



Illinois
AGRICULTURE
in the ClassroomSM
2021-2022 CALENDAR

Photos by Illinois Farm Bureau® photographers



August 2021

poultry, domesticate, fowl,
oviparous, fertilized, incubator,
candling, omnivore

Words & Terms to Learn

Eggs by Jerry Spinelli
Diary of a Pet Turkey by Joanne Ingis
Chicks and Chickens by Gail Gibbons

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 The term poultry refers to chickens, turkeys, ducks, ostriches, emus, quail, pheasants, geese, or pigeons raised for meat, feathers, or eggs.	3 Female chickens and turkeys are called hens, male chickens are called roosters, and male turkeys are called toms.	4 By 3000 BC, Egyptians had domesticated fowl that were laying eggs for humans to eat.	5 All poultry are oviparous which means their young hatch out of an egg.	6 The top 5 egg producing states are Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, California, and Pennsylvania.	7
8	9 Illinois produces nearly 128 million dozen eggs each year!	10 The outer covering of the egg is called the shell and is composed mostly of calcium carbonate and protects the rest of the egg.	11 The color of the eggshell is determined by the breed of chicken laying the egg and the color of the yolk depends on the hen's diet.	12 In order to produce eggs, hens need grit in their diet, which is a mixture of angular, hard crushed rock.	13 Eggs fertilized by a rooster will hatch. The eggs we buy from the store to eat are not fertilized.	14
15	16 Egg yolks have 6 grams of high-quality protein and naturally contain Vitamin D.	17 An incubator is a box which maintains a constant temperature and is used to hatch eggs.	18 As a chicken embryo develops in a fertilized egg, the yolk provides nourishment, and the albumen cushions the embryo.	19 Candling is the process of using light to look at the inside of an egg to determine the stage of development.	20 A baby chicken is called a chick and a baby turkey is called a poult.	21
22	23 Chickens are omnivores. They eat seeds and insects but will also eat larger prey like small mice and lizards.	24 Chickens are not completely flightless. They can get airborne enough to make it over a fence or into a tree.	25 For short periods of time, chickens can run up to 9 miles per hour and turkeys can run up to 25 miles per hour!	26 Turkeys have roamed North and South America for 10 million years!	27 In 1620, settlers brought turkeys along on their ships. Although there were wild turkeys in the forests, they wanted domesticated birds for their barnyards.	28
29	30 Illinois has over 5 million chickens!	31 Vaccines, paints, shampoos, and animal feed are a few examples of egg by-products.				



September 2021

cultivation, greenhouse, climate,
nursery, fertilize, embryo,
germination

Words & Terms to Learn

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown
My Louisiana Sky by Kimberly Holt
A Tree is a Plant by Clyde Robert Bulla

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Floriculture is a branch of horticulture focused more specifically on the cultivation of flowering and ornamental, or decorative, plants.	2 Floriculture crops include bedding plants, houseplants, flowering garden plants, and cut greens and flowers.	3 There are more than 23,000 establishments in the floral industry throughout the United States! These include wholesaler, floriculture growers, and florist businesses.	4
5	6 There are more than 83,000 people employed in the floral industry across the country!	7 The inside climate, including temperature, light intensity, and humidity, of a greenhouse can be controlled to improve growing conditions.	8 Artifacts from 2800-28 BC were found in ancient Egyptian tombs and show how flowers were used for personal gifts, decorations, and ceremonial offerings.	9 In agriculture, a nursery is a place where young shrubs, trees, and flowers are grown for people to buy and use for landscaping or decorating.	10 Prince Nursery was the first nursery in the U.S. and was established in 1737 in Flushing, New York.	11
12	13 More than \$26 billion is spent each year on floral products in the United States!	14 In the mid-1800s, arboretums and botanical gardens started opening across the country, presenting ornamental plants for public viewing.	15 Arboriculture is the selection, planting, care, and removal of various trees, shrubs, vines, and perennial plants.	16 Flowering plants produce offspring through pollination, which is the transfer of pollen from the stamen to the pistil of the flower.	17 Once plants are fertilized through pollination, they develop from a tiny form called an embryo, which is usually contained within a seed.	18
19	20 The seed provides food for the embryo plant until it can push its leaves above ground and begin to manufacture its own food through photosynthesis.	21 Photosynthesis takes place in the leaves of plants, which is also where nutrients are stored.	22 Germination is the term used for the stages of a sprouting seed. Seeds require warmth, moisture, and oxygen to grow.	23 Roots bring nourishment to the plant by absorbing dissolved minerals and water from the soil.	24 All plants, especially trees, are natural air purifiers and take in carbon dioxide from the air!	25
26	27 Many products, including lumber, medicines, soaps, and fibers come from plants!	28 Plant owners keep their plants looking nice by pruning them, or cutting away overgrowth and dead leaves.	29 In 1903, Liberty Hyde Bailey founded the American Society of Horticultural Science and worked to remove barriers between botany and horticulture.	30 Floriculture takes place in a variety of settings, from open ground to plastic greenhouses.		



