Curriculum for Georgia 4-H’ers

Farm to Fork

Name  _____________________________________________
Grade ________ Teacher  ______________________________ 
School ____________________________________________
Can You Define Agriculture?

Here's a simple definition: The science or practice of farming, including cultivating the soil, producing crops, raising livestock and in varying degrees, the preparation and marketing of the resulting products. Georgia's Agriculture and Georgia 4-H have been "Friends" for more than one hundred years. In fact, the first 4-H members in Georgia were kids learning how to increase corn yields on their family farms. Georgia 4-H and Cooperative Extension at the University of Georgia have used the research of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to improve agricultural production practices of Georgia farmers. As a result of this research-based education, our nation's farmers are producing food and fiber for much of the world.

Agriculture is the United States largest industry, but consider this interesting fact: Less than two out of every 100 people in the US are involved in farming. Knowing this, join me, Arch the Dawg, as we explore the many careers that are involved from Farm to Fork!

Georgia 4-H is a partner in public education and strives to incorporate state curricula standards and studies in career awareness in the educational materials produced for in-school use.

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<tr>
<th>Career Cluster/Guidance 4th GRADE</th>
<th>Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STEM</td>
<td>Career Management Domain CM3.K4</td>
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<td>(National Career Development Guidelines)</td>
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<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>CM3.K4 (NCDG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Management &amp; Administration</td>
<td>CM3.K4 (NCDG)</td>
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<th>Standard</th>
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<td>Finance</td>
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<td>Information Technology</td>
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<td>Government &amp; Public Admin.</td>
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National Career Development Framework: ncda.org

Think Green!
Not just 4-H Green...but let's help do our part to recycle and reuse. Save this book, reread it or pass it along to a friend. If it's too worn, please recycle it.
Georgia’s farmland is like a patchwork quilt across our state.

Have you ever seen a quilt? A quilt has many individual squares that have their own design and pattern. When sewn together, the squares form a large and colorful covering. Many people think of quilts as a treasure because of the time and effort invested in constructing them. Quilts are often handed down as family heirlooms, and we can think of Georgia’s farmland much the same way. Many family farms have been handed down from generation to generation, giving us a rich history of farming in our state. In fact, 87% of Georgia’s farms are family owned!

Georgia has many different types of farms, and the differences we find in growing seasons, soil, and climate make our ability to produce agricultural products very diverse. Let’s take a look at the tapestry of Georgia’s Agricultural Farmland and see some commodities from Georgia farms.

**CULTIVATING 4-H KNOWLEDGE**

Georgia 4-H has a core program called 4-H Project Achievement. In 4-H Project Achievement you explore a topic of interest, develop a speech and poster and present your information in a public forum. We have many projects that connect to Agriculture. Take a look at 4-H Project Achievement here: [georgia4h.org/projectachievement](http://georgia4h.org/projectachievement)
WHERE IS GEORGIA’S AGRICULTURE?

As we have already discovered, the economic impact of Agriculture in Georgia’s is $73.3 billion each year. Because our state is so large, Agriculture looks different in each of the 5 growing regions in Georgia. Georgia farmers (we can also call them producers) grow all types of crops, including cotton, peanuts, watermelon, blueberries, pecans, apples, peaches, Vidalia onions, peppers and much more! They also raise beef cattle, bees, dairy cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, goats, and swine. Some farmers even grow fields of trees, and we call this commodity timber.

Arch the Dawg is ready to map agriculture in our state... let's journey together to discover what grows where!

Key Terms

• A commodity is another word we can use to describe agricultural products like cotton, peanuts and poultry.

• Poultry producers raise birds, like chickens and turkeys, for their eggs or meat. Broilers are chickens raised for meat and they are Georgia’s number one agricultural product.

• Some farmers in Georgia produce timber, which are trees grown to produce wood for building, carpentry and paper products.

Did You Know?

• Georgia supplies nearly one-half of the nation’s peanuts.

• Poultry, beef and dairy cattle, and horses can be found in all five physiographic regions of Georgia.

• Cordele, GA is known as the Watermelon Capital of the World because of the quality and quantity of their watermelons. Who doesn’t love to eat a tasty watermelon on a hot summer day?

