

Current Events: 7th - 9th Grade Series

Lesson 2: Agricultural News on a National Level

Estimated Lesson Length:	50-90 minutes
Recommended Grades:	7-9th Grade
Related LifeKnowledge Lesson:	LifeKnowledge MS 41
	
Objective(s): The student will be able to:	
✓ Identify national agricultural current events ✓ Summarize an national agricultural current event	
Materials, Supplies, Equipment, References and Other Resources:	
Course text Synopsis and headline activity sheet (AS 1.1)   Computers with internet access Newspapers or agricultural publications brought by students	

Lesson Plan:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
1. Interest Approach: Refreshing prior learning.	After completing attendance and announcements, ask the students to share one of the top newspaper headlines or TV news top stories from yesterday. Remind them that it is important to keep up to date on what is going on in the world around them. Today we will be focusing on national events.	5-10 minutes
2. Research national agriculture stories	Ask the students to take out the newspapers or agricultural publications you asked them to bring at the end of yesterday's lesson. If they were not able to bring a newspaper or other publication allow them to follow the search procedures in Current Events – Lesson 1. Allow twenty to twenty-five (20-25) minutes for the students to find a national issue and write a one paragraph synopsis of the situation.	20-25 minutes
3. Write a headline  	<i>Distribute activity sheet (AS 1.1).</i> Instruct the students to use the activity sheet, to create a newspaper style headline for their paragraph. Direct them to follow the process on the activity sheet.	10-15 minutes
4. Summary, review and projects to collect	If you are not continuing on with Current Events 7-9 Lesson 3, collect the synopsis and headline from each student. If you are continuing with Lesson 3, thank the students for their work today and ask them to again bring a local newspaper and/or regional agricultural publication with them for tomorrow's lesson.	5-10 minutes

Writing a Synopsis and Headline Activity Sheet

Name _____

Write a one paragraph synopsis of your current agricultural event below.

Newspaper headlines often include interesting and catchy words.

- Study the other headlines you reviewed, looking for interesting adjectives and adverbs.
- Look carefully at verbs. Most headlines include an active verb, but it may or may not be a commonly used word.

Sometimes editors choose certain words for a headline because it must fill a certain amount of space. Editors sometimes know exactly how many characters (letters and spaces between words) must be in the headline.

Write the headline of the story you were researching below.

How many characters are in the headline you wrote? _____

- Imagine that you are the editor.
- You have just been told to rewrite that headline to include 10 additional characters.
- Read the article and study the original headline.
- Write a new headline that gives the article's main idea but is 10 characters longer.

Write a new headline for your paragraph in your own words!
