibbons has developed another excellent book on an agricultural topic. This time she weaves her storytelling magic about all sorts of berries. Her discussion of how berries grow in the wild and how they are cultivated in fields and gardens domestically includes the impact of climate. The author describes the uses of edible berries and even gives directions on how to grow strawberries. The colorfully illustrated book includes recipes for berry jams, pies and ice creams.

**Blueberries Grow on a Bush** by Mari Schuh  
Price: \$7.95  
ISBN-13: 978-1429652827

Best for ages Pre K-2

This book describes and illustrates how blueberries grow on bushes. The images support early readers in understanding the text. The book also introduces early readers to subject specific vocabulary words, which are defined in the glossary section.

**California Grapes** by Karen Adler  
Price: \$7.95  
ISBN: 0-86505-668-4

Best for ages 7-12

The content of this book, written in poem format is excellent. Unfortunately, the watercolor illustrations are a very mixed assortment. Images of the vines, vineyard and grapes are fine but the human illustrations are amateurish at best. Having made that observation, this is the best book available on this topic currently available. The author does a complete job of capturing this industry in California.

**The Fantastic Fruit Group** By: Marcie Aboff  
ISBN: 1429671602

You're hungry. What should you eat? With MyPyramid and Healthy Eating, it's easy to decide. Find out WHERE OUR FRUITS COME FROM, which NUTRIENTS WE GET FROM FRUIT, AND how many servings you need EACH DAY.

**From Apples to Apple Sauce** by Kristin Thoennes Keller

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2633-4

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences describing the harvest process through finished applesauce being sold to a consumer. It does a very complete depiction from tree to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The book ends with glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

**From Fruit to Jelly** by Shannon Zemlicka

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0942-4

As with the other books in this series, this early reader presents factual information in a few brief sentences per page with excellent pictures accompanying the text. All in all it does an excellent job of depicting the production of jelly from tree to consumer. This is information that most adults no longer understand.

**From Oranges to Orange Juice** by Kristin Thoennes Keller

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2636-5

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from tree to consumer. Of special interest is the whole processing aspect of orange juice production. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The book ends with a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

**From Pit to Peach Tree** by Ellen Weiss

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13: 978-0-531-18538-4

This book is unique in that it explains peach production from a peach pit. Each of the books in this series by the same author begins with vocabulary words and photographs depicting the meaning of the words. It identifies the term in bold letters and instructs the reader to look for the word in the text in its bold format. As a result this is a great vocabulary builder and reading for content book. Each page has three to five sentences and the facing page has an excellent photograph with a caption. The content covers how peaches are grown and harvested. Unfortunately, the book does not depict grafting and that is a major flaw in this book. The book ends with the peach life cycle and a glossary.

**From Shoot to Apple** by Stacy Taus-Bolstad

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0719-2

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The major flaw in the book is while it depicts grafting scion wood it depicts it being done on fairly mature trees. This type of grafting is done only when a grower wishes to change a block of apple trees from one variety into another. It would have been much better to depict grafting onto rootstock as is commonly done. The best feature of this book is that it depicts dwarf apple trees and most children's books show old-fashioned trees forty feet tall. The book ends with a glossary.

**Fruit** by Lynn M. Stone

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$27.07  
ISBN13:978-1-60044-552-1

This beautifully photographed book about fruit is basic but accurate. It is an excellent resource for any teacher trying to explain the difference between a fruit and a vegetable. This book would also be useful when teaching pollination and seed development.

**Fruits** By: Nancy Dickmann

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1432969730

Make a place for fruits in your diet. Once readers find out how nutritional fruit is, in addition to being delicious, they'll make a point to have it regularly. Read this book to learn about how to eat well and use MyPlate.

**Hooray for Orchards!** by Bobbie Kalman

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$7.95  
ISBN: 0-86505-667-6

This book provides a nice overview of orchards and fruit production of many types. It begins with a description of various types of fruit and which of those fruits are produced in orchards. Images depict modern dwarf varieties of apples, grafting, flowering and pollination, pruning, spraying. Harvesting and processing. While the book does address pests and pest control, one of the shortcomings of this book is the description near the end of the book on beneficial insects and pesticide use. The author over simplified a very complex issue. The book concludes with a short glossary and recipe for apple crisp. This book is a well written and illustrated source of information.

**How Do Apples Grow** by Betsy Maestro

Best for ages 5-10

Price: \$4.95  
ISBN: 0-06-445117-8

This well-illustrated book detailing apple production can be used in a unit teaching about seasons, pollination, parts of the flower, honey production or just apples. It does an excellent job depicting the total process from dormancy through apple harvest. A credible illustration of apple harvest depicts dwarf apple trees which are the modern image of an orchard and seen in very few

books of this type. This book is strongly recommended to teach about flower parts, pollination, fertilization and fruit growth.

**How Do You Raise a Raisin?** By Pam Munoz Ryan

Best for ages 5-10

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 1-57091-397-8

This funny and informative book about this ancient food delivers a multi-dimensional look at one of America's favorite healthy treats. The book explains how grapes become raisins, who introduced the seedless grape, raisins throughout history, nutrition, and the many uses for raisins besides snacks.

**I Like Berries** by Jennifer Julius

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-23054-9

This early-reader book focuses on the foods which contain berries. It depicts strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries with text and products. It contains text about cranberries and red currants but photos only of cranberry sauce and currant jam. The one glaring error is that the author confuses blackberries with black raspberries. The text describes blackberries but the photo is of both black and red raspberries. On a previous page the photo includes blackberries along with red raspberries. The book has a three-word glossary.

**I Like Oranges** by Robin Pickering

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-23011-5

While the chapter designations in this book are very artificial, this is one of the best books of the series. It depicts the fruit growing on trees and identifies it as a fruit. It also describes and depicts the structure of an orange and making juice. The book ends with a nice glossary.

**Johnny Appleseed: A Tall Tale by Steven Kellogg**

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$16.99

ISBN: 9-7806-8806417-4

While this book has been in print since 1988, its story and artwork are timeless. The well known story of Johnny Appleseed is enhanced with the author/artist's complex and colorful illustrations. A great addition to any library, this book is also a great fictional introduction to the topic of apples. As teachers weave folktales into their language arts instruction, this book is a must.

**My Apple Tree** by David Baur

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$15.93

ISBN: 0-7368-5974-8

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5974-5

Spanish/English Edition

ISBN: 0-7368-6010-X

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6101-9

This is an early reader book with short statement sentences in a large font. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book for a teacher to use to begin to teach reading for content. The content and picture could be used to begin to teach about the life cycle and seasons in science. The photographs enhance the text and depict modern dwarf apple trees not old fashioned 40-foot trees as so many books do. The Spanish/ English edition has the sentence in both Spanish and English on each page. This is most useful for teaching Spanish speaking children to learn English.

**Picking Apples and Pumpkins** by Amy and Richard Hutchings Best for ages 5-7  
Price: \$3.95

ISBN: 0-590-48456-7

This book would be a good one to read in the fall when pumpkins and apples are being harvested. Harvest is really the only connection between the two. The very traditional text and images depict a traditional family with grandmother taking a trip to the farm and harvesting their own apples and pumpkins. A warning is needed to address the hazards of climbing in trees and reaching to pick fruit.

**The Legend of Johnny Appleseed: The Graphic Novel** by Martin Powel Best for ages 9-12  
Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 978-1-4342-1895-7

Little Johnny Appleseed had a big heart, and even bigger dreams. The young boy hoped to one day spread his love of apples by planting apple seeds across the entire country. That way, the apples can feed the hungry, and everyone can enjoy the beautiful trees. So, one day, Johnny sets out to do just that! His adventures bring him face to face with an injured wolf, a giant catfish, the Bigfoot, and much more in this tall tale of a true American legend.

**Seed, Sprout, Fruit: An Apple Tree Cycle** By Shannon Knudsen Best for Elementary  
ISBN-13: 978-1429662307

In this graphic novel format, text and illustrations describe the life cycle of an apple tree. Great to introduce students to the life cycle of an apple tree.

**A Story about Raisins** by Karen A. Adler Best for ages 5-7  
Price: \$14.95

ISBN: 0-9679772-3-1

This book for young readers gives a brief overview of raisins. It describes a bit of their history, production and uses. The book contains four simple recipes that children can make themselves. The book also contains a CD with 3 songs.