• Georgia’s top 5 Vegetable Commodities are:
  1. Onions
  2. Sweet Corn
  3. Watermelon
  4. Bell Peppers
  5. Cucumbers

The Georgia Food Bank Association launched its “Farm to Food Bank” program to source donations of fresh fruits and vegetables from Georgia farmers, growers and packers for distribution by Georgia’s seven regional food banks. We source donations of wholesome, but unmarketable fruits and vegetables due to size, blemishes or some aesthetic imperfection. Adding Georgia grown fruits and vegetables to the tables of the 1 in 5 Georgians who need food assistance.

CULTIVATING 4-H KNOWLEDGE

Georgia 4-H has many opportunities for you to participate in that have a direct tie to Agriculture. Here are some to consider: Cotton Boll & Consumer Judging, Dairy Judging, Dairy Quiz Bowl, Horse Judging, Horse Quiz Bowl, Forestry Judging, Livestock Judging, Poultry Judging, Land Judging, Hippology Contest and Wildlife Judging. We also have youth who show livestock, we call these 4-H’ers Youth Exhibitors. To learn more about judging events go to georgia4h.org
The State of Georgia extends from the Atlantic Ocean into the Blue Ridge Mountains. The State is divided into five regions based upon physical geography. These regions are called Physiographic Provinces. The five physiographic provinces of Georgia are the Coastal Plain, the Piedmont Region, the Blue Ridge Region, the Ridge and Valley Region, and the Appalachian Plateau. Vegetation varies among these provinces and within them. You can find out more about these regions on the New Georgia Encyclopedia website: georgiaencyclopedia.org

Let’s learn more about where Georgia’s Agriculture can be found among the regions

The Appalachian Plateau is the smallest region and is found in Georgia’s northwest corner. Farmers in this region produce beef and poultry and small grains (like wheat). Wheat is harvested for grain and then baled for straw.

Farmers in the Ridge & Valley Region produce commodities like corn and soybeans and also grow and produce food for dairy cattle, beef cattle, and horses. We call this food hay and forage (bulky food such as grass). Silage, (grass that is compacted and stored in silos), is another commodity grown to support dairies in the region.

In the Blue Ridge region of Georgia you’ll find apples, peaches and grapes. You will also find vegetables to support the many local farmers markets (multi-stall market at which farmers or producers sell agricultural products directly to the general public) throughout the region.

The Piedmont Region is one of the largest regions in Georgia and is in the northern part of the state. Agriculture in this region includes many commodities like beef, poultry, eggs, ornamental horticulture and dairy.

The Upper Coastal Plain and Lower Coastal Plain are home to the state’s vegetable and fruit producing regions. Farmers in the Coastal Plain produce a wide variety of crops like cotton, peanuts, timber, watermelons, blueberries, peaches, peppers, pecans, soybeans, and Vidalia onions.

Test your Agricultural and Geographic knowledge!

Can you define the word Commodity in your own words?

______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________

List a few commodities that you have learned about that grow in your physiographic region:

•____________   •____________   •____________   •___________

Share one interesting fact about Georgia’s Agriculture that you have learned:

______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________

 increases the nutritional value of their meals. We know that hunger and obesity are two sides of the same coin, because people who don’t know where their next meal comes from don’t always have access to a balanced diet when food is available. Adding fresh fruits and vegetables is an important goal of Georgia’s seven regional foodbanks.

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It takes many STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers to get food from the farm to your family. In fact, one in every seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry, or a related field. Take a closer look at what it takes to have a career in agriculture by selecting an agricultural-related career, conducting your own research, and completing the "Wanted Poster" below.

Places to visit for research help: gaaged.org/Careers_in_Agriculture and agriculture.purdue.edu/usda/careers.

Choose one of these careers to explore – OR – explore your own area of interest!

