

Current Events: 7th - 9th Grade Series

Lesson 2: Agricultural News on a Local Level

Estimated Lesson Length:	50-90 minutes
Recommended Grades:	7-9th Grade
Related LifeKnowledge Lesson:	LifeKnowledge MS 67
	
Objective(s): The student will be able to:	
✓ Identify local agricultural current events ✓ Summarize a local agricultural current event	
Materials, Supplies, Equipment, References and Other Resources:	
Course text Computers with Internet access Instructor list of local issues Newspapers and agricultural publications	

Lesson Plan:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
1. Interest Approach: Refreshing prior learning.	<i>For this lesson, the instructor will need to generate a short list of 5-10 local, regional or state current topics for the students to consider.</i> After completing attendance and announcements, ask the students to imagine they are at the local coffee shop sitting with a group of farmers and ranchers. Their task is to write down the top five current events that this group might be discussing. Allow three (3) minutes for them to brainstorm. Then ask them to share their top five and write these items on the writing surface in the room. When the list is complete. Explain that this will be our focus today. Local current events.	5-10 minutes
2. Research local 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. Allow five to ten (5-10) minutes for the students to find a local (or state) agricultural current event or story. Explain that their task will be to summarize the story for the class and write a one sentence statement that defines their opinion or view of the situation.	5-10 minutes
3. Group activity	During this activity, each student will be sharing their summary of the story and their opinion statement. After they have finished with their summary, you will be asking the rest of the class to stand if they agree with the student's opinion or remain seated if they disagree with the student's opinion. You will be asking those standing why they agree and those sitting why they disagree. Seek a volunteer to begin the activity. If there is a volunteer they will be able to select who goes second. If there are no volunteers to begin, start by last name alphabetically for the order.	25-30 minutes

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Lesson Plan cont.:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
4. Summary, review and projects to collect	If you are not continuing on with Current Events 7-9, Lesson 4 and 5, collect story summaries and opinion statements from each student. If you are continuing with Lesson 4 and 5, thank the students for their work today and ask them to bring a local newspaper and/or regional agricultural publication with them for tomorrow's lesson.	5-10 Minutes