

Dear Educator,

The Michigan Ag Council and the Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom (a program coordinated by the Promotion and Education Department at Michigan Farm Bureau) have developed, “**Michigan Agriculture and You: Can you find your piece of the puzzle?**” with the intent of adding fun and excitement to your classroom! It has been designed to provide you with ideas and materials which facilitate agricultural concepts into your classroom. The hands-on activities encourage learning and are designed to showcase the importance of Michigan Agriculture. The content and format have been designed to be flexible and adaptable to meet your classroom needs.

**The guide is organized into five sections: 1) Science, 2) Math, 3) Language Arts, 4) Social Studies and 5) Health. This curriculum guide has been developed to support the Michigan Department of Education’s Content Standards and Benchmarks.** We understand schools are focused on providing high quality education for their students and realize state learning standards and curriculum frameworks are an integral part of the Michigan education system. With this in mind, the lessons connect students to the food system and provide linkages to their educational pathway. The content standards are illustrated at the top of each lesson.

Most students are generations removed from farming; without education; their knowledge about the food and fiber industry will not be developed. As educators, it’s our responsibility to showcase Michigan’s second largest industry, Agriculture. Please feel free to utilize this curriculum guide and adapt it to fit your needs. The curriculum is online at [www.miagclassroom.org](http://www.miagclassroom.org) or is also available on a CD. For a copy of the CD or a hard copy, contact Michigan Farm Bureau, Promotion and Education at (800) 292-2680 ext. 3202.

We hope that you find this curriculum beneficial and educational for your classroom. Together, we can foster students’ education and impact their thinking about how agriculture touches their lives. We welcome any feedback or comments about our curriculum guide. Please help us by returning the enclosed evaluation form to:

Michigan Farm Bureau  
Promotion & Education  
7373 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
P.O. Box 30960  
Lansing, MI 48909

Respectfully,

Michigan Ag Council  
Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom Program  
(Promotion and Education Department - Michigan Farm Bureau)

# Michigan Agriculture and You: Can you find your piece of the puzzle?

## **Resource Guide for Teachers – Grades 4 to 6**

The materials in this guide have been developed and adapted by the Michigan Ag Council and the Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom Program. Contents may be reproduced for classroom use and other educational programs. Questions, comments, or request to use materials for other purposes may be directed to the Promotion & Education Manager, Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy. P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI, 48909, (800) 292-2680 ext. 3213.

## **Visit our website at [www.miagclassroom.org](http://www.miagclassroom.org)**

The Web site is designed to assist Michigan Farm Bureau members with agricultural education activities, keeping them abreast on current happenings and events within Michigan Farm Bureau. The site will provide resources and lessons to teachers interested in Agriculture in the Classroom as well as resources and fun learning tools for children to learn more about Michigan Agriculture and how it touches their day lives. A complete copy of this curriculum guide can be found in the 'Teachers Lounge' of the website.

# Acknowledgements

The Michigan Ag Council and the Michigan Farm Bureau graciously acknowledges those who provided information, suggestions, and technical assistance during the development of **“Michigan Agriculture and You: Can you find your piece of the puzzle?”** a resource guide for grades 4-6 teachers.

## **Thank you to the following organizations for their contributions:**

American Egg Board

Corn Marketing Program of Michigan

Ethanol Promotion and Information Council

Illinois Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom

Michigan Apple Committee

Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee – Michigan soybean farmers through their soybean checkoff.

National Christmas Tree Association

National FFA Organization

## **Thank you to the following individuals who contributed their time and experience during the course of this project:**

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# Joint Efforts Produce Curriculum Guide

The Michigan Ag Council and the Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom Program are pleased to partner and provide this curriculum guide, **“Michigan Agriculture and You: Can you find your piece of the puzzle?”** With collaborative efforts, this curriculum guide was developed to provide a valuable resource to teachers to teach our youth about agriculture and how they are connected to the food and fiber industry.

## **Michigan Ag Council – A Partnership Program**

The Michigan Ag Council is a partnership effort between GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Pork Producers Association and Michigan Milk Producers Association.

## **GreenStone Farm Credit Services**

Greenstone Farm Credit Services, based in East Lansing, Michigan, is Michigan and northeast Wisconsin’s largest agricultural lender and the country’s fourth largest association in the Farm Credit System. With more than \$3.3 billion in assets, GreenStone serves some 15,000 customers with 37 branch locations in Michigan and northeast Wisconsin. For more information, visit <http://www.greenstonefcs.com>.

## **Corn Marketing Program of Michigan**

Headquartered in DeWitt, Michigan, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) is a legislatively-established statewide program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold. Investments are made in the areas of research, education, market development, and new uses in an effort to enhance the economic position of Michigan corn producers. CMPM works cooperatively with the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA), a grassroots-membership association representing the state’s corn producer’s political interests. For more information on the CMPM and the MCGA, visit <http://www.micorn.org>.

## **Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee**

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee is a farmer driven organization geared to efficiently and effectively leverage farmer dollars invested in the soybean checkoff to increase profit opportunities for Michigan soybean producers while enhancing a positive public image of the soybean industry. Visit <http://www.michigansoybean.org>.