October 2021

native, angiosperm, vine, blossom,
pollination, antioxidant, variety,
processing, ornamental

Words & Terms to Learn

Too Many Pumpkins by Linda White
Pumpkinheads by Rainbow Rowell
Squashed by Joan Bauer

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Pumpkins are members of the gourd family, which includes cucumbers, honeydew melons, cantaloupe, watermelons, and zucchini.	2
3	4 Pumpkins are classified as a fruit because they are a part of the plant that contains seeds.	5 Pumpkins are native to Central America and Mexico but now grow on all continents except Antarctica.	6 The name pumpkin originated from "pepon," the Greek word for "large melon."	7 Pumpkins were a staple of Native American diets centuries before the Pilgrims landed.	8 Native Americans taught the Pilgrims their method of planting corn, beans, and pumpkins together, which they called the "Three Sisters."	9
10	11 Pumpkins grow on vines that can grow up to 30 feet long!	12 Pumpkins are angiosperms, which is the scientific name for plants with flowers.	13 Pumpkin vines produce blossoms that will need to be pollinated before turning into a pumpkin.	14 Tiny green buds form at the bottom of the blossoms after pollination. Over time, the buds will grow into larger pumpkins.	15 It takes 110-120 days for a pumpkin vine to produce mature pumpkins.	16
17	18 Most pumpkin varieties are orange in color. The orange color is a clue that they are full of the antioxidant beta-carotene.	19 Depending on the variety, pumpkins can range in size from less than one pound to more than 2,000 pounds!	20 The heaviest pumpkin on record in the United States was 2,528 pounds and the heaviest pumpkin on record in the world was 2,624 pounds!	21 Pumpkins are grown primarily for processing into canned pumpkin, with a small percentage grown for ornamental sales, like those we use for jack-o'-lanterns.	22 Processing pumpkins are harvested in the fall with a machine that moves them into rows, while another elevates them into trucks.	23
24	25 Ornamental pumpkins are picked by hand to avoid bruising.	26 Morton, Illinois, where more than 80% of the world's canned pumpkin is processed, is considered the Pumpkin Capital of the World.	27 The tradition of carving jack-o'-lanterns came from the Irish tradition of carving turnips to scare away the evil ghost "Jack of the Lantern."	28 Pumpkins are good for your body! They are rich in Vitamin A and potassium and their seeds are rich in protein and iron.	29 Another name for pumpkin seeds is "pepitas."	30
31						



November 2021

heifer, breed, silage, ruminant,
udder, herding, pasteurization

Words & Terms to Learn

Clarabelle by Cris Peterson
Chuck's Ice Cream Wish: Tales of the Dairy Godmother by Viola Butler
MILK! Life on a Dairy Farm by Ruth Owen

