



Lesson Plan

Where in the World Is Ag?

Created: 12/2016 by the National FFA Organization

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After completing these activities, students will...

1. Describe the role of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service.
2. Understand the relationship between American agriculture and how it contributes to a global economy.

TIME REQUIRED: 45 minutes

RESOURCES:

1. FFA.org
2. Website – USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/about-fas>

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. A copy of the "Where in the World Is Ag?" worksheet for each student.
2. Internet and computer access to the website for each student.

THIS QUICK LESSON PLAN WOULD WORK WELL AS:

1. Part of a unit about agricultural advances.
2. Part of a unit about agricultural business or marketing.

THESE ACTIVITIES ARE ALIGNED TO THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

FFA Precept

- FFA.PL-A.Action: Assume responsibility and take the necessary steps to achieve the desired results, no matter what the goal or task at hand.
- FFA.PG-I.Professional Growth: Assume responsibility for attaining and improving upon the skills needed for career success.
- FFA.PG-J.Mental Growth: Embrace cognitive and intellectual development relative to reasoning, thinking and coping.
- FFA.CS-M.Communication: Effectively interact with others in personal and professional settings.

AFNR Cluster Skills

- CS.01. Analyze how issues, trends, technologies and public policies impact systems in the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Career Cluster.

Common Core - Writing

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Common Core - Speaking and Listening

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

Common Core - Language

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.6 Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Common Core - Math Practices

- CCSS.MP3: Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

- CCSS.MP6: Attend to precision.
- CCSS.MP7: Look for and make use of structure.

AFNR Career Ready Practices

- CRP.02. Apply appropriate academic and technical skills. Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive.
- CRP.04. Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason. Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal and/or visual methods.
- CRP.05. Consider the environmental, social and economic impact of decisions. Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organizations and the environment.
- CRP.06. Demonstrate creativity and innovation. Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization.
- CRP.08. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Civic Literacy
- Communication
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Information Literacy
- Information, Communications, and Technology Literacy
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Media Literacy
- Productivity and Accountability

LESSON PLAN:

1. *Introduction:* American agriculture is part of a bigger picture of the global economy. While agricultural companies continue to expand production and sales around the country, there are many policies and regulations that need to be abided by.
2. *Activity:* Each student should have access to a computer and the worksheet titled, "Where in the World Is Ag?" Have students go to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service website, which can be found here, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/about-fas>.
 - a. Divide the class into groups of four.
 - b. As a group, have them work through Part I of the worksheet.
 - c. Part II of the worksheet requires students to research different programs and services of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Each student in the group should research a different area. The four areas are: Trade Policy; Market Development and Export Assistance; Data and Analysis; and Food Security.
 - d. After students research their specific area, have them share with the other members of their group. At the end of sharing, students should have an idea of what each of the four areas of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service do.
 - e. Have students work through Part III of the worksheet as a group.
3. *Follow Up:* Have a class discussion about how the work of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service impacts American agriculture. What would American agriculture look like if we did have trade agreements? What would happen to markets if we stopped exporting American agricultural products?
4. *Leveling Up:* Using the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service website and other resources as necessary, have students research one of the countries where the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service has an office. What types of agricultural products does that country produce? What is their relationship with the United States?

NAME: _____

Aligned to the following standards:
FFA.PL-A; FFA.PG-I; FFA.PG-J; FFA.CS-M; CS.01; CCSS.W.9-10.1; CCSS.W.9-10.2;
CCSS.W.9-10.4; CCSS.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.SL.9-10.4; CCSS.L.9-10.6; CCSS.MP3;
CCSS.MP6; CCSS.MP7; CRP.02; CRP.04; CRP.05; CRP.06; CRP.08

Around the World

DIRECTIONS:

Using the website for the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, answer the questions below. The website can be found here, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/about-fas/>.

PART I

As a group of four, work through the following questions.

1. What is the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service?
2. How many offices does the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service have? How many countries do they cover?

PART II

Each person in your group will research a different program or service provided by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Once you research one program or service, come back as a group and share with one another what each program or service does. In the space provided below, provide a summary of each program or service.

Trade Policy:

Market Development and Export Assistance:

Data and Analysis:

Food Security:

PART III

As a group of four, work through the following questions.

1. Of the four programs and services researched above, which do you find most important? Why?
2. Why is the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service important to American agriculture?

Around the World – KEY

DIRECTIONS:

Using the website for the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, answer the questions below. The website can be found here, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/about-fas/>.

PART I

As a group of four, work through the following questions.

1. What is the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service?
The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is the eyes, ears and voice for U.S. agriculture around the world. They identify problems, provide practical solutions, and work to advance opportunities for U.S. agriculture and support U.S. foreign policy around the globe.
2. How many offices does the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service have? How many countries do they cover?
93 offices covering 171 countries

PART II

Each person in your group will research a different program or service provided by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Once you research one program or service, come back as a group and share with one another what each program or service does. In the space provided below, provide a summary of each program or service.

Trade Policy:

FAS expands and maintains access to foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products by removing trade barriers and enforcing U.S. rights under existing trade agreements. FAS works with foreign governments, international organizations, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to establish international standards and rules to improve accountability and predictability for agricultural trade.

Market Development and Export Assistance:

FAS partners with 75 cooperator groups representing a cross-section of the U.S. food and industry of agriculture and manages a toolkit of market development programs to help U.S. exporters develop and maintain markets for hundreds of products. FAS also supports U.S. agricultural exporters through export credit guarantee programs and other types of assistance.

Data and Analysis:

FAS's network of global contacts and long-standing relationships with international groups contribute to the agency's unique market intelligence capacity. FAS analysts provide objective intelligence on foreign market opportunities, prepare production forecasts, assess export marketing opportunities, and track changes in policies affecting U.S. agricultural exports and imports.

Food Security:

FAS leads USDA's efforts to help developing countries improve their agricultural systems and build their trade capacity. FAS also partners with the U.S. Agency for International Development to administer U.S. food aid programs, helping people in need around the world. FAS's nonemergency food aid programs help meet recipients' nutritional needs and also support agricultural development and education.

PART III

As a group of four, work through the following questions.

1. Of the four programs and services researched above, which do you find most important? Why?

Answers will vary.

2. Why is the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service important to American agriculture?

Answers will vary.