**The Story of Orange Juice** by Lisa Trumbauer Best for ages 7-11  
Price: \$15.93

ISBN: 0-7368-5846-6

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5846-5

This is an early reader book has about three sentences per page. Vocabulary words are bold and a glossary defines those words in the back of the book. The content is accurate and for an early reader book tells the story very well. The text would be very useful to teach life cycle,

pollination, and pollinators using oranges as the topic. It also contains good nutritional information and could be used to teach a sequential process in meeting human needs in social studies.

**Tall and Tasty: Fruit Trees** by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 7-13

Price: \$26.60

ISBN: 0-8225-2837-1

*Tall and Tasty: Fruit Trees* is packed with information about apples, peaches, mangoes, figs and citrus. Each chapter examines the discovery and migration of these plants as well as their roles in cooking, technology and world cultures. Through a close-up look at planting, pollination, harvesting, and processing, readers will also learn how fruit crops make their way from field to table.

**Up, Up, Up! Its Apple-Picking Time** by Jody Fickes Shapiro

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$21.26

ISBN13: 978-0-82341-610-3

While this book does have some limitations content wise, it has strength in reconnecting the non-farm public to the farm. The heartwarming tale of a family visiting the grandparent's orchard to pick apples and picnic will be a favorite with children. The inside cover of the book has illustrated versions of many apples, some common, others heirloom varieties. As the book is used, please address that large full-grown apple trees are rarely seen on most farms. Newer dwarf varieties are much safer for pickers to harvest and yield a high quality fruit with less energy and pest control chemicals required. The one caution is that students need to be told that due to the dangers of E. coli contamination, drop apples are no longer harvested for pressing into cider. They should be left on the ground where insect damage, rodent and bird droppings contaminate them.

**We Love Fruit** by Fay Robinson

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-46006-4

This early-reader book begins to teach students about fruit. A few basic concepts are addressed superficially, which is appropriate at this age level. The nice photos enhance the text.

**What's for Lunch, Banana** by Pam Robson

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$18.52

ISBN: 0-516-26217-3

As with the other books in this series, the colorful, high-quality photographs complement the text and tell half the story. The book accurately depicts planting bananas, banana growth, plant structure, harvesting, processing and ripening bananas. The book concludes with shipping bananas and familiar foods made from bananas and an excellent glossary.

**A Visit to the Apple Orchard** by Patricia J. Murphy

Best for Ages 4-7

Price:

ISBN13: 978-1-4296-0081-1

This book about the basics of apple production and packing is available in both an English/Spanish edition and English version. This recommendation is the English/Spanish version. The colorful photos are accurate portrayals of modern apple production and enhance the basic text. The one shortcoming is that the one photo of a tractor in the book is of a tractor without rollover protection. The books contains a glossary, Internet sites, and index in both English and Spanish.

## General

**Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z** by Lois Ehlert      Best for ages 2-5  
Price: 0-15-224435-2  
ISBN: \$16.00

In brilliant watercolor collages, Lois Ehlert introduces young readers to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables from A to Z. Clearly labeled and easy to identify, the collection includes favorites such as apples, bananas, potatoes and tomatoes - as well as some less common edibles like jalapeño peppers and radicchio. This book includes a glossary which offers useful an interesting information about each fruit and vegetable.

**The Fresh Tastes from the Garden State** by Carol Byrd-Bredbenner      Best for ages 14 to  
Price: \$32.00      Adult, and  
ISBN: 0-8135-3129-2      Teacher Reference

While this book focuses on one state, New Jersey, the content, recipes and photos cross those boundaries and are suitable anywhere. Each chapter examines a fruit, group of fruits or vegetable and describes its history, impact on culture, its nutrition and phyto-nutrition and how it is sold and used. Modern production practices are illustrated and beautifully photographed. Each item of produce is depicted on the plant as it grows.

**How Plants Grow** by Angela Royston      Best for ages 5-8  
ISBN: 1-575-72538-x

How does a plant's life begin? What do plants need to make them grow? Why do some trees lose their leaves in the fall? All of these answers and more are found in this simple introduction to plant life book. The book also includes a glossary, a plant map, and other suggested books to read.

**Growing Colors** by Bruce McMillan      Best for ages 2-5  
Price: \$16.99  
ISBN: 0-688-07844-4

The wonderful photographs of this book are designed to help teach more about colors than plants but a skillful reader can use it to teach both.

**Lan's Plant** by Sandy Riggs      Best for ages 5-7  
Price: \$3.99  
ISBN: 0-7641-3287-3

Readers Clubhouse presents a comprehensive program for young readers that reviews the short-a vowels and the short-e vowels while telling a story of a girl and her plant, how she cares for her plant and watches it grow.

**Plant Cycle** by Ray James

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$22.79

ISBN: 1-60044-180-7

While a very basic text, this book covers all appropriate information about seeds, germination, flowering, and pollination. The excellent photographs enhance the limited text and tell a good part of the message. Various dissemination methods and adaptations to differing climates are also included. One nice addition is the inclusion of trees and nuts which many books omit.

**Plant Secrets** by Emily Goodman

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 978-1-58089-204-9

This colorful book explains how plants grow from seeds to fruit. The book takes the reader on a step by step journey on how seeds become plants with leaves, and then flowers that get pollinated, and then produce fruits that are filled with seeds!

**The World of Plants** by Stephanie Macceca

Best for ages 9-12

Price: \$27.99

ISBN: 9780756543044

Plants are amazing food factories. They make their own food from sunlight, water, air, and soil. They also provide food nuts, berries, leaves, roots, stalks, and other plant parts that humans and other animals eat. Plants create material for our clothes, houses, and furniture, and even the oxygen we need to breathe.

### **Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2007**

**A Seed in Need** by Sam Godwin

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$22.60

ISBN: 1-4048-0920-1

A first look at the plant cycle has never been so fun. In this book a colorful parade of inquisitive insects follow the progress of a sunflower seed in this first look at the life cycle of a sunflower. This book would be a great accompaniment for a lesson on planting seeds.

**Seeds Grow!** by Angela Shelf Medearis

Best for ages 3-6

Price: \$3.99

ISBN: 0-590-37974-7

Basic plant germination and growth is described in rhyming poetry. This colorful book by Scholastic is designed for early readers. Without complex detail, germination, plant growth, flowering and pollination are identified. Activities in the back of the book are most suitable for first graders or children who have begun to read.

**Senses on the Farm** by Shelley Rotner

Best for ages 3-6

Price: \$23.95  
ISBN: 978-0-8225-8623-4

Shelley Rotner's vivid photographs help you see, hear, taste, smell and touch your way through a season on a working farm. Our only concern with this book was a picture of an out-dated tractor, besides that it is a fun read!

**Seed, Soil, Sun** by Cris Peterson  
Price: \$17.95  
ISBN: 978-1-59078-713-7

Best for ages 4-8

In this clearly written and beautifully photographed book, Peterson describes the seemingly miraculous process by which air and water combine with seed, soil, and sun to create nearly all the food we eat. Using the corn plant as an example, she takes the reader through the story of germination and growth of a tiny corn seed into a giant plant reaching high into the air with roots extending over six feet into the ground. The book also discusses the make-up of soil and the amazing creatures who live there from microscopic one-celled bacteria to moles, amoebas, and earthworms. Once again, Cris Peterson brings both wonder and clarity to the subject of agriculture, celebrating the cycle of growth, harvest, and renewal.

**The Tiny Seed** by Eric Carle  
Price: \$18.95  
ISBN: 0-88708-015-4

Best for ages 4-7

Eric Carle's fanciful collages give this fictional story plenty for young children to view. Intended more as a book to interest children in nature, the book does contain some factual information for young children.

**The True History of Chocolate** by Sophie Coe and Michael Coe  
Price: \$21.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-500-28696-8

Best for ages 12- Adult

This thoroughly research and engaging book details the story of chocolate. It covers the early history of chocolate with the Olmecs, Mayans and Aztecs, its travel and success in Europe, to today's modern mass production. This is a scientific study of the social and cultural history of chocolate. The author's documentation and insights make for a unique study of a major food as well as providing insight into Western history of colonial rule, the Renaissance and modern global trade. The illustrations are wonderful and greatly enhance an already superb text.

**Tops and Bottoms** by Janet Stevens  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 0-15-29285-10

Best for ages 4-8

Unfortunately, it is virtually impossible to avoid anthropomorphication of animals in children's fiction books. In spite of that fact, we are recommending this book because of the information it delivers. Bear and hare are involved in a gardening project. Hare, the book's main character, tricks his lazy colleagues into sharing crops which only benefit the hard work of the hare. During the process children learn which foods grow above the ground and which grow below the ground, hence the title - tops and bottoms. This is a great book to introduce gardening topics.