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Illinois has about 102,000 dairy cows that produce close to 2 billion pounds of milk a year.	2 Milk is measured in pounds, instead of volumetric measurements like gallons, for more accuracy.	3 Depending on the breed, one dairy cow can produce 6.5-10 gallons of milk per day. That is more than 2,300 gallons each year!	4 There are 7 common dairy cow breeds in the United States. The most common breed is Holsteins, which are black and white.	5 The greatest amount of milk produced by a cow in 1 year was over 59,000 lbs. of milk by a Holstein cow in 1993.	6
7	8 Male dairy cattle are called bulls and do not produce milk.	9 Female dairy cattle are called heifers. A heifer is called a cow after she gives birth to her first calf.	10 Dairy cows eat hay, silage, and grain. Silage is fermented corn, wheat, or hay with the stalks and leaves.	11 Dairy cattle are called ruminants because they have four compartments in their stomach.	12 Ruminants first chew their food to soften it, swallow it, and then return it to their mouth to "chew the cud."	13
14	15 The udder is the part of a dairy cow that produces and stores milk.	16 People were herding dairy cows over 7,500 years ago!	17 Milk has every nutrient your body needs to live and is the best recovery drink after a workout.	18 Louis Pasteur discovered a process of heating and cooling the milk to kill bacteria and protect the purity and flavors. This process is called pasteurization.	19 Most dairy cows are milked 2-3 times per day.	20
21	22 Each year, U.S. dairy farmers provide milk to make more than 1 billion gallons of ice cream and 7 billion pounds of cheese!	23 It takes more than 21 pounds of whole milk to make one single pound of butter.	24 Dairy farms are routinely inspected to ensure the cows are safe and healthy and their environment is clean and sanitary.	25 Plastic milk bottles were first introduced in the United States in 1967.	26 Special trucks haul the milk from the farm to the dairy plant. The truck keeps the milk cold - like a giant refrigerator on wheels.	27
28	29 The dairy industry supplies jobs to over 11,600 Illinois residents.	30 National Milk Day is January 11th and June is National Dairy month!				



December 2021

domesticated, sow, farrowing, litter, root, manure, by-product, insulin

Words & Terms to Learn

Pigs and Pork in the Story of Agriculture
by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggy
Welcome to Our Farm by Jon Scieszka
Pig 05049 by Christien Meindertsma

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Pork is the food product that comes from pigs. Some examples are bacon, ham, ribs, and pork chops.	2 Bacon is one of the oldest meats consumed in history.	3 Pigs were domesticated in China around 4900 BC. By 1500 BC, they were being raised in Europe.	4
5	6 Illinois ranks fourth in pork production, containing over 2,000 hog farms and raising over 11 million pigs annually!	7 A female pig used for breeding is called a sow. Sows are pregnant for about 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days.	8 In hog production, farrowing means giving birth.	9 A sow will farrow a litter of baby pigs called piglets. There are usually between 8-12 piglets in a litter.	10 Most sows farrow 2-3 litters of piglets each year.	11
12	13 At birth, a piglet weighs around 2 ½ pounds. They will weigh about 280 pounds by the time they are four to six months old!	14 After piglets reach a certain age and weight, they are weaned and moved to the nursery.	15 Pigs eat a special mixture of corn, soybeans, vitamins, and minerals to keep them healthy and help them grow.	16 Farmers have special electronic equipment that allows them to monitor the fat content of their pigs and adjust the pig's diet to produce lean meat.	17 A pig's tongue contains 15,000 taste buds! By comparison, the human tongue only has 9,000 taste buds.	18
19	20 Adult pigs can run up to 11 miles per hour!	21 Pigs are now found on every continent except for Antarctica and there are over 180 species.	22 In 1593 a Spanish explorer named Hernando de Soto landed in Tampa Bay, Florida, with 13 pigs. Within 3 years, his herd grew to over 700.	23 Some of de Soto's pigs ran away into the wild and became the first wild pigs, or Razorbacks, that now roam the southern United States.	24 Americans consume 318 million pounds of ham in the holiday season!	25
26	27 Pigs have an excellent sense of smell.	28 Hog manure is often spread on fields as fertilizer because it is a great source of nitrogen that plants need to grow.	29 Pig by-products are used for over 500 different items, including many medicines like insulin.	30 Insulin is made from pigs' adrenal glands and helps people with diabetes lower their blood sugar.	31 The pork industry supplies over 57,000 jobs in Illinois! This includes pork production, feed and equipment suppliers, transporters, and processors.	



