

# TASSEL TO TABLE – CEREAL BOX CHAIN

## Grade Level

4-8

## Length of Lesson

45 minutes

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will understand the path corn takes from the field into the products we use every day.

## Materials

- One individual-sized cereal box
- Hole punch
- Yarn (8 pieces, 6-8 inches each)
- Construction Paper
- Scissors
- Corn kernels

## Standards

Illinois Social Science  
SS.EC. 2.4

## Lesson Summary

Students will learn about the path corn takes from the field into food products we use every day. This lesson explores careers throughout the process, as well supply issues that can affect the food supply chain.

## Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Read through the [IAITC Corn Ag Mag](#) to capture students' interest and learn a little more about corn.
2. Complete the activity following the procedures:
  - Have students make one of each item out of construction paper: kernel, corn, combine, elevator, manufacturer, truck and grocery cart.
  - Instruct students to punch a hole on each side of the construction paper items, except the corn kernel, which needs the top punched.
  - Have students create a chain by placing the items in the order listed on the next page.
  - Have the students place all the items in their cereal box. Then, starting with the kernel, they can slowly pull shapes out and share how corn goes from the tassel to the table.
  - Use this activity for an interest approach or to culminate a corn or food lesson.
3. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity.



# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Tassel to Table - Cereal Box Chain Order

1. **Kernel:** The corn plant starts with a kernel. Farmers plant kernels in the spring time. The kernel needs moisture and warm temperatures to grow.
2. **Corn Plant:** During the spring and summer months, the corn plant grows. It develops leaves and a strong root system. Wind pollination fertilizes the silk. This fertilization is what creates an ear of corn. The corn plant continues to mature until mid-October.
3. **Combine:** When the kernels are at the right moisture level, farmers harvest the corn using a combine.
4. **Elevator:** These kernels can be stored on the farm or taken to a grain elevator. At the elevator, farmers receive money in exchange for the corn.
5. **Manufacturer:** Corn is processed to make products you use everyday, such as cereal. Check the ingredient label on your cereal box. You might see ingredients such as corn meal and corn syrup. A manufacturer makes and packages cereal.
6. **Truck:** Once the cereal has been made, it is transported to your grocery store by using trucks.
7. **Grocery Store:** A grocery store displays and sells a variety of products, so that you, the consumer, can pick out and purchase your cereal.
8. **Cereal Box:** Check the Nutrition Label. There is corn in your cereal box. Now, you know how it got there!

Extension Idea: Check out our [Corn Awesome Agriculture](#) lesson to learn more how corn gets into some other popular food products.