• Agronomist
• Beef Producer
• Breeding Manager
• Climatologist
• County Extension Agent
• Economist
• Entomologist
• Food Product Developer
• Food Safety Inspector
• Geneticist
• Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist
• Horticultural Scientist
• Plant Pathologist
• School Nutrition Director
• Scientific Illustrator
• Soil Conservationist
• Soil Scientist
• Teacher/Educator
• Turfgrass Farm Operator
• Vegetable Farmer
• Waste Management Specialist

OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE

Georgia 4-H has several contests related to Agriculture that you can enter. Those contests are: Egg Preparation, Chicken Barbecue, Georgia 4-H, Georgia Peanuts Powering the Perfect Recipe, Food Product Development, Pantry Pride, and MilkMake. We also have Pumpkin growing, Watermelon growing and Water Wise Scholarship contests.
CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

– Michele Chivore

Michele Chivore serves as the Atlanta Community Food Bank’s Director of Child Nutrition Programs where her role is to develop the strategy around and implementation of the Atlanta Community Food Bank’s programs aimed at reducing child hunger. This includes outreach programs to increase capacity and participation in federally funded child nutrition programs while strategically exploring new opportunities to reduce the prevalence of childhood hunger across the Food Bank’s service area. Prior to joining the Atlanta Community Food Bank, she served as Campaign Director for Childhood Hunger Programs at the Georgia Food Bank Association (GFBA) where she worked in conjunction with GFBA member food banks, local nonprofit and national partners to implement a state childhood hunger advocacy, communications, and marketing plan. She gives her time and talent to serve on the Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee.

2019 Georgia Farmer of the Year

PEACH FARMER

– Robert Dickey

Robert Dickey was named the 2019 Georgia Farmer of the Year. Since 1897, his family’s farm, Dickey Farms, has been producing high quality peaches. Thirty different varieties of peaches are grown on Dickey Farms from early May through late August. Over the last five to ten years, Dickey Farms has expanded into the agro-tourism business, applying great ideas from all members of the family. They use the space of a generations-old wooden packinghouse and a general store where ripe peaches and peach ice cream can be savored by tourists, local school groups, and general passersby.

On top of all this dizzying activity, Robert L. Dickey III is a Georgia state legislator, having been elected and returned to the state’s House of Representatives for District 140 four times. Robert L. Dickey III’s ambition is to carry on the farm’s legacy and take care of the land for the generations to follow.
### Diagram Your School Day Diet — Do you know where the food you ate today came from?

Write down what you ate and drank today. Now circle the foods you can identify that came from a farm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning Snack</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Afternoon Snack</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Grapes, Cheese and Crackers</td>
<td>Example: Barbecue Pork Sandwich, Celery and Carrot Cup, Pears, Strawberries</td>
<td>Example: Graham Crackers, Sliced Apples</td>
</tr>
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Health is part of the 4-H pledge and has been an important focus of 4-H for more than 100 years. As you charted your food today and traced it to the farm where it was grown, we want to remind you that healthy habits are important at every age. Everyone needs a food plan based on the My Plate Guidelines. To learn more about healthy food choices, visit choosemyplate.gov/kids

Being Active is also an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Talk to your classmates about registering for Walk Georgia as a group or register your family to participate in Walk Georgia. Visit walkgeorgia.org to learn more.

Take a look at your school's breakfast and lunch menu. The School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch program can help you to understand how farmers, growers, food processors, distributors, school nutrition directors and the United States Department of Agriculture work collaboratively to supply food to schools.

Do you know how 4-H is connected to School Nutrition? We are both part of the United States Department of Agriculture; we just connect with you through different avenues.

Take time to thank a farmer, a producer, a cafeteria manager or school food service worker for the delicious meal you had today. If you brought your lunch from home, ask your parents where they got the food. Pay close attention to the fruits and vegetables you ate since many grocery stores are marketing locally grown produce in support of our Georgia farmers.

To learn more about the Farm to School movement go to: fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school

### References:
- From Seeds to Supper, Getting to Know Georgia by Looking at Agriculture—A workbook just for you from Georgia 4-H. (1981)
- ncda.org; extension.uga.edu/Agriculture; caes.uga.edu/Departments; fcs.uga.edu; New Georgia Encyclopedia: georgiaencyclopedia.org; dictionary.reference.com
- ChooseMyPlate.gov

## Parents! Thank you for taking time to review this publication with your child. Please help your 4-H leader know that you have learned more about Georgia 4-H with your child.

**Parent/Guardian Signature**  
**Date**

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