Horse (Early Season)

January 2022

equus, evolve, classify, stallion,
mare, foal, herbivore, paddock,
gait, hippology, mustang

Words & Terms to Learn

Horses! by Gail Gibbons
Leah's Pony by Elizabeth Friedrich
War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Horses belong to the Equus family. The term Equus come from the ancient Greek word meaning quickness.	4 Horses have lived on Earth for more than 50 million years, evolving from much smaller creatures. They were first domesticated between 4000 and 3000 BC.	5 Modern day equines are classified into four groups based on their size: miniatures, ponies, light weights, and heavy weights, or draft horses.	6 A male horse is called a stallion and a female horse is called a mare.	7 A baby horse is called a foal. When a foal is born, its legs are almost their full adult length.	8
9	10 Horses have strong teeth, sharp ears, keen eyes, and a good sense of smell.	11 A horse has larger eyes than any other land animal except the ostrich!	12 Horses are herbivores, which mean they only eat vegetation, preferably grass and hay.	13 The average lifespan of a horse is 20-25 years, although they can live for up to 30 years.	14 Horses' hooves need to be trimmed every 6-8 weeks and are trimmed by professionals called farriers.	15
16	17 Horses live in large, outdoor enclosures called paddocks.	18 Gait is a term used to describe the way a horse moves. The four natural gaits of a horse are the walk, trot, canter, and gallop.	19 Over 25,000 people work in careers directly connected to the horses raised and cared for in Illinois.	20 The scientific name for the study of horses is called "hippology."	21 In Illinois, 645,000 acres of land are used for horse-related purposes.	22
23	24 There are more than 300 different breeds of horses and ponies!	25 Horseback riding is proven to have therapeutic benefits to humans with physical and mental illnesses and provides assistance to people with disabilities.	26 From 1860-1861 the Pony Express was a fast method for mail delivery. It closed in October 1861 with the development of the transcontinental telegraph.	27 Horses and mules were the only means of power on a farm until the tractor was developed in the early 1900s.	28 Today, horses are used on cattle ranches for rounding up herds of cattle. They are also used for police officers in larger cities, competitions and racing, and therapy and recreational riding.	29
30	31 Wild horses of the western plains are called Mustangs.					



February 2022

by-products, breed, bovine, silage,
fermented, gestation, colostrum,
regurgitated

Words & Terms to Learn

*Little Joe by Sandra Neil Wallace
Beef Princess of Practical County
by Michelle Houts
Beef Cattle in the Story of Agriculture
by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggey*