**Understanding Photosynthesis with Max Axiom** by Liam O'Donnell Best for ages 7-11  
Price: \$25.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6841-9

This colorful, comic-format book will capture the attention of those student with an interest in super heroes. Max Axiom is projected to be a super-hero scientist. He explains photosynthesis at an age appropriate level. The one shortcoming of this book is when it deviates from the topic and strays into the global warming issue.

**Up, Down, and Around** by Katherine Ayres  
ISBN: 978-0763640170

From seeds dropping into soil to corn bursting from its stalks, from children chasing butterflies to ants burrowing underground, everything in this vibrant picture book pulses with life — in all directions! Sprightly illustrations set the mood for a rhythmic text that follows nature's course to a feast of backyard bounty.

**The Yummy Alphabet Book: Herbs, Spices and Other Natural Flavors** by Jerry Pallotta  
Price: \$16.95 Best for ages 4-8  
ISBN: 10-0-88106-898-5

In this subject-oriented alphabet book the light-hearted style of Pallotta is expressed through mysterious and informative watercolors and creative alphabetic spice suggestions for cooks of all ages. This book is imaginative in introducing spices and herbs from ginger and garlic to bearberry which can only be eaten by bears.

**What Is a Plant?** by Bobbie Kalman Best for ages 7-12  
Price: \$5.95  
ISBN: 0-86505-959-4

This book provides a nice overview of plants. It identifies plant characteristics, their structures, the function of those structures, adaptations which plants have made to stay alive, how plants make food, novel ways plants meet their nutritional needs, germination, pollination and fertilization, seed dispersal and uses of seeds. It includes information on carnivorous and parasitic plants, vegetative reproduction, and forests. The book's one serious shortcoming occurs at the end of the text. In the "Threats to Plants" section, the information under wetlands and forests is a reiteration of commonly held environmental beliefs, several of which have no scientific basis. The statement that tropical rainforests are being cut down to make room for cattle ranches is the most egregious. If this book is used, that is an area for discussion and to point out to students that just because a statement is in print does not make it true. (Tropical forests are cut down for a type of slash-and-burn agriculture which cannot be sustained in fragile tropical soils. Grazing cattle is the last use of areas cleared when no other crops can be produced.) It is unfortunate that the author did not stop before including this section of the book.

**50 Words About Plants** by David and Patricia Armentrout Best for ages 4-8  
Price: \$28.99  
ISBN13: 978-1-5895-2345-6

Rather than a text this book is more of an illustrated dictionary of plant terms. Well defined and accompanied by excellent photographs the words included are and excellent representation of words typical for plant production and scientific study. While very basic this is a good starting book to develop sound understandings of plants and science.

## Grains and Grain Foods

**Grains** By: Nancy Dickmann  
ISBN: 1432969757

Best for elementary school

In Grains, children learn what grains are, about different types of grains, and how eating grains can help us to stay healthy.

**The Great Grains Group By:** Marcie Aboff  
ISBN: 1429671610

Best for elementary school

You're hungry. What should you eat? With MyPyramid and Healthy Eating, it's easy to decide. Find out WHERE OUR GRAINS COME FROM, WHAT NUTRIENTS WE GET FROM GRAINS, AND how many servings you need EACH day.

## Bread and Wheat

**Borlaug: Volume 3 Bread winner 1960-1969** by Noel Vietmeyer Best for High School and up  
ISBN-13: 978-0578069203

Off and on over the years, the two [Borlaug and Noel] traveled together, and Borlaug eventually related roughly 300 personal experiences. They included life-and-death adventures as well as coincidences, escapes from financial disaster, squabbles with those who disagreed with his methods (virtually everyone), and farmers who many times came to the rescue just as his program was about to be axed. These stories make up the heart and soul of this multivolume biography of the unheralded scientist who gave the world its daily bread.

**Bread** by Eric Treuille  
Price: \$20.00  
ISBN: 978-0756-1889-6

Best for ages 12-Adult

This book moves beyond the basic how bread is made from wheat to display and explains how cultures interpret bread and how bread impacts culture. It explains and displays a wide variety of bread from across the globe, explains the characteristic of each and explains the area it developed and sometimes what its name signifies. This is an updated, paperback edition of the book *Ultimate Bread*.

**Bread, Bread, Bread** by Ann Morris  
Price: \$15.99  
ISBN: 0-688-06334-9

Best for ages 6-8

This book shares the idea that people eat bread all around the world and explores the forms which bread takes in each of those cultures. As an early-reader book this book does not contain too much detail but the excellent photographs help tell the story very well. The index contains pictures and identifies where each type of bread originates.

**Bread Comes to Life** by George Levenson

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$15.99

ISBN: 1-58246-114-7

This book shares the story of wheat in a rhyming poem and excellent photographs. Unfortunately, the effort to successfully complete the rhyme precludes using modern production techniques in the telling. Accurate up to the baker sowing the seed in his back yard, the story includes hand harvesting and threshing the wheat instead of the modern use of sowing seed in large fields using a seed drill and combine. While the poem and images are not technically incorrect they are not modern. The best use of this book would be as an accompaniment with another book that included modern images. The index contains pictures and detailed descriptions and student centered activities.

**Bread Is For Eating** by David and Phyllis Gershator

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$6.95 (paperback)

ISBN: 0-8050-5798-6

While this book does depict some stereotypical images it does provide an accurate description of the story of wheat. The story is colorfully illustrated using modern production techniques for the most part as it takes the reader on a journey from field to meal. A nice addition is the bilingual text, introduction of Spanish words, Guatemalan fold art and the depiction of a variety of peoples and the forms their breads take.

**Celebrate Wheat** By: Dan Yunk

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 978-0979765339

This is the fourth book in the award-winning Kailey's Ag Adventures authored by Yunk. Dan dedicates this book to the "real" Grandma in the book series - his wife Cheryl. More than a loving spouse, a wonderful mother and a proud grandmother, Cheryl is an inspiration to Dan who has admired her courage in the face of adversity, her passion about causes important to her and her zest for life since they first met on a blind date over 40 years ago.

**Everybody Bakes Bread** by Norah Dooley

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-87614-895-X

On a rainy Saturday, what is better to do than to bake bread? Carrie and her brother bicker so much that their mother sends Carrie on a fool's errand to borrow a rolling pin. Each house she stops at a new kind of bread is offered to her and by the time she returns home the bread is ready at her house. This tummy warming story is both informational and fun for families to enjoy together as each new kind of bread represents a household of a different culture.

**Everybody Eats Bread** by Janet Reed

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$15.93

ISBN: 0-7368-2909-1  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2909-0

This is an early reader book with short statement sentences in a large font. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book for a teacher to use to begin to teach reading for content. The content and picture could be used to begin to teach about cultures and meeting human needs in social studies. The photographs are excellent and enhance the text.

**From Wheat to Bread** by Kristin Thoennes Keller Best for ages 7-10  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2638-9

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with depicting wheat kernels and moves to harvesting wheat. Most students and teachers have never seen wheat seeds. The excellent photographs depict modern production and processing. The book ends with wheat weaving, a glossary, a recipe and recommended Internet sites.

**From Wheat to Bread** by Pam Marshall Best for ages 4-8  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN: 0-8225-0715-3

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with planting a wheat field as well as harvesting one. This is rarely seen in children's books or textbooks. The excellent photographs depict modern production and but the processing depicts much more old fashioned processes and equipment. The book ends with a glossary.

**From Wheat to Bread** by Stacy Taus-Bolstad Best for ages 4-8  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0715-4

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with planting a wheat field as well as harvesting one. This is rarely seen in children's books or textbooks. The excellent photographs depict modern production and but the bread making depicts much more old fashioned processes and equipment. The book ends with a glossary.

**From Wheat to Pasta** by Robert Egan Best for ages 6-9  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-516-26069-3

The excellent photographs beautifully illustrate this story from the wheat to the finished meal. The photos and story depict the growing wheat, combining wheat, grain elevators, milling flour, and making pasta. The book closes with photos and descriptions of six different types of pasta.

**Loaves of Fun** by Elizabeth Harbison  
Price \$14.95  
ISBN: 1-55652-311-4

Best for ages 8-adult

The text of this book is much better than its black-line illustrations. The illustrations are rudimentary at best while the text is well researched and written. The book starts in 8000 B.C. in Asia with the first known use of a ground grain and water mixture. It ends with a look at a modern bakery today. Included are breads from many countries, cultures and celebrations. Beyond bread, it includes recipes for poster paints, squeeze paints and play dough that use wheat flour as an ingredient. The book ends with a well-developed glossary.

