

Educating About Agriculture

Recommended Book List

American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture®

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture® has provided these books for your review. Please take the time to review the books provided and create for yourself a list of books for purchase. These books may then be submitted to your school or librarian to recommend for purchase to improve the books available to your students that provide accurate information about agriculture. These books are not perfect but do a reasonably good job of portraying agriculture as a modern industry. You will need to order these books directly through a supplier. They can be ordered through one of several book companies. As of this date all the books listed are in print.

2/26/09

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American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture®

Recommended Reading List of 276 books

The foundation recommends these books for the agricultural literacy efforts being conducted across the country. These books are not for sale through the foundation. They must be ordered through normal distribution channels. Books being used with our formal Accurate Ag Books program and Book of the Year are identified. Bulk orders will be taken twice a year through Farm Bureau® and Ag in the Classroom networks (Book of the Year and PreK-K selected books only) for statewide distribution. Please contact those representatives (Ag in the Classroom, Women's Leadership Committee or Young Farmer and Rancher Committee), in your state to determine whether your state is participating in that ordering process.

Animals & Foods from Animals

Aquaculture

Fishing by Ann Love, Jane Drake and Pat Cupples
Price: \$5.95
ISBN13: 978-1-5533-7422-0

Best for ages 6-11

The title of this book is misleading because it is about much more than just fishing. It addresses fish farming, research, fish hatcheries, fish stocking of streams and lakes, methods developed to enable fish to move around hydro-electric dams, and the use of fish as food, fertilizer and feed.

Eggs and Poultry

Chickens Have Chicks by Lynn M. Stone
ISBN: 0-7565-000-1

Best for ages 3 - 7

How does a chick get out of the egg? This and many other chicken-related questions are answered by this book. Each chapter title asks a question, and the text attempts to answer that question. While the book does focus on free-range chickens, the text also discusses eggs being hatched in incubators and chicks needing heat lamps in lieu of their mother's feathers. The text is accompanied by wonderful photography and a section of fun facts. This book contributes to a great learning experience.

Chicks and Chickens by Gail Gibbons
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-8234-1939-8

Best for ages 4-8

As always, the author has done an admirable job of describing chickens: breeds, life cycle, origins, anatomy, behavior, egg structure, hatching and egg production. While she does depict large farms in an accurate way, the majority of the illustrations depict small free-range birds and behavior. She does not promote one structure over the other, however. The illustrations are a mixed bag. Some are very accurate, others poor. The first page of the book is an example of poor illustrations. The hen looks like her back is hunched and the head of the chicken in the forefront

looks like it is in pain. Also illustrations of people are poor. The strengths of the book outweigh these weaknesses, but they should be addressed as the book is used.

Face-to-Face With The Chicken by Christian Harvard

Best for ages 7-9

Price: \$9.95

ISBN: 1-5709-1455-9

While this book almost exclusively depicts chickens in a free-range setting, it does so realistically and that is why we are recommending it. It discusses pecking order although it avoids the most unpleasant aspects of that behavior. It includes the need to have a rooster to have fertile eggs that will hatch but does not mention that most eggs are not fertile and a rooster is not needed to produce eggs. It depicts an embryo developing inside the egg and a chick hatching. What is most appreciated about this book is that it does not shy away from discussing predators and depicts both a fox and weasel in photographs and text. It also discusses rats, cats and dogs as serious predators. Almost no other book on free-range chickens includes this information or if any information is included, the impact and problems are downplayed. If this book is used, the incorrect information about battery-raised chickens needs to be corrected. Neither the photo nor description is accurate. These chickens are not force fed. They are provided free access to food and water and eat and drink as they choose.

Farm Animals - Turkeys by Holly Enders

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13: 978-0-5311-4722-1

This early reader book provides very basic information about turkeys. This is one of the few books in the farm animal series that we are recommending. Why? Because this is a topic not commonly found. The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type but what it contains is largely accurate. While there is not much content there is also no negative content. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

From Egg to Chicken by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 0-8225-4662-0

This is one in a series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The major flaw in the book is that all of the images are of free-range chickens and old fashioned methods of egg hatching and chick rearing. The book ends with a glossary.

What's for Lunch, Eggs by Claire Llewellyn

Best for Ages 6-8

Price: \$18.80

ISBN: 0-516-21547-7

Unlike most other books that describe the chicken and egg relationship, this book does not avoid the image of poultry in cages. It also depicts free-range chickens and hens sitting on a nest. The book ends with an excellent glossary and foods made with, or from, eggs.