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Beef is the meat that comes from beef cattle. Hamburger, steak, and brisket are examples of beef.	2 We use every part of a steer after harvest. While 40% of the average weight of a steer is edible meat, the rest is used for by-products.	3 Paints, plastics, soaps, pet foods, piano keys, insulation, basketballs, gloves, jackets, and medicines are all examples of beef by-products.	4 Cattle were first brought to the western hemisphere in 1493 by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage.	5
6	7 Columbus' Spanish cattle were also introduced to Mexico and were the foundation to the breed we now know as Texas Longhorn.	8 There are many breeds of cattle. The most popular breed is Angus, which is solid black in color and known for its high quality of meat.	9 Cattle are a part of the bovine (Bovidae) family, which also includes sheep, goats, bison, and antelopes.	10 Male cattle used for breeding are called bulls and male cattle used for meat are called steers.	11 Cattle can eat up to 40 pounds of food a day which includes grass, hay, corn, and silage!	12
13	14 The gestation (pregnancy) period for cows is 9 months. Depending on the breed, a calf can weigh 60-100 pounds at birth!	15 The first milk produced from the mother after birth, called colostrum, contains antibodies for the newborn calf.	16 It is vital that newborn calves drink their mother's colostrum as soon as possible because they are born with no protection from germs and diseases.	17 A newborn calf drinks its mother's milk and eats grass for the first six months.	18 Cattle are ruminants. They have four-compartment stomachs that help them digest very tough food like grass.	19
20	21 After chewing and swallowing grass, they regurgitate and re-chew the partially digested food. This is called "chewing the cud."	22 Farmers use branding and ear tags to mark and track their cattle for easier recognition.	23 In 2020, there were close to 1.4 million cattle and calves on Illinois farms.	24 Ground beef, roast, sirloin, steaks, ribs, and chuck are different cuts of beef. The names of the meats vary regionally.	25 Ground beef is the most popular form of beef. This is what is used to make hamburgers!	26
27	28 One serving of beef is 3 ounces and provides more than half of your required protein for the day.					



Wheat *(Early Season)*

March 2022

cotyledon, monocotyledon,
varieties, embryo, kernel, spike,
tiller, harvest, combine

Words & Terms to Learn

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata
Farmer George Plants a Nation
by Peggy Thomas
Bread Lab! by Bethany Econopouly
and Kim Binczewski

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Wheat is a member of the grass family and produces a dry, edible seed known as a kernel which is used mostly for human consumption.	2 Wheat produces only one cotyledon, or embryonic leaf, so it is classified as a monocotyledon.	3 Swiss lake dwellers ground the wheat kernels, mixed the flour with water, and baked the first flatbreads as early as 7000-6000 BC.	4 Thousands of varieties of wheat fall into six classes: hard red winter, hard red spring, soft red winter, hard white, soft white, and durum.	5
6	7 Most of the wheat grown in Illinois is soft red winter wheat, which is used to make cereals, cakes, cookies, and pretzels.	8 About 83% of the wheat produced in Illinois is grown in the southern half of the state, where there is a longer growing season.	9 In 2020, Illinois harvested over 500,000 acres of wheat!	10 The embryo of a wheat kernel that will develop into a wheat plant is called the wheat germ.	11 The four basic parts of a wheat plant include the head, stem, leaves, and roots.	12
13	14 Wheat plants grow many leaves and send up 3-12 stems called tillers. A spike develops at the top of each tiller and matures into a wheat head.	15 A spike is the head of a wheat plant and contains between 50 and 75 kernels.	16 The wheat plant below the spiked head is called straw after harvest.	17 To "harvest" means to remove wheat kernels from the wheat plant.	18 Wheat is harvested by a specialized tractor called a combine.	19
20	21 A combine cuts the wheat and then cleans and separates the kernels from the plant.	22 A modern combine can harvest 1,000 bushels of wheat per hour.	23 One bushel of wheat can make about 90 one-pound loaves of whole-wheat bread!	24 The harvested wheat from the farm is collected at grain elevators and then shipped to flour mills.	25 Millers grind wheat kernels into fine powder to make wheat flour.	26
27	28 After harvest, the straw is bundled together by a machinery attachment called a baler. The straw is then used for animal bedding.	29 Wheat contains a lot of protein, which is good for you!	30 You could make 5,000 four-inch cookies or fill 53 boxes of cereal with one bushel of wheat!	31 The starch found in wheat makes it suitable to be used as a versatile adhesive. The sticky stuff on the back of stamps contains wheat!		