**Our Daily Bread: the Essential Norman Borlaug** By: Noel Vietmeyer  
ISBN: 0578095556

This book shows why "Borlaug" should also be a household name. It portrays the making of a modern miracle that is unique, unknown, and of universal benefit. It is the story of how one man saved billions from certain hunger.

**Ultimate Bread** by Eric Treuille and Ursula Ferrigno  
Price: \$20.00  
ISBN: 0-7894-3513-6

Best for ages 12-Adult

Other books make the wheat-to-bread connection for younger students. This book moves beyond that to display and explain how cultures interpret bread and how bread impacts culture. It explains and displays a wide variety of bread from across the globe, explains the characteristic of each and explains the area it developed and sometimes what its name signifies.

**Wheat (A True Book)** by Elaine Landau  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-516-26792-2

Best for ages 7-13

As with the other books written by this author this text provides an accurate and comprehensive look at wheat. From the early cultivation of wheat over 17,000 years ago through modern culture today, the text and photos tell wheat's story. The author has even depicted and described the milling process. The author does a good job describing the six classes of wheat and difference between winter and spring wheat. The one small flaw appears in the caption of a photo which identifies large round bales of wheat straw as bales of hard red winter wheat. The book ends with a good glossary.

## **Corn and Corn Foods**

**Burro's Tortillas** by Terry Fields  
Price: \$8.95  
ISBN13: 978-934359-18-1

Best for ages 5-7

This is a tortilla version of the little red hen's story of bread making from wheat but the burro make tortillas from corn. The story follows the same pattern that none of the characters but the burro is interested in helping when there is work to be done but they are interested in eating the product of that work. While we usually do not recommend books that anthropomorphize

animals, in this instance the accuracy of the process warrants that we include this book. The book concludes with classroom appropriate student activities and instructions for making tortillas.

**Corn (A True Book)** by Elaine Landau

Best for ages 7-13

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-26759-0

This excellent book takes a thorough look at corn by providing high quality, sound information in both text and image. It provides a comprehensive overview of types of corn and their uses, how and where corn grows, the history of corn, and the uses of corn for food and more. The book provides text and photos which describe using corn in both food and non-food items and even the most surprising uses. It also includes a section on corn breeding and its use in creating renewable fuels and biodegradable plastics. The book ends with a good glossary.

**Corn (an A to Z book)** By: Susan Anderson, JoAnne Buggey

Best for ages 7-11

ISBN: 978-1-926781-02-0

The book introduces young readers to agriculture by providing basic information on corn. The information is presented simply and to the point. Young readers learn where corn comes from, how it is used and its relationship to the economy, environment and energy consumption.

**Corn** by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$16.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8234-2169-5

As with most of the books developed by Gail Gibbons this one depicts the agricultural information correctly. The artwork is simple but correct. Unlike most books about corn this book describes the difference between the four major types of corn and provides further descriptors of their individual uses. It is unique in that it depicts the corn silk as the pollen tube that it is and an illustration shows the process of fertilization of a single kernel on an ear. It also depicts the multitude of ways in which corn is used in a variety of food and non-food items. If there was only one book on corn that could be purchased for a school this would be the book that we recommend.

**Corn** by Lisa Trumbauer

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$15.93

ISBN: 0-7368-5846-6

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5846-5

This is an early reader book about three sentences per page. Vocabulary words are bold and a glossary defines those words in the back of the book. The content is accurate and for an early reader book tells the story very well. The text deals with corn's origins but is not quite accurate here. It states that corn grew wild and Native Americans learned how to use it. This is not the case. Corn was developed by humans from its wild ancestors. That is the only technical inaccuracy and is a relatively minor one.

**From Corn to Cereal** by Roberta Basel

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4284-6

This is one of the best books in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from seed to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The growing cornfield is so vibrant one can almost hear the rustle of leaves in the breeze and the sweet corny sent that surrounds a cornfield on a hot and humid day. The book ends with a page on the Corn Palace of South Dakota, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

**From Kernel to Corn** by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0944-8

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The image of a farmer plowing a field is not accurate but the rest of the book is fairly sound in image and text. It depicts sweet corn production from seedling to consumer. There is an excellent page describing why farmers use pesticides to control weeds and insects that compete with and/or damage crops.

**From Kernel to Corncob** by Ellen Weiss

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13:978-0-531-18536-0

Each of the books in this series by the same author begins with vocabulary words and photographs depicting the meaning of the words. It identifies the term in bold letters and instructs the reader to look for the word in the text in its bold format. As a result this is a great vocabulary builder and reading for content book. Each page has three to five sentences and the facing page has an excellent photograph with a caption. The content covers how corn is grown and harvested. This is the weakest book of the series. Unfortunately, it never explains that sweet corn and field corn are different and used differently. It uses the images of each interchangeably. It does not show field corn dried down nor mechanical harvesting. Also, the sequence of photos in this book does not accurately accompany the text the way the other books in the series does. Either the author should have just depicted sweet corn and left out any references to field corn or she should have explained the difference and included more information about field corn, its uses and production. The book ends with the corn life cycle and a glossary.

**I Like Corn** by Robin Pickering

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-23009-3

This early-reader book provides basic information about corn. It does not differentiate between sweet corn and field corn but discusses both as food, a problem on two levels. The text describes corn as a vegetable. We eat sweet corn as a vegetable but is (botanically) a fruit. On the other hand, field corn is considered a grain. This book nicely depicts corn growing and one method of irrigation, corn in the husk, on the cob, tamale making, and foods made with corn. The book ends with a nice glossary.

**The Life and Times of Corn** by Charles Micucci  
Price: \$10.95  
ISBN 978-0618507511

Best for Ages 4-7

In this latest addition to the Life and Times series, Micucci presents fascinating facts and cheerful illustrations as he tells the story of the rock star of grains--corn--and its rich history in America. Full color.

**Popcorn** by Elaine Landau  
Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 1-57091-443-5

Best for ages 5-9

Join the zany popcorn-loving raccoon on a journey through the history and science of popcorn. You'll learn where archaeologists found 5,600 year old ears of popcorn, how a hard little kernel turns into a fluffy snack and much more! While the book is a bit silly, it encompasses everything you ever wanted to know about popcorn! Take the opportunity to have children seek out the ridiculous images and correct them as you read the book. (Hint: The Pilgrims did not watch football on television at the first Thanksgiving.)

**The Popcorn Book** by Tomie de Paola  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-8234-0533-8

Best for ages 5-9

This engaging book entertains as it instructs. Designed as a quick and fun overview of popcorn, most of the information is accurate. The one exception is that the description of Indians holding an ear of popcorn over a fire on a stick is untrue. As American Indians pointed out when reviewing the book, it is absurd to believe anyone would pop corn in this way. As the kernels popped they would fly all over the place and be lost as a food. This can be used as a teachable moment to students to instruct them that just because something is written does not guarantee its accuracy.

**The Story of Corn** by Betty Fussel  
Price: \$16.47  
ISBN13: 978-0-8263-3592-6

Best for ages 12- Adult

Largely a historic look at the history of corn and its impact on the world, this book documents corn from its earliest roots to today. The author examines the cultural influences and ways that corn has been woven into the culture of earlier American societies and the culture of today's civilizations. While the book mainly discusses field corn there is a bit about popcorn and sweet corn. Corn as human food, animal feed, converted into alcohol, and now as a renewable fuel, this book addresses each area with factual discernment not rose-colored glasses. Perhaps of particular interest to those learning about Meso-American cultures, the author weaves text illustration, poetry and photos throughout the book.

**The Story of Corn** By: Mary Lindeen  
ISBN: 1429686413

Best for middle school

Did you know that corn was on the first thanksgiving menu? Find out how Native Americans introduced European settlers to corn and how it has become an important crop to people and animals around the world. From growing corn to enjoying it on the plate, learn the story of corn.

## Other Grains

**Glorious Grasses, The Grains** by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 10-18

Price: \$26.60

ISBN: 978-0822-5283-19

This series provides a wealth of information on each topic. It covers seven major grains in a fairly complete fashion. The first two-thirds of the book are dedicated to the three major grains; wheat, rice and corn.