Where Do Chicks Come From? By Amy E. Sklansky

Best for ages 4 - 7

Price: \$15.99

ISBN: 0-06-028892-2

The excellent illustrations of the egg-laying anatomy of the hen, structure of the egg, and embryo to chick development process and hatching process qualify this book for recommendation. The one short-coming of this book is that it only depicts chickens in a free-range setting and hatching eggs on a nest. Educators in the process of incubating eggs can discuss that issue when they read this book. This book receives high marks in discussing which eggs are fertile, why and which eggs are not. It actually contains a page explaining that the eggs children eat for breakfast are not fertile.

General Farm Animals

Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2009

Busy Barnyard by John Schindel

Best for ages 1 ½ -3

Price: \$6.95

ISBN13:978-1-58246-168-7

While this book mainly depicts farm animals in a free-range, diversified farm manner, its rhyming text will captivate young children and begins the process of connecting non-farmers to farmers in a very pleasant way.

Farm Animals by Jennifer Blizin Gillis

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$19.93

ISBN: 0-7565-0670-0

This book is one of the better books in the series. It actually provides a better photographic portrayal of the animals it also describes them better than other books in the series of specific animals. For example, the book in the series on pigs only depicts free-range hogs. The photo in this book depicts market hogs in group confinement. The animals look healthy and contented. The other book would have benefited immeasurably by including this photo. That does not mean that this book is perfect. It misses the opportunity to address the fact that cows only give milk after having a calf by stating that dairy cows start giving milk when they are two. If one did not know better, one would believe that on the heifer's second birthday she instantly becomes a cow and begins giving milk. Another photo depicts a hen sitting on a nest of hay while the text describes hens in cages with conveyors collecting eggs. Those points are minor flaws in an otherwise acceptable book. The book ends with a short vocabulary list and a few trivia questions.

Feels Real On the Farm

Best for toddlers and pre-schoolers

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-7641-5856-2

With stunning photographs, simple words and five different textures for little hands to touch and feel, the farm animals in this delightful book come to life! This book is a must for tactile exploration and vocabulary building by non-readers.

Little Star...Raising our First Calf

by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney (edited by

Rebecca Long Chaney)

Best for ages 5-7

ISBN13: 978-0-9818-4680-4

While it is not realistic to believe that these young twins wrote the book it is obvious that they are familiar with the beef cattle pictured in it and that they are comfortable as farm kids. The colorful photographs help tell the story of life of a cattle farm and how young cattle are raised. Several pictures are inadvisable as recommended activities for children this young. You may wish to caution listeners or readers of the book to that fact.

Grazing

Amazing Grazing by Cris Peterson

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 1-5639-7942-X

This author, well known to the agricultural community, has produced another outstanding book. The book's main focus is on rangeland grazing but the book does have information of value to readers anywhere in the country. Using the stories of three Montana ranchers, Cris describes the love ranchers have for their land, efforts to preserve and enhance the environment and raise a healthy food source for America's consumers. She depicts that their efforts care for their cattle and enhance the wildlife habitat on their ranches.

Horses

Caring for Your Horse by Erin Monahan

Best for ages 6-10

Price:

ISBN13: 978-1-4296-1256-2

While most books targeting this age level simply entice children to love horses, this one also provides practical instruction about the care having a horse requires. The book covers where horses need to live, supplies needed for horses, veterinary care, brushing and grooming, stall cleaning, hoof cleaning, hoof trimming, and horse behavior. The book ends with a glossary and Internet sites.

From Horse to Foal by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 0-8225-0941-5

This is one in a series of books depicting the various plant and animal source of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The book strength is that it contains excellent photographs including several of a newborn foal. The book ends with a glossary.

Horses by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$6.95 (paperback)

ISBN: 0-8234-1875-8

As with all of Gail Gibbon's books she has done a thorough job in describing all aspects of horses and horse care. Unlike most of her books this one has problems. The first problem appears on the page describing gaits. The illustration depicting the gallop shows all four feet off

the ground and at least one foot should always be in contact with the earth. The second is in describing the horse's eyesight. The description makes it sound as though the horse can look behind itself and the description of the eye size should state "relative to body size." The third deals with the pronunciation of breed names. The other benefits outweigh these concerns but they should be addressed when using this book.