## **Michigan Farm Bureau**

Michigan Farm Bureau is the state’s largest general farm organization, with over 200,000 family members in 67 county Farm Bureaus. Farm Bureau works on the local level, in Lansing and in Washington D.C. to support action not just on farm issues, but on many of the same things you’re concerned about: protection of private property rights and the quality of the rural environment, tax policies and economic growth, and the quality and safety of our food supply. Visit <http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com>.

## **Michigan Pork Producers Association**

Formed in 1969, Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) administers programs in pork promotion, research and consumer information that are financed by the state’s pork producers through a national, legislatively-established check-off program. As a state-affiliate of the

National Pork Producers Council, MPPA also works with the national organization to protect the livelihood of producers by fighting for reasonable legislation and regulations and developing revenue and market opportunities. Both organizations represent pork producers as major players in legislative, regulatory and trade issues at the state, national, and international levels. Learn more about MPPA and the pork industry by visiting [www.mipork.org](http://www.mipork.org).

### **Michigan Milk Producers Association**

Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) was formed in 1916 and is a member owned and operated dairy cooperative serving approximately 2,400 farmers in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin. MMPA markets over 3.6 billion pounds of milk annually and is the 11th largest dairy cooperative in the United States. Products made at MMPA's manufacturing plants in Ovid and Constantine include: butter, nonfat dry milk, cream, condensed skim milk and sweetened condensed milk. MMPA has a milk supply arrangement with Leprino Foods headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Their Michigan plants, located in Allendale and Remus, produce mozzarella cheese for the pizza industry and the food service industry. For more information, visit <http://www.mimilk.com>.

**For more information about the Michigan Ag Council and their efforts in promoting Michigan's diversified Agriculture industry, visit <http://www.miagcouncil.org>.**

### **Agriculture in the Classroom**

The Agriculture in the Classroom (AIC) program is coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Its goal is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society. Agriculture touches lives daily from food and clothing to medicine and fuel. This is why it is important to integrate agriculture into schools across Michigan. Michigan Farm Bureau's Promotion and Education Department and county Farm Bureaus across the state carry out a variety of AIC programs. If you are interested in having a presentation in your classroom, contact your local county Farm Bureau.

**For more information about the Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom Program and their efforts in educating Michigan's youth, visit <http://www.miagclassroom.org>.**

# Michigan's Second-Largest Industry: Growing, Strong, Innovative

## **A \$71.3 Billion Industry**

- Agriculture contributes more than \$71.3 billion to Michigan's economy – from farming and processing to wholesale and retail sales.
- Agriculture and food processing employ more than one million Michigan residents.
- Payroll for farm workers exceeds \$318 million per year.

## **Built on Family Farms**

- Michigan's 53,315 farms include 10.1 million acres.
- More than 95 percent are individual or family owned.

## **A Diverse and Safe Harvest**

- With over 200 commodities grown in our soil, Michigan ranks second only to California in the diversity of crops, which means safe food grown close to home.

## **The Power of Ag Technology**

- Biodiesel and ethanol are plant-based fuels helping to reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- Global positioning systems, biotechnology and conservation tillage allow Michigan farms to produce more food on fewer acres while reducing the use of chemicals and fertilizer.

# Table of Contents

## Science

- 1 ..... Putting it all together: DNA and Biotechnology
- 19 ..... Bread in a Bag
- 23 ..... Layer Away
- 29 ..... Dairy Delights
- 33 ..... A Bean Named Soy
- 40 ..... Racey Soys
- 44 ..... Scientific Careers in Agriculture
- 49 ..... From Corn to Plastic
- 53 ..... Food and Fiber Products
- 61 ..... Agriculture: Cycling Back to You
- 75 ..... Soil... It's More than Just Dirt
- 87 ..... Water: The Incredible Resource
- 96 ..... Bug Out the Big Ones

## Math

- 1 ..... You Are the Farmer
- 6 ..... Kernel Counting
- 13 ..... Rain On
- 18 ..... Gardening: A Math Adventure
- 22 ..... Farming is Expensive
- 26 ..... Michigan and U.S. Agricultural Exports
- 31 ..... Count on an Ag Career
- 36 ..... It All Adds Up to the Versatile Pig
- 42 ..... Let's Take a Drive
- 44 ..... CENTSible Business and Budgeting

## Language Arts

- 1 ..... The Farmer Cares for the Land
- 9 ..... Growing Poetry
- 12 ..... Between the Slices
- 20 ..... Ecosystem Biodiversity
- 23 ..... Food Distribution and Preservation
- 29 ..... Picture This Agriculture Career
- 35 ..... Farming through the Seasons

## **Social Studies**

- 1 ..... The Dairy Shoppe
- 4 ..... Corn: An A-mazing Plant
- 9 ..... Most "Bean" ificial
- 15 ..... Usable Water
- 18 ..... Tracking Technology
- 27 ..... Michigan Trees
- 33 ..... Trees on a Farm
- 37 ..... Foods Amazing Journey

## **Health**

- 1 ..... Vary Your Veggies and Focus on Fruits
- 4 ..... Serving Up Food Safety
- 9 ..... Risks vs. Benefits in Food Production
- 16 ..... Calling for Cattle
- 20 ..... Buy, Sell, Trade or Starve
- 30 ..... Natures Toothbrush