**The Life of Rice** By Richard Sobol

Best for Middle school

ISBN-13: 978-0763632526

Rice is one of the most abundant and widely grown crops in the world today. In Thailand, rice is grown everywhere—and it is almost always a part of every meal. Photographer Richard Sobol invites us on a journey to Thailand to explore the life of rice: from the beginning of the growing season at the Royal Plowing Ceremony, to the hard work of transplanting and harvesting the rice plants, and finally ending with a delicious dinner—of rice, of course! Illustrated with beautiful photographs of the farmers and rice fields of Thailand, this is a firsthand account of one of the world's most valuable and important crops.

**What's for Lunch, Rice** by Pam Robson

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-26224-6

Representative of rice production worldwide, the book depicts planting seed rice through harvest and consumption. Although a bit confusing, photos of the high-tech method of rice production of the United States are interspersed with those of the hand-labor production methods in developing countries. This is the weakest book in the series but recommended because of a lack of any other book depicting modern rice production. The book mentions insect damage and the need for chemical intervention but the photo accompanying the text is of fertilizer application by hand. It concludes with familiar foods made from rice and an excellent glossary.

## Legumes

**I Like Peanuts** by Jennifer Julius

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-23058-1

As with other books in this early reader series, this book focuses most on products made from peanuts. It has a nice photos of peanuts still attached to the plant and makes it clear that the peanuts develop underground. That process is not discussed. It also makes clear that peanuts are not a nut in a woody husk or shell, but a seed in a pod. The book ends with a nice glossary.

**From Peanut to Peanut Butter** by Kristin Thoennes Keller

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2637-2

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from seed to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The book ends with a page on George Washington Carver, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

**From Peanut to Peanut Butter** by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0944-8

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. This is one of the best books in the series and while it does not show the peanuts growing underground it does depict the whole plant with the peanuts attached at the roots, harvesting, sorting, roasting and peanut butter making. The book ends with a glossary.

**Seed to Peanut** by Oliver S. Owen

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$22.78

ISBN: 1-56239-489-4

This story tells about peanuts from A to Z. It provides the history of the peanut, its structure and growing habits, peanut farming, George Washington Carver, the use of peanuts, and how to grow peanuts in a short 25 pages of text. The book contains an excellent glossary. Excellent photographs and illustrations enhance the information presented.

### **Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2010**

**\*\*Soybeans an A to Z book** by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Buggey

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$9.95

ISBN: 978-0-98113355-1-5

The book introduces young readers to agriculture by providing basic information on soybeans. The information is presented simply and to the point. Young readers learn where soybeans come from, how they are used and their relationship to the economy, environment and energy consumption.

### **Winner of the Book of the Year Award**

Best for ages 9-12

**\*\*Soybeans in The Story of Agriculture** by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Buggey

Price: \$9.95

ISBN: 978-0-98113355-2-2

The book introduces students to five stages of soybeans as they make their way from farm to table. Each stage is explained in a separate chapter and each chapter is color coded. This series of books presents easy-to-read text blocks, illustrated with photos and captions. Important facts

about soybeans are highlighted in tinted boxes to reinforce their importance. The book includes soybean activities.

**Spill the Beans and Pass the Peanuts, Legumes** by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 10-18

Price: \$26.60

ISBN: 0-8225-2834-7

This series provides a wealth of information on several types of legumes. The book covers peanuts, lentils, peas, and beans. Each chapter covers the vegetable's history, sources, production methods, and uses. In some cases, nutritional benefits are addressed.

**The Super Soybean** by Raymond Bial

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$16.95

ISBN-10: 0-807-57549-6

ISBN-13: 978-0807575499

This book captures the A-Z of soybeans. From seed to harvest the photos and text depict how soybeans are grown, harvested, chipped, and marketed. Unlike many other books about food crops this one also describes how soybeans are used for other purposes like crayons, ink, fuel, plastics, and soap. The readers will learn that the United States produces more soybeans than any other country – over 3 billion bushels per year. The book also describes the history and origins of the soybean in China and how they came to grown in the United States so plentifully. Early advocates and researchers included George Washington Carver and Henry Ford. The excellent photographs nicely complement the accurate text.

## **Pumpkins**

**See Also:** **Picking Apples and Pumpkins** under the Fruits heading.

**From Seed to Pumpkin** by Wendy Pfeffer

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$15.99

ISBN: 0-06-028038-7

It is unfortunate that this wonderful books has to open with the farmer standing in bib-overalls with a hoe in his had and a straw hat on his head. Three for three stereotypes on the first page of a book is an unusual negative accomplishment. It is unfortunate because the rest of the book is wonderful. It accurately depicts germination; pumpkin plants growing and flowering; pollination by bees; young pumpkins growing; larger pumpkins growing and still green; pumpkins changing colors; and uses for pumpkins. In fact, unlike almost all other books about pumpkins, this one is accurate. That is why we are recommending it in spite of the stereotypes. Please address that when using this book.

**Pick a Perfect Pumpkin: Learning about Pumpkin Harvests** By: Robin Koontz Elementary

ISBN-13: 978-1404863880

Autumn is time to harvest pumpkins. Come along on a trip to a pumpkin farm. Learn where pumpkins come from and how to store them.

**The Pumpkin Book** by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 5-9

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-8234-1465-5

This is one of the few pumpkin books which explains that pumpkins are a member of the squash family and that there are different varieties and each has a different purpose. As with her other books, Gail does a great job of getting the information correct. This book provides a nice overview of how pumpkins grown, their history, uses, and includes a few fun activities.

**Pumpkin Circle** by George Levinson

Best for ages 4-6

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-8075-6666-7

This book contains more excellent photographs of the life cycle of the pumpkin than any other book on any topic. The poetry of the text winds in and around these photographs like the tendrils of a pumpkin vine, snaring your imagination and trapping your interest in where the story will lead. Unlike most books this one truly tells the story of the life cycle as a cycle complete with seeds for the next crop and the decomposition of the pumpkin back into the soil.

**Pumpkin Jack** by Will Hubbell

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-8075-6666-7

Join Jack in his voyage of discovery as he experiences death, decomposition and rebirth as his Jack-o-lantern fades, rots and new plants grow from a seed left inside the pumpkin shell. That seed sprouts and the growth leads to a new crop of pumpkins.

**Pumpkins** by Jacqueline Farmer

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 1-57091-557-1

From Halloween jack-o-lanterns to Thanksgiving pie, pumpkins brighten up autumn days in so many ways. This book discusses where pumpkins come from, why we carve them on Halloween, and how to make pumpkin pie. This book brings you facts about pumpkins and can help to teach geography, history, nutrition, and life sciences.

**Too Many Pumpkins** by Linda White

Best for Ages 4-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-8234-1320-9

This colorful work of fiction will charm the students who hear it or read it. In the process they will learn that pumpkins grow from seeds. The pumpkin plant grows as a vine. Pumpkins are harvested in the fall and the many uses of pumpkins as food and decorations.

## **Sugar and Syrup**

**From Cane to Sugar** by Roberta Basel  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4283-9

Best for ages 7-10

This is another in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cane to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. Particular attention is paid to the total sugar making process. A few of the photographs are common in several books but this book has additional images that clarify the sugar-making process. This book depicts sugar making from sugar cane but also includes sugar beets. The book ends with a glossary and index.

**From Cane to Sugar** by Jill Braithwaite  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2637-2

Best for ages 5-7

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cane to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. Particular attention is paid to the total sugar making process. The book ends with a glossary and index.

**From Maple Tree to Maple Syrup** by Kristin Thoennes Keller  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-1390-0

Best for ages 7-10

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. Unlike the next book on the list, this book depicts both bucket and modern collection of sap. It does a very complete description from tree to consumer. The book ends with a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

**From Maple Tree to Syrup** by Melanie Mitchell  
Price: \$19.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2634-1

Best for ages 4-8

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The major flaw in the book is that the images of collecting sap are all with buckets – the old fashioned way to do this. There is one picture that depicts the modern system but is not addressed. The best feature of this book is it depicts a newly planted sugar bush not more than a year or two old. This fosters the concept of trees as a renewable resource. The book ends with a glossary.

**Sugar (A True Book)** by Elaine Landau  
ISBN13: 978-0-5162-1027-8

Best for ages 7-13

As with the other books written by this author, this text provides an accurate and comprehensive look at sugar from both sugar cane and sugar beets. From the early cultivation of sugar in India and China and other sweet sources around the world to the introduction of the sugar to the America's and Africa to modern culture today, the text and photos tell sugar's story. This book moves beyond basic reader level and presents the complex story of sugar in a very comprehensive manner. The book ends with a good glossary and recommendations for other books and Web sites. .