Horses Have Foals by Lynn M. Stone

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$19.93

ISBN: 0-7565-0002-8

The excellent photos of young foals enhance this book and bring a smile to any animal-lover's face. The high-quality text includes accurate terminology and explanations. The book even explains that gray horses begin life dark and gradually turn gray. It enhances that explanation with several photos as examples. It also depicts foals in a wide array of ages instead of just newborns as most books do.

The Horse: Faster than the Wind by Valerie Tracqui

Best for Ages 7-10

Price: \$9.95

ISBN: 1-57091-450-8

While this book focuses on wild horses, it provides many facts about horse characteristics and behaviors that are valuable. Excellent photos of wild horses, including a mare giving birth and stallions fighting, enhance the book. The book ends with a section on wild horse issues. While this section of the book is very limited, it would provide the opportunity to begin a dialog about damage wild horses can do to fragile environments and competition with native species.

My First Horse by Linda Bozzo

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$22.60

ISBN13: 978-0-7660-2753-4

Developed in conjunction with the American Humane Association (not to be confused with the The Humane Society of the United States [HSUS]), this is an excellent book for young horse lovers. The text directs students with the proper care, feeding and housing of a horse. Any child working to convince his/her parents to buy a horse needs to read this book to understand that owning a horse requires a great deal of work and should not be undertaken lightly.

Horses and Ponies by Anne Milbourne

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$4.99

ISBN: 9-978079451397-9

This 32-page book provides a wealth of information about horses and ponies physically and behaviorally. The book's accurate text is accompanied by both photographs and illustrations to depict specific topics and traits. This is an excellent text for young readers with an interest in horses. The book concludes with an excellent, if brief, glossary and directions to the publisher's web site for additional information on four separate topics.

The Pebble First Guide to Horses by Zachary Pitts

Best for ages 7-14

ISBN13: 978-1-4296-1708-6

This is not a story book about horses; it is a horse encyclopedia by breed. Thirteen breeds of horses commonly found in the United States are identified in a photograph and then information is provided about height, weight, colors, origin, uses, and facts. The book ends with a glossary and Web site recommendations.

Pet's Point of View, Horse Sense by Beth Gruber

Best for ages 7-13

Price: \$22.60

ISBN: 0-7565-0702-2

As with the other books in this series, this text provides an excellent overview of the horse, its evolution, relatives, anatomy, gaits, care, equipment and history. The book includes fun facts, record breakers, a timeline, and superstars. It ends with an excellent glossary and resources.

Milk, Dairy Cattle, and Dairy Products

Cheese Primer by Steven Jenkins

Best for ages 14 – Adult
& Teacher Reference

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-89480-762-5

This detailed book provides a wealth of information about cheeses of all shapes, sizes, flavors, and origins. From a description of how cheese is made to classifications and consumption, all the basics are covered. Country by country, region by region, cheese by cheese, this complex topic is examined, dissected and savored. The book includes both domestic and European cheeses. Even farm sources are identified. If you want to understand cheese, this is the book for you.

Clarabelle by Cris Peterson

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$16.95

ISBN13: 978-1-59078-310-8

This most recent book by Cris Peterson is, as always, an accurate depiction of agriculture. Clarabelle represents the average dairy cow in a modern dairy operation. The images depict a free stall cattle operation, a modern milking parlor, bulk tanks holding milk and the total feeding operation. Separate images identify the various components of her complete dairy ration. This book would be a great addition to help dispel the myth of the horrors of the 'factory farm' by the accurate portrayal of a clean modern dairy operation. A new addition to the author's series, this book contains a glossary.

Cow by Jules Older

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 0-88106-956-6

This is a book about cows with colorful artwork and cool cow facts. Ever wonder why ice cream sundae isn't called ice cream Thursday? Having trouble telling a Jersey from a Holstein? Are you confused about the difference between a cow and a bull? This book has the answers and much, much more. It is a lively and fun compilation of facts and images.

Cows Have Calves by Lynn M. Stone

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$19.93

ISBN: 0-7565-0001-X

This book (part of the “Animals and Their Young” series) discusses the basics of how dairy calves arrive, what newborn calves do, what they look like and what happens as they grow older. The real-life photographs help to simplify complex concepts and make this book a great read for parents and children. Key terminology and concepts make this book acceptable despite a photo of free-range chickens running with calves.