Apple (*Early Season*)

April 2022

archeologist, grafting, budding,
blossom, ripen, variety

Words & Terms to Learn

The Year Money Grew on Trees
by Aaron Hawkins
Apple Orchard Riddle
by Margaret McNamara
Apples to Oregon by Deborah Hopkinson

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Apples are a part of the rose family, which also includes plants like pears, plums, almonds, and roses.	2
3	4 The apple tree originated from central Asia, near the Caspian and Black Seas. In 1620, the pilgrims brought apples to the United States.	5 The crabapple tree is the only apple tree native to North America.	6 Archeologists have found evidence that humans have enjoyed apples since at least 6500 BC.	7 Apple trees can take 15 years to grow before producing an apple when grown from a seed.	8 Most apple trees are grown by grafting or budding onto existing rootstocks.	9
10	11 Budding and grafting are beneficial for creating new apple varieties! New varieties create new tastes, colors, and resistance to diseases!	12 Apple trees produce blossoms in the spring which will mature into fruit by autumn.	13 Apples have five seed pockets that each contain a seed. When you cut an apple horizontally, you can observe the star-shaped pattern of the seeds!	14 The blossoms on apple trees need to be pollinated for fruit development. Many apple growers place beehives in their orchards to promote pollination.	15 Apples are harvested by hand picking in the fall.	16
17	18 After apples are harvested, they are stored in controlled atmospheric storage units that regulate temperature, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and humidity levels.	19 Controlled atmospheric storage, or CAS, slows down the ripening process so we can enjoy apples all year round.	20 There are over 2,500 varieties of apples grown in the United States, and over 7,500 grown around the world.	21 Washington, New York, and Michigan are a few of the top apple producing states.	22 On August 21, 2007, the GoldRush apple was officially made Illinois' State Fruit.	23
24	25 Apples are considered a nutritional powerhouse because they contain a variety of vitamins and nutrients that help our bodies function!	26 The peel of an apple contains fiber and many antioxidants that are beneficial for us!	27 A medium sized apple has 5 grams of fiber, which is 20% of the recommended daily allowance.	28 It takes 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.	29 The science of growing apples is called "pomology."	30



Corn *(Early Season)*

May 2022

ethanol, renewable, biodegradable,
petroleum, tassel, kernel,
evaporation

Words & Terms to Learn

*Popcorn Country: The Story of America's
Favorite Snack by Cris Peterson*
*Corn is Maize: The Gift of the
Indians by Alike*
Corn by Gail Gibbons

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Most of the corn farmers grow in Illinois is actually a grain, not a vegetable, and is part of the grass family.	3 Corn is called maize by most countries, which comes from the Spanish word 'maiz.'	4 There are several types of corn. The most common types are field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn.	5 Dent corn, or field corn, is higher in starch and lower in sugar than sweet corn. Sweet corn is the type of corn bought from the market and eaten straight off the cob.	6 Field corn plants grow brace roots above ground for support and can grow up to 15 feet tall in just 2-3 months!	7
8	9 The majority of corn grown in Illinois is field corn, which is used for animal feed, processing, and ethanol production.	10 Ethanol is a high-performance, locally grown, renewable fuel made from corn. It is biodegradable and does not pollute groundwater.	11 Compared directly to gasoline, which is not renewable, ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 40-50%.	12 One bushel of corn weighs 56 pounds and can produce 2.8 gallons of ethanol!	13 Corn can even be used to make plastic! Corn plastic is biodegradable and more environmentally friendly than petroleum-based plastic.	14
15	16 Tassels, stalks, husks, ears, leaves, roots, and kernels are all part of a corn plant.	17 A kernel is the yellow seed on an ear of corn. One ear of corn averages 800 kernels in 16 rows.	18 Starch, protein, oil, and fiber are the four major components of a corn kernel.	19 The tassel is the tuft at the top of the corn plant and contains the pollen.	20 Once a corn plant tassels, pollen from the tassel lands on the silk of the ear and travels down to make one kernel of corn.	21
22	23 Each corn plant produces just one to two ears of corn!	24 An acre of corn will give off 4,000 gallons of water in the form of evaporation per day.	25 After about 120 days of growth, the corn plant dies and is harvested with a machine called a combine.	26 Once the corn is sold, it is loaded into semi-trucks, and eventually freight trains and barges, and transported all over the U.S. and the world.	27 Over half of all the corn grown in the United States is grown in four states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, which are all a part of the "corn belt."	28
29	30 Native Americans taught the settlers of Jamestown how to grow their own corn.	31 In the days of the early European settlers in North America, corn was so valuable it was used as money and traded for other products.				