## Trees, Forestry and Wood Products

**Christmas Tree Farm** by Ann Purmell

Best for ages 7-13

Price: \$16.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8234-1886-2

This book examines the production and marketing of Christmas trees. It begins with harvest on a family-owned Christmas tree farm but progresses to planting tree seedlings in the spring. It includes tree trimming and the benefits of a tree farm to wildlife. This is a very comprehensive look at Christmas tree farming

**Forestry** by Jane Drake, Ann Love and Pat Cupples

Best for ages 7-14

Price: \$5.95

ISBN13: 978-1-5533-7423-7

This book examines commercial forestry – the processes and benefits. It includes research and development, raising seedlings, planting trees, forest fires, tree farming, clear cutting, marking trees, logging, removing trees in challenging locations, lumber mills, papermaking and ends with wildlife habitat. This is a very comprehensive look at forestry.

**From Tree to Paper** by Pam Marshall

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 0-8225-0720-X

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with replanting a forest. This fosters the concept of trees as a renewable resource. The excellent photographs depict modern production and processing from tree to paper. The book ends with a glossary.

**From Tree to Table** by Jill Braithwaite

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 0-8225-0947-4

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with replanting a forest. This fosters the concept of trees as a renewable resource. This

book is weaker than the previous text and depicts much more old fashioned processes and equipment. The book ends with a glossary.

### **Book of the Year**

**The Tree Farmer** by Chuck Leavell and Nicholas Cravotta

Best for ages 6-14

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 1-893622-16-9

This is the story of a tree farmer, his love of the land and his appreciation for the beauty of trees and forests. As he shares that love, he is challenged by his grandson to explain how he can grow beautiful trees only to cut them down. Ready to meet that challenge, the tree farmer shares his knowledge and understanding of trees as a renewable resource. He also shares his love of the products trees provide and how they touch the souls of the people whose lives they grace. The author (Rolling Stones' keyboardist Chuck Leavell) shares his second life as a tree farmer. This is a book that shares a farmer's love of the land and wise use of its resources. It reaches out to touch the heart of the reader in a way few accurate books about agriculture do. Most books connect to the public's feelings only when they are tearing down agriculture or modern agricultural practices. This is exactly the type of book we need to reconnect the public to those who produce their food, forest and renewable fuels products.

### **Vegetables**

**Buried Treasure, Roots and Tubers** by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 10-16

Price: \$26.60

ISBN: 0-8225-2830-4

This series provides a wealth of information on each topic. Discussing foods which grow in the ground can be tricky because some are roots, some modified stems, some leaves, etc. This book handles those issues nicely by just addressing roots and tubers. The book covers five topics in some detail the last of which is divided into three root crops.

**Carrots Grow Underground** by Mari Schuh

Best for Prek-2

ISBN-13: 978-1429661850

Simple text and photographs describe how carrots grow underground. The images support early readers in understanding the text. The book also introduces early readers to subject specific vocabulary words, which are defined in the glossary section.

**From Eye to Potato** by Ellen Weiss

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13:978-0-531-18535-3

Each of the books in this series by the same author begins with vocabulary words and photographs depicting the meaning of the words. It identifies the term in bold letters and instructs the reader to look for the word in the text in its bold format. As a result this is a great vocabulary builder and reading for content book. Each page has three to five sentences and the facing page has an excellent photograph with a caption. The content covers how potatoes are grown and harvested. It does not show mechanical harvesting. That is one flaw. The book also describes how potatoes are grown from potato sections termed see potatoes but then describes

and displays the fruit of the potato and seed without explaining that the seed is only used to breed potatoes not grow them commercially. The book ends with the potato life cycle and a glossary.

**From Tomatoes to Ketchup** by Roberta Basel

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4286-1

This is another great book in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from the growing plant to processed product. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a page on George Washington's love of ice cream, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

**Green Power, Leaf and Flower Vegetables** by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 10-18

Price: \$26.60

ISBN: 0-8225-2839-8

This series provides a wealth of information on each topic. The book covers cabbage, broccoli, artichokes, spinach, Belgian endive, and lettuce. Each chapter covers the vegetable's history, sources, production methods and uses. In some cases, issues with the crop are presented or in others, nutritional benefits are addressed.

**Growing Vegetable Soup** by Lois Ehlert

Best for ages 2-5

Price: \$6.00

ISBN: 0-15-232575-1

This colorful book is designed to capture the attention of young children and interest them in gardens. The bright (florescent) colors and shapes will capture the attention of most preschool children.

**The Incredible Vegetable Group** By: Marcie Aboff

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1429671637

You're hungry. What should you eat? With MyPyramid and Healthy Eating, it's easy to decide. Find out WHERE OUR VEGETABLES COME FROM, WHAT NUTRIENTS WE GET FROM VEGETABLES, AND how many servings you need EACH day.

**Lettuce Grows on the Ground** by Mari Schuh

Best for Prek-2

ISBN-13: 978-1429661881

Simple text and photographs describe how lettuce grows on the ground. The images support early readers in understanding the text. The book also introduces early readers to subject specific vocabulary words, which are defined in the glossary section.

**The Life Cycle of a Bean** by Linda Tagliaferro  
(Gail Saunders-Smith Ph.D, Consulting Editor).

Best for ages 4-7

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6714-6.

This early reader book captures the development of the green snap bean from seed through germination, growth, flower development and pollination and on to seed development. It does not depict commercial green bean production but focuses on the growth of a few plants. This would be an excellent book to teach about the life cycle of a plant. The book includes a glossary, recommended reading list and suggested Internet sites.

**The Life Cycle of a Carrot** by Linda Tagliaferro  
(Gail Saunders-Smith Ph.D, Consulting Editor).  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6714-6.

Best for ages 4-7

As with other books in this series, this early reader book captures the development of a carrot from seed through germination, growth, flower development and pollination and on to seed development. Unfortunately, it mixes wild carrot (Queen Anne's Lace) with domesticated carrot production. It also refers to pulling carrots out of the ground. This is a bit misleading since most carrots need to be dug and pulling would only result in breaking off the foliage in all but the softest of soils. The book includes a glossary, recommended reading list and suggested Internet sites.

**I Like Potatoes** by Jennifer Julius  
Price: \$4.95  
ISBN: 0-516-23134

Best for ages 5-7

This early-reader book gives the basics about potatoes. It focuses mainly on how potatoes are cooked and eaten rather than growing or history.

**Lettuce Introduce You** by Laura Purdie Salas  
ISBN 13: 978-1-4296-1703-1

Best for ages 4-7

This fun assortment of poetry explores different poem formats and nutrition at the same time. Read to the youngest children they will find delight in humor and amusing pictures as well as the clever word use.

**Plant Plumbing: A Book about Roots and Stems** by Susan Blackaby  
Price: \$21.26  
ISBN: 1-4048-0109-X

Best for ages 7-9

While the illustrations of this book detract from its overall appeal, the content is excellent. The book's focus on roots and stems is an unusual approach. The author explains the role of roots and stems, the two types of roots, stems found both above and below ground, function of their structures and how both help plants survive. It also includes a depiction of a seed germinating and some simple experiments. Included at the back of the book are a few Web sites and four additional books to read on the subjects.

**Plant Stems and Roots** by David M. Schwartz  
Price: \$2.99  
ISBN: 0-8368-2581-0

Best for ages 5-7

This early-reader book gives the basics about plant roots and stems without too much detail. The right-hand side of the page gives a clue (sometimes a strange one) as to what the reader will find when the page is turned.

**Potato** by Larry Zuckerman  
Price: \$15.00  
ISBN13: 978-0-86547-578-6

Best for ages 13- Adult

This engaging book details the story of how this humble vegetable had an enormous impact on the Western world. It covers history from 11,000 B.C. to today, with a special emphasis on the time period from the 1700s through World War I. This is not a scientific study but rather a social history. The author's documentation and insights make for a unique study of a major food.

**Taking Root** by Allan Fowler  
Price: \$4.95  
ISBN: 0-516-27058-3

Best for ages 5-7

This early-reader book begins to teach children about roots. Roots used for food are explored along with other root functions. The information is limited but appropriate for this age level.