Extra Cheese, Please by Cris Peterson

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 1-56397-177-1

Cris Peterson’s first book tells the story of her own farm and the journey of milk from cow to mozzarella cheese on a pizza. It begins with the birth of a calf and acknowledgement that a cow must have a calf before she can give milk. The book details cattle feed (silage and grain), shows the herd being milked in a pipeline system, milk pick up and sampling, the cheese making process, and concludes with a recipe for cheese pizza. The book includes a glossary and list of books for further reading.

From Cow to Ice Cream by Bertram T. Knight

Best for ages 5 -7

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-26066-9

From cow to consumption, this well photographed book tells the story of ice cream. It depicts the total process from milking cows to finished ice cream products. It includes milking cows in a milking parlor, mountains of raw sugar in a warehouse and the refining process, natural flavor additives, processing milk into ice cream, making ice cream sandwiches, the freezing process, and retailing. It even has a page dedicated to quality control. The book ends with the happy faces of children consuming ice cream and six types of ice cream novelties.

From Grass to Glass by Stacy Taus-Bolstad

Best for ages 7-10

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-4661-0

As with the other books in this series, this is an excellent book. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cow to milking and processing. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a short glossary.

From Milk to Cheese by Roberta Basel

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4285-3

This is a great book in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cow to cheese to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a page on the largest cheddar cheese ever made, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

From Milk to Cheese by Shannon Zemlicka

Best for ages 7-9

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-1387-2

As with the other books in this series, this is an excellent book. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cow to milking and processing into cheese. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a short glossary.

From Milk to Ice Cream by Roberta Basel

Best for ages 7-10

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As with the previous book, this is a great book in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cow to ice cream to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a page on George Washington's love of ice cream, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

Hooray for Dairy Farming! by Bobbie Kalman

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 0-86505-664-1

This book provides a nice overview of dairy cows and dairy farms. It depicts four of the five major breeds without specifying their names. While some of the images are no longer modern for the most part this book does a nice job of depicting dairy accurately. They use a very nice selection of photographs to enhance the text. The text provides information about pasteurization, various barn structures, milking, cheese making, hoof trimming and calving. The book concludes with a short glossary and recipe for making banana milkshakes.

Let's Find Out About Ice Cream by Mary Ebeltoff Reid

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-590-73800-3

Children want to know how ice cream is made. They may ask how you get the nuts in it, or how it gets to the store without melting among many other questions. This book takes you on a field trip to an ice cream factory with real photographs and simple language.

Milk Comes from a Cow? by Dan Yunk

Best for ages 3-7

Price: \$8.00

ISBN: 978-9797653-0-8

Follow urbanite Kailey as she discovers where milk comes from and how it arrives in her home. While Kailey's grandparents don't come from a farm, they know farmers and understand this part of agriculture. They lead Kailey on a visit to a dairy farm and show her that milk does not come from the grocery store. The book accurately depicts cows feeding in a free stall operation. They also answer the question, "Does chocolate milk come from a brown cow?" Unfortunately, the brown cows depicted with this revelation appear to be beef cows rather than Brown Swiss,

Jerseys, Ayrshires, or Guernseys (all brown or brownish dairy breeds). Produced by, and available from, the Kansas Farm Bureau, a lesson plan will be developed to accompany this book.

The Milk Makers by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 0-689-71116-6

As with all of Gail Gibbons' books, she depicts agriculture accurately in the text. This is one of her weaker books from an illustration standpoint. The book describes the five common breeds of dairy cattle, other animals that give milk humans consume, feeds cattle eat, the digestion process, the milking process, how milking machines work, quality control, the basics of milk transportation and processing, pasteurization, homogenization, retailing and consumption. The book ends with an illustrated glossary of terms and dairy products.

Out and About at the Dairy Farm by Andy Murphy

Best for ages 5-10

Price: \$22.60

ISBN: 1-4048-0041-7

This lively trip to the dairy farm introduces calves, heifers and milkers. Full-color illustrations and fact-filled text take us through meadows, barns and a milking parlor. Each book features a topic-related activity, an index, a vocabulary list and fascinating fun facts. As with most books this one does include a few stereotypical images but the content is one of the best we've found. It also includes multi-cultural images of farmers and students and a female farmer, always a plus.

Thanks to Cows by Allan Fowler

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-04924-0

This early-reader book gives a nice overview of cows. It uses correct terminology and accurately depicts milk production. It is limited in the information it provides but considering the age of the target audience, this is sufficient.

