

NAME: _____

Agriculture in a Trying Time: An Interview with Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



DIRECTIONS:

The 2019-20 National FFA Officers met virtually with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on May 1, 2020. Watch the interview (<https://vimeo.com/414923128/8a920f98e3>) and complete the following activities.

What is a pandemic?



How does a pandemic impact the agriculture industry?



What challenges will rural communities face as the pandemic continues to unfold?



What challenges will urban communities face as the pandemic unfolds?

We are seeing a lot of food waste across the industry (ex. milk being dumped), how can we as FFA members and agriculturists help farmers and ranchers in our communities?



Give an example of two food products that are currently at risk of being wasted due to the disruption in the food supply chain.



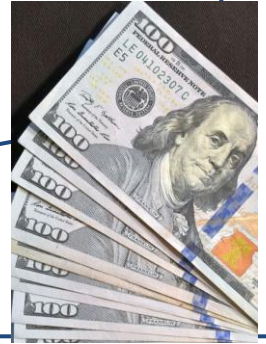
What is the USDA doing to maintain a safe and stable meat supply?



Why is a safe and stable meat supply so important?

How can we continue to support agriculturists beyond their financial needs?

How can we support people in our local community during tough times? Give a specific example.



When the COVID-19 pandemic ends and farmers and the supply chain are back to 100 percent, how can the USDA help farmers bring their products back into the market in a competitive way, both in price and quality?

Do you think the process of getting back to 100 percent will be fast or slow? Why?

What role will rural broadband internet play in speaking to the needs of our modern producers?

How does access to technology impact people in both rural and urban communities?



What can you do to help the agriculture industry during this challenging time?

In one sentence, summarize this interview with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

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The 2019-20 National FFA Officers met virtually with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on May 1, 2020. Watch the interview (<https://vimeo.com/414923128/8a920f98e3>) and complete the following activities.

What is a pandemic?
An outbreak of a disease that impacts people nationwide and on a global scale



How does a pandemic impact the agriculture industry? A pandemic creates disruptions in the established food value chain.



What challenges will rural communities face as the pandemic continues to unfold? It is important to increase the amount of rural broadband to increase productivity. By having limitations, differences between the "haves" and "have nots" are created.



What challenges will urban communities face as the pandemic unfolds? Answers will vary. Example, access to internet and food deserts could be impacted

We are seeing a lot of food waste across the industry (ex. milk being dumped), how can we as FFA members and agriculturists help farmers and ranchers in our communities? Much of the food from our food supply is consumed out of the home, which means it is packaged for that. However, with Americans being at home and needing to prepare meals at home, the way foods are prepared and packaged must shift, creating a struggle in the value chain to meet current food consumption and supply.



Give an example of two food products that are currently at risk of being wasted due to the disruption in the food supply chain.
Milk and pork



What is the USDA doing to maintain a safe and stable meat supply? The president signed the defense production act, which has been put in place to help with vital essential functions. The USDA is continuing to work with all to help.



Why is a safe and stable meat supply so important? It is important to have a safe and stable meat supply to ensure a healthy animal protein supply for citizens. Without this safe and steady supply, Americans could become ill or lack necessary food items.

How can we continue to support agriculturists beyond their financial needs? **The pandemic has expanded the duress agriculturists are under due to the increased financial and emotional stress. These individuals are strong; however, we still need to reach out with a call, note, text or visit, if possible, to show support.**

How can we support people in our local community during tough times? Give a specific example. **Answers will vary.**



When the COVID-19 pandemic ends and farmers and the supply chain are back to 100 percent, how can the USDA help farmers bring their products back into the market in a competitive way, both in price and quality? **The people are strong, and markets will reopen because there will always be a demand for agricultural products. The U.S. is self-sufficient in being able to provide food.**

Do you think the process of getting back to 100 percent will be fast or slow? Why? **Answers will vary.**

What role will rural broadband internet play in speaking to the needs of our modern producers? **Access would add to productivity and develop more efficient producers.**

How does access to technology impact people in both rural and urban communities? **Answers will vary.**



What can you do to help the agriculture industry during this challenging time? **Answers will vary.**

In one sentence, summarize this interview with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. **Answers will vary.**