**Tomatoes (A True Book)** by Elaine Landau  
Price: \$6.95  
ISBN: 0-516-26773-6

Best for ages 7-13

As with the other books written by this author, this text provides an accurate and comprehensive look at tomatoes. From the early cultivation of tomatoes by the Aztecs to the introduction of the tomato to Europe by the Spanish Conquistadors and modern culture today, the text and photos tell tomato's story. The author has even depicted and described backyard, greenhouse and large scale tomato production. The story of processing the tomato into a variety of products is enhanced by including the rise of the Campbell Soup Company. The book ends with a good glossary.

**Tomatoes Grow on a Vine** by Mari Schuh  
ISBN-13: 978-1429661874

Best for Prek-2

Simple text and photographs describe how tomatoes grow on vines. The images support early readers in understanding the text. The book also introduces early readers to subject specific vocabulary words, which are defined in the glossary section.

**Tomatoes, Potatoes, Corn and Beans** by Sylvia A. Johnson  
Price: \$16.00  
ISBN: 0-689-80141-6

Best for ages 12-Adult

This excellent book describes how foods from North and South America changed eating around the world. It focuses on corn, beans, peppers, peanuts, potatoes, tomatoes, and chocolate but also includes other foods that originated in the Americas. Can you imagine Italian food without the tomato? Indian curries without the pepper? German or Irish food without the potato? Corn is now the most widely grown grain in the world. This book details the history of those transitions and is illustrated with historic artwork and modern photos. For anyone wishing to understand the real gold found in America, this book is an essential read.

**The Ugly Vegetables** by Grace Lin

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-88106-336-3

This fiction book is a good introduction to multiculturalism and the benefits of differences. A little girl is distressed by the ugly vegetables her mother is growing in their garden. The neighbors were all growing pretty flowers that filled the yards with color, aromas and pretty butterflies flitting about. But the plants grown by the girl's mother in her garden looked strange and the vegetables it yielded were ugly and bumpy. When it came time for harvest, the girl's mother filled the air with a wonderful aroma. The whole neighborhood stopped to partake of the delightful scent. Before long the neighborhood is gathering to trade their flowers for her soup. The book closes with a list of the "ugly" Chinese vegetables, their names, pronunciations, images, and descriptions along with the recipe for the "Ugly Vegetable Soup."

**The Vegetable Alphabet Book** by Jerry Pallotta

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-88106-469-6

A wonderful blend of facts and humor make learning about vegetable gardening fun and easy for children. The wonderful, accurate illustrations guide children through a variety of vegetables and terms from A to Z relating to vegetable gardening.

**Vegetables** By: Nancy Dickmann

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 1432969811

Make a place for vegetables in your diet. From leafy greens to roots, vegetables provide a variety of nutrition in all forms. Read this book to learn about how to eat well and use MyPlate.

**What's for Lunch, Corn** by Pam Robson

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$18.52

ISBN: 0-516-20823-3

As with the other books in this series, the colorful, high-quality photographs complement the text and tell half the story. The book accurately depicts planting corn, corn growth, plant structure, pollination, mechanically harvesting sweet corn, and processing sweet corn. The book accurately portrays insect damage in one of the best photographs of the whole series, need for chemical intervention to halt that damage and aerial spraying. The book's one short coming is that the author does not understand or explain the difference between sweet corn and field corn. It treats them as one and the same and the reader should address this with students. The book concludes with familiar foods made from corn and an excellent glossary.

**What's for Lunch, Peas** by Claire Llewellyn

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$18.52

ISBN: 0-516-21549-3

This is one of the best books in the series. The colorful, high-quality photographs are excellent. The book accurately depicts planting seed through harvesting, storage, packing and processing peas. Included with the production photos are a series of three time-lapse photos of seed germination and seedling growth. The book accurately portrays aerial spraying to control pests.

Perhaps the best inclusions in the book are the two photos of mechanical pea harvest. As with the other books in the series, an excellent glossary will help build vocabulary.

**What's for Lunch, Potatoes** by Claire Llewellyn

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-26223-8

The colorful, high-quality photographs complement the text and tell half the story. The book accurately depicts planting seed potatoes, potato growth, fields of growing and harvested potatoes, harvesting, storage, packing and processing potatoes. Interspersed with these production photos are a series of "below the soil" photos which expose tuber formation and growth. The book concludes with familiar and not-so-familiar foods made from and with potatoes. An excellent glossary will help build vocabulary.

**Who Grew My Soup?** by Tom Darbyshire

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$9.99

ISBN: 978-1-4127-4544-4

Who Grew My Soup? tells the story of young Phineas Quinn and his questions about the vegetable soup his mom serves for lunch. Phin declares he won't slurp a single spoonful until he knows: "Who grew my soup?" Much to Phin's surprise, a man in a flying tomato balloon shows up to answer this stirring question. Join Phin and magical Mr. Mattoo as they fly from farm to farm, learning about amazing vegetables and the farmers who grow them. Who Grew My Soup? is an entertaining and educational 32-page hardcover book featuring the illustrations of award-winning artist, caricaturist, and illustrator C. F. Payne. Mr. Payne's work has appeared in Time magazine, Rolling Stone magazine, Sports Illustrated magazine, and National Geographic magazines, and his portraits can be found in the Norman Rockwell Museum and the National Portrait Gallery.

## **Rural Life**

**The Beef Princess of practical County** by Michelle Houts

Best for middle school

ISBN-13: 978-0440422709

After years of waiting, it is finally Libby Ryan's turn to shine at the Practical County Fair. Libby is filled with excitement as she and her granddad pick out two calves for her to raise on her family's cattle farm, in hopes of winning the annual steer competition. Against her father's advice, Libby gives the calves names, even though both steers will eventually be auctioned off. After a few months of preparing for the Practical County Fair, Libby finds that she is growing closer to her steers with each passing day, and the pressure to win Grand Champion is mounting.

Luckily, Libby can count on her best friend to get her through most of the county fair chaos. Yet once reality sets in and she realizes that her steers will soon be sold to the highest bidder, the chaos in Libby's heart becomes too much to bear.

**Growing Up Strong** By: Dan Yunk

Best for elementary school

ISBN: 978-0979765346

This is the fifth book in the award-winning Kailey's Ag Adventures book series authored by Yunk. Dan dedicates this book to his three children Dr. Carey, Dr. Jill and Dr. Craig. To have his three children all choose to enter the medical profession is a source of much family pride. Working with their patients about the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise is a hallmark of their respective practices and private lives. By virtue of their guidance and example, Dan's grandchildren Kailey, Addie, Ellie and Nicholas are growing up strong. Unlike the other books in this series, Growing Up Strong features no real-life pictures, relying instead on cartoon illustrations. But as an added bonus, there are free teaching aids available for this book on the official website of Kansas Farm Bureau.

**Heart of a Shepherd** by Rosanne Parry  
ISBN-13: 978-0375848032

Best for Elementary school

In this coming-of-age story, Ignatius, the youngest of five brothers in a military family grounded in the Christian faith, promises to take care of the ranch while his father is deployed in Iraq. Since his mother left years earlier to pursue life as an artist, and his older brothers are off to school or military training camps, the 11-year-old looks to his grandparents for guidance, but often feels angry and alone trying to keep his heroic promise. Although some of the realities of the Iraq war are threaded in, the author primarily focuses on the details of contemporary Oregonian ranch life.

**Living In a Rural Area** by Lisa Trumbauer  
Price: \$15.93  
ISBN: 0-7368-3631-4  
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-3631-9

Best for ages 7-11

This is an early reader book about three sentences per page. Unlike the other books in this series the vocabulary words are not in bold-faced type, but a glossary in the back of the book defines words that may be unknown to students. The content is accurate and for an early reader book tells the story very well. The text deals with life in a rural area and includes both farming and non-farming environments. Where appropriate it does identify farms and ranches that will be found and the type of agriculture they represent. This would be a good book to introduce the concept of rural versus urban in the early elementary grades.

**Life in a Farming Community** by Lizann Flatt  
Price: \$8.95  
ISBN: 978-07787-5071-0

Best for ages 4-7

People first domesticated wild animals and plants more than 10,000 years ago. The first peoples of North America quickly learned to farm using hand- and animal-power. As technology developed, farming machines were invented. These helped develop farming in many regions of North America previously too difficult to cultivate. From 1840 to 1880, Wisconsin USA became the breadbasket of America, and crop- and livestock-farming developed quickly. The village of Monticello is famous for its dairy farming and cheese. The community is still largely based on this. It has a population of about 1,200 people and is the focus of this book about life in a farming community.