What's for Lunch, Milk by Claire Llewellyn

Best for Ages 6-8

Price: \$18.52

ISBN: 0-516-2040-3

Colorful, high-quality photographs complement the text and tell more than half of this story. The book accurately depicts modern dairy production and processing with a couple of exceptions. On the pages immediately following the accurate explanation of dairy production, the photo is of a beef cow as the text explains why a cow can give milk. The next photo depicts cows feeding on silage in a confined area but the text states that cows spend most of the year grazing in fields. The other images of modern dairy production and processing are rarely if ever depicted in children's books and that makes this a recommended addition. An excellent glossary will help build vocabulary.

Sheep and Goats

Farm Animals - Goats by Emily Green
Price: \$19.99
ISBN13: 978-0-531-17552-1

Best for Ages 5-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about goats. It identifies goats as part of a series about farm animals. This is one of the few books in that series that we are recommending. Why? Because this is a topic not commonly found but a growing segment of agriculture for meat and milk. The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type but what it contains is largely accurate. The one area for concern is that goats can climb trees easily. The photo shown does depict this but they can't climb trees as other animals can. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

Farm Animals - Sheep by Emily Green
Price: \$19.99
ISBN13: 978-0-531-17555-2

Best for Ages 5-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about sheep. It is probably the best book in this series about farm animals. This is one of the few books in that series that we are recommending. Terminology used is correct and it shows shearing the fleece accurately. It does depict finished wool clothing but not the process from sheep to clothing. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

Hooray for Sheep Farming! by Bobbie Kalman
Price: \$7.95
ISBN: 0-86505-669-2

Best for ages 7-12

As with the other books in the series, this book provides a nice overview of sheep and wool production. It depicts the diets of sheep, the work of sheep dogs, shearing, guard animals, sheep breeds and the measures taken to keep sheep healthy. An interesting photo depicts the complete fleece shorn from a sheep being held by two girls. The book concludes with a short glossary and information about carding and spinning wool into yarn. This book is a well written and illustrated source of information.

Sheep Have Lambs by Lynn M. Stone
Price: \$19.93
ISBN: 0-7565-0004-4

Best for Ages 4-7

This is one of the better books in the series. The photos match the text quite nicely and both are fairly accurate. This would be a good early book for students to learn about sheep. The book ends with a short vocabulary and few trivial questions.

Small Animals

Dog Days by Beth Gruber
Price: \$22.60
ISBN: 0-7565-0698

Best for ages 7-12

While it may seem strange to include a book about dogs in a list of agricultural books, dogs do have a role on farms and the serving humans. Having a book that accurately portrays dogs and

their history serving humans is also important to provide students with accurate information about animals. This book does just that. It provides information on dog roles, breeds, social structure, history, communications, terminology and equipment. It instructs the reader on the proper way to interact with dogs and what their body language tells the observer. It also gives good tips on animal care. The book closes with trivia and a glossary.

Farm Animals - Cats by Holly Enders

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13: 978-0-531-14717-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about cats. It identifies cats as living on farms as part of a series about farm animals. This is one of the few books in that series that we are recommending. Why? Because it depicts farm cats accurately as few books do. It has a photo and description of a cat chasing a large mouse in the dark and the next page depicts a different cat with a small mouse caught in its mouth and the text reads, "This cat got a mouse!" The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

Farm Animals - Dogs by Holly Enders

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13: 978-0-531-14717-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about dogs. It identifies dogs as working members of a farm population as part of a series about farm animals. The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type and the content is limited. However the photographs enhance the text and depict the work of dogs accurately. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

Farm Animals - Rabbits by Holly Endres

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13: 978-0-531-14721-5

This early reader book provides very basic information about rabbits. It identifies rabbits as part of a series about farm animals. This is one of the few books in that series that we are recommending. Why? Because this is a topic not commonly found but a growing segment of agriculture for meat and wool. The text consists of only one or two sentences per page in large type but what it contains is largely accurate. The one area for concern is that it indicates that rabbits should be let out of their cages to hop around the farmyard for exercise. Please share with the students that farmers would not do this because the rabbits would run away and the farmer would not be able to catch them. The book ends with a glossary, additional resources and Web sites.

Rabbits Have Bunnies by Lynn M. Stone

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$19.93

ISBN: 0-7565-0005-2

This book provides excellent information about rabbits. While the text explains that this is a book about bunnies raised on farms or pet rabbits, the photos only depict rabbits and bunnies that are not confined. Rabbits are photographed in leaves, surrounded by plants, among vegetables,

standing in a field of dandelions, and nestled in colorful apples. As with another book in this series, the photos are less accurate than the text and if another book were available this one would probably not be recommended. However, the text does tell a fairly accurate story. The book ends with a short vocabulary and a few trivia questions.

