

Current Events: 10th - 12th Grade Series

Lesson 2: American Agriculture in the News

Estimated Lesson Length:	50-90 minutes
Recommended Grades:	10-12th Grade
Related LifeKnowledge Lesson:	LifeKnowledge AHS 40
	
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 Activity sheet (AS 1.4) 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 remind you of one of their global issues from the prior day. After a few examples, explain that today will provide them the opportunity to bring the issues a little closer to home.	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 in which they are interested.	10-15 minutes
3. Problem and solution worksheet  	<i>Distribute "Problem and Solution" activity sheet (AS 1.4).</i> Explain that the students will use this sheet to dig deeper into this story! Direct them to follow the process on the activity sheet.	15-20 minutes
4. Summary, review and projects to collect	If you are not continuing on with current events 10-12, Lesson 3, collect the activity sheet 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

National Agriculture Current Events Activity Sheet

Steps to Locating a National Agriculture Current Event

1. Go to the following websites: www.cnn.com, www.msn.com
2. Under main menu, find the search function.
3. Enter agriculture in the search box
4. Select news for the area of the search
5. Click "Search"
6. Review results and select a national agriculture current event
7. Complete activity sheet questions

Critical Thinking Questions:

On a blank sheet of notebook paper, respond to the questions below.

What is the problem?

1. Summarize the problem using facts in the article.
2. Explain why this situation is a problem.
3. Describe what might happen if the problem is not corrected.
Support this prediction with facts from the article.

What are the opposing sides of the controversy?

1. Identify the "special interest groups" affected by this problem.
2. Identify others who may be affected by the problem.
3. Summarize the responses to this problem by each group.

What is the best solution?

1. Identify the possible solutions discussed in the article.
2. Brainstorm other solutions.
3. Explain which solution is most likely to be implemented.
4. Describe what you think is the best solution to the problem.