**Our Farm: Four seasons with five kids on one farm** by Michael J Rosen Best for Middle School

ISBN-13: 978-1581960679

Through this photographic journal, readers are invited to share one year on an Ohio farm, complete with children, animals, and enough work, adventure, and fun to keep everyone busy. Keeping his commentary to a minimum, Rosen records conversations and comments made mostly by the young Bennetts. Their voices are strong and wise, revealing knowledge about life, death, hunting, reproduction, economics, and the importance of community and family. While a good depiction of a family farm, readers should be aware of some pictures of unsafe practices in the book. (p 6,64,91,97).

## Science

**Crop Chemophobia** Edited by Jon Entine  
ISBN-13: 978-0844743615

Best for High school and up

The Green Revolution of 1960s introduced herbicides, pesticides, and advanced agricultural technologies to third world countries-rescuing hundreds of millions of people from malnutrition and starvation and transforming low-yield, labor-intensive farming into the high-tech, immensely productive industry it is today. Despite these stunning gains, critics of chemical farming remain vocal. Recently, the European Union passed a ban on twenty-two chemicals-about 15 percent of the EU pesticides market-to begin in 2011. In *Crop Chemophobia*, Jon Entine and his coauthors examine the "precautionary principle" that underlies the EU's decision and explore the ban's potential consequences-including environmental degradation, decreased food safety, impaired disease-control efforts, and a hungrier world.

**The Science Behind Food** By: Casey Rand  
ISBN: 1410944972

This book explores the "tasty" science behind food. Topics include nutrition, the food pyramid, and the digestive system.

**The Science Behind Plants** By: Rachel Lynette  
ISBN: 1406233978

Best for elementary school

The Science Behind makes learning core curriculum fun! Discover the science behind Plants. You will learn about roots, stems, and leaves. You will also find out why we need plants to survive. Includes amazing diagrams, eye-popping photographs, engaging fact boxes, and "try it yourself" activities.

**Science with Plants** by Helen Edom and Jane Felstead  
Price: \$5.99  
ISBN13: 978-0-7945-1485-3

Best for ages 7-12

Basic science concepts are presented here in fun, hands-on activities for early elementary students. Topics covered include seed germination, water transportation, transpiration, stem and leaf structure, pollination, vegetative reproduction, composting and basic soil structure. The book closes with an excellent description of how our needs are met by plants and a soft environmental message entirely appropriate for this age level.

**Science Projects About Plants** by Robert Gardener  
Price: \$23.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-89490-952-5

Best for ages 8–14

The six chapters of this book each deal with a separate part of the plant or process such as germination. Within each chapter there are five to 12 different science projects that can be undertaken. Each project details the supplies needed, concept behind the project, step by step instructions, and any precautions students should be aware of. Illustrations for each project enhance the text and illuminate the process.

**Super Science Projects About Earth’s Soil and Water** by Robert Gardener Best for ages 7–10  
Price: \$23.95  
ISBN13: 978-0-7660-2735-0

Soils are an area that has limited options for excellent children’s books, yet it is one of the most important topics in understanding agriculture. This book is a very pleasant surprise with one exception. The text and pictures lead students to explore soil composition, structure, capabilities and its relationship to water and plants. The one area of concern is under the title “A Polluted Aquifer.” It refers to fertilizers in the same category as pesticides and infers that they are poisons. If this book is used that area should be addressed and students should understand that fertilizers are nutrients. As with many other substances if used properly they are not toxic but the dose makes the poison and can be hazardous if present where they should not be or in quantities above recommended fertilizer rates.

**There Goes the Water** by Laura Purdie Salas  
Price: \$17.15  
ISBN: 978-1-4048-5766-7

Best for ages 4-8

You know the song Pop Goes the Weasel. Sing along with new words that explain how our planets water cycle works.

**Inside the Water Cycle** by William Rice  
Price: \$21.27  
ISBN: 978-0-7565-4302-0

Best for ages 9-12

No matter where you live on Earth, the water cycle plays an important role. Without water, you couldn’t brush your teeth or take a bath. Water is used to grow crops and raise animals for food. It’s used to manufacture products and as a source of energy. Nothing on Earth can survive without water. The water cycle is a fascinating process that makes our planet unique. For more information on the water cycle, read *Water Scientists*, another book in the *Mission: Science* series.

**Water Goes Round: The Water Cycle** By Robin Koontz  
ISBN-13: 978-1429662314

Best for Elementary

In graphic novel format, text and illustrations describe the key stages of the water cycle. A fun way for young students to be introduced to the water cycle.

## **Soils and Soil Conservation**

**Dust Bowl Diary** by Ann Marie Low

Best for ages 12-Adult

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-8032-7913-2

Taken from the diary of a young girl, this true-life account of the dust bowl is heart wrenching. The detailed, often humorous account is painful in its description of the ravaged land. One unusual insight that makes the book very relevant today is the description of government ineptitude and callous disregard for the damage done to human life. The timeliness of that connection makes this era come to life in a way that would be challenging were it not for recent events. This book would be an excellent accompaniment for classes reading the “Grapes of Wrath” or studying the dust bowl years in American history.

**Dust Bowl: An interactive history adventure** by Allison Lassieur

Best for ages 12-Adult

Price: \$27.99

ISBN 978-1-4296-2343-8

It is the 1093s and the US is reeling from the effects of the Great Depression. In the southern Great Plains drought has caused the rich farmland to dry up and blow away. This adventure people will take the reader on real situations at every turn, no matter which way they choose to go. It is a fun and easy way to learn more about the dust bowl and how it affected America and her famers.

**Jump into Science: Dirt** by Steve Tomecek

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 978-1426300899

What is soil? Who lives in dirt? How does earth help things grow? The answers are within this fun- and fact-filled picture book. Just follow the gardening star-nosed mole in the colorful outfits...and dig in!!

**The Soil Neighborhood** by Dan Yunk & Steve Swaffar

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$6.99

ISBN 978-0-9797653-1-5

The Soil Neighborhood is the second in a series of children's books. The first book in the series, titled, Milk Comes From a Cow?, began Kansas Farm Bureau's initiative to educate young people about the importance of agriculture in their lives. In this book, Kailey (the author's cute little red-haired granddaughter), discovers why soil is so important. Please join Kailey with her discovery! And as an added bonus, there are free teaching aids available for this book on the official website of Kansas Farm Bureau.

**The Science of Soil** by Jonathan Bocknek

Best for ages 7-14

Price: \$24.67

ISBN: 0-8368-2468-7

One of the topics largely ignored in children's books and instruction is soil. Yet it is of utmost importance in the food production system. This is one text that is both available and accurate.

This book provides an excellent overview of a number of soil topics. It addresses soil formation, structure, components, nutrients, and issues. It also covers soil conservation, organic farming and non-agricultural topics such as building with soil.

See Also: [Super Science Projects About Earth's Soil and Water](#) under the category of Science Projects

## Technology

[Rainmakers: A Photographic Story of Center Pivots](#) Forward by Congressman Tom Osborne  
Price: \$34.95 Best for ages 7-Adult  
ISBN: 0-9765058-0-0

This book takes us on a journey that explains how center pivot irrigation is an important tool for growing the food on which we depend. This important story is presented through instructive and beautiful photographs making the books a visual delight for even the casual reader. The goal of the book is to help all of us appreciate the history and complexity of center pivot irrigation and how the technology helps producers nourish our world.

[High-Tech Harvest, A Look at Genetically Engineered Foods](#) by Elizabeth Marshall  
Price: \$12.00 Best for ages 14-Adult  
ISBN: 0-531-11434-1 and Teacher Reference

While genetic engineering could be a very complex issue, this book makes the topic, techniques, and issues very understandable. The author has produced a text that examines the issue of genetically engineered foods in a very objective manner. She does not shirk from exploring those opposed to this new technology nor does she criticize their opposition. As such, this is a great addition to a library or classroom as a resource for this topic. The book provides references for each chapter, resources for further exploration and a glossary.

[Superfood or Superthreat:](#) Best for ages 14-Adult and Teacher Reference  
[The Issue of Genetically Engineered Food](#) by Kathlyn Gay  
Price: \$31.93  
ISBN13: 978-0-7660-2528-8

Most of the books available about biotechnology are written by activists opposed to the use of this technology. This book is a rare exception. The author has accurately presented the opposition's issues against genetic engineering and then presented the opposing viewpoint using the scientific evidence refuting those claims. This is exactly the type of book that we should include in classrooms and libraries all across the United States. It presents the issues and facts in an amazingly objective manner. This author is to be commended. The book provides information sources, a glossary, and references for further research.

See also: Fertilizers