Soybean *(Mid-Season)*

June/July 2022

legume, consumer, protein, bushel,
pod, radical, harvest, export,
substitutions

Words & Terms to Learn

Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car
by Peggy Thomas
Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic by Ginnie Lo
Pod to Plate: The Life Cycle of
Soybeans by Julie D. Blunier

Recommended Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 The soybean plant is a type of legume. These bushy, green plants grow 3-5 feet tall.	2	3 The soybean is used for animal and human consumption, as well as consumer and industrial use.	4
5	6	7 Farmers in China began growing soybeans more than 5,000 years ago.	8	9 The soybean is one of the most versatile seeds grown in the world.	10	11
12	13 Asian countries have been eating soybeans and using by-products from the plant for thousands of years.	14	15 Many cultures use soybeans as a protein source rather than meat, eggs, or cheese.	16	17 Henry Ford experimented with soy-based plastics in the production of his cars. In 1940, he swung an axe at a car trunk to demonstrate the durability of soy plastics.	18
19	20	21 Illinois plants enough soybeans to cover nine million football fields!	22	23 Decatur, Illinois is the Soybean Capital of the World.	24	25
26	27 In 2020, Illinois farmers raised around 590 million bushels of soybeans on just over 10 million acres!	28	29 Soybean plants sprout small flowers which will grow into small pods of soybeans.	30		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Each soybean plant grows 60-80 pods, and each pod has three to four beans inside.	2
3	4	5 A soybean seed grows a little tail-like root called a radical. This becomes the plant's main root.	6	7 Soybeans are good for crop rotation because they leave nitrogen in the soil for the next crop.	8	9
10	11 In the fall, the soybean plant turns brown and the leaves drop off before they are harvested.	12	13 After harvest, soybeans are transported by trucks, trains, and barges. Barges are used on rivers, like the Mississippi River, and transport the beans to ports for exporting.	14	15 One bushel of soybeans weighs 60 pounds and can produce 48 pounds of soybean meal. The livestock industry is the largest consumer of soy meal!	16
17	18	19 Soybean oil is the main edible oil used in the United States. Soybeans are the #1 ingredient in vegetable oil.	20	21 In the 1920s, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg developed soy milk and meat substitutes from soybeans.	22	23
24	25 During the Civil War, soybeans were used in place of coffee beans because real coffee was scarce.	26	27 George Washington Carver invented a process for making paints and stains from soybeans!	28	29 Soy ink is used in over 95% of America's daily newspapers.	30
31						



www.iaafoundation.org

IAITC is supported through contributions to the IAA Foundation



AGMAGS

The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Ag Mags are four-page, colorful agricultural magazines for kids. They contain information about agriculture, classroom activities, agricultural career interviews, and bright pictures.

Ag Mags are available online and in classroom sets of 30. Contact your local County Farm Bureau to order some today!

- | | | | |
|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
| Apple | Horse | Pork | Soybean |
| Beef | Illinois History | Poultry | Urban |
| Careers | Nutrition | Pumpkin | Water |
| Corn | Pizza | Seasons | Wheat |
| Dairy | Pollinator | Soil | |



1701 Towanda Avenue
Bloomington, IL 61701

309.557.3334
aitc@ilfb.org

Visit Us: www.aginthe classroom.org