Swine

Life on a Pig Farm by Judy Wolfman
Price: \$23.93
ISBN: 1-57505-236-9

Best for ages 3-7

Focused on the 4-H projects of two girls, this book tells their story and that of their farm. Unfortunately, in that process it reinforces many stereotypes about hogs. This is a farm that has their sows on pasture and is using boars for breeding rather than artificial insemination. The hogs wallow in mud and one photo shows a hog half submerged in water. It would appear as though the hog is in a pond and the wallow is the muddy embankment. The text explains that hogs have no sweat glands and that this is how they keep cool. Other photographs show the two girls riding their sows and wheeling a shoat in a wheel barrow. However, these shortcomings are balanced by the depiction and description of their preparation, training for the show and fair day. That portion of the book is exceptional. So too are pictures of newborn piglets, clipping needle teeth, iron shots, ear notching and other day-to-day chores. The book concludes with excellent fun facts, references, Web sites, and a glossary.

Pig by Jules Older
Price: \$16.95
ISBN: 0-88106-109-3

Best for ages 4-8

Using the humor that readers have come to expect, Jules Older's text explores the life of a pig. While it does depict hogs splashing about in mud, it accurately explains why they do so. Packed with facts, figures, geography and science, this resource would provide answers to most basic questions about swine.

Pigs Have Piglets by Lynn M. Stone
Price: \$19.93
ISBN: 0-7565-0003-6

Best for Ages 4-7

This book opens with a heart-tugging photo of two piglets asleep. The photo is so vivid one can almost feel how soft the piglets are. The book's major shortcoming is that pigs are only depicted in a pasture setting (free-range). It is the weakest book in the series. The text explains many things the photos avoid and is mostly accurate. Considering the lack of accurate books about swine, this one meets the minimum standard for recommendation. If a better book were available, this book would not be included in the list. The book ends with a short glossary and a few trivia questions.

Composting

The Magic School Bus Meets the Rot Squad by Joanna Cole
Price: \$3.50

Best for ages 6-8

ISBN: 0-590-40023-1

Take a trip into a decomposing log and explore the organisms that help make compost. As with the other books in the Magic School Bus series, this book helps students examine a potentially unpleasant topic without the “ick” factor. This book also deals with the insects and mammals that aid in decomposition.

The Worm Café by Binet Payne

Price: \$25.95

ISBN: 0-942256-11-5

Best for ages 14- Adult,
and Teacher Reference

This is a comprehensive instruction guide about worm composting. It explains setting up and properly operating a composting system from A to Z. This book’s 13 chapters contain information that could be used by teachers as instructional activities and as a set-up and operation manual for vermiculture. The book closes with a high quality reference list, student worksheets, a pre- and post-test, and bibliography.

Worms Eat My Garbage by Mary Appelhof

Price: \$12.95

ISBN: 0-942256-10-7

Best for ages 14- Adult,
and Teacher Reference

If you are interested in a comprehensive instruction guide about worm composting this is the book for you. It explains setting up and properly operating a composting system from A to Z. This book’s 14 chapters ask and answer almost any question a beginning worm composter could pose. The appendices contain information which could be used by teachers as instructional activities. The book closes with a high-quality reference list and glossary.

Worms Eat Our Garbage by Mary Appelhof

Price: \$22.95

ISBN: 0-942256-05-0

Best for ages 14- Adult,
and Teacher Reference

This resource is the follow-up book to the previous book listed. Note the similar title. This teacher resource is a comprehensive set of classroom activities about worm composting. The activities are, for the most part, educationally sound although the authors could improve on the written objectives, connection to standards, and delineate evaluation components. This text should not be viewed as the final authority on the many topics included. Its description of Rachel Carson and her capability as a scholar and biologist would be challenged by true research scientists. There are also objectionable anthropomorphized animals in a few sections.

Cooking

All in Just One Cookie by Susan E. Goodman

Price: \$16.99

ISBN: 0-06-009092-8

Best for ages 6-12

Focused around all of the ingredients that are used to make chocolate chip cookies, this book takes the reader and listener on a world-wide exploration. The trip is complete from butter produced by local dairy farms in the United States to Madagascar vanilla beans. The flour page explains how challenging it used to be to harvest wheat and the miracle preformed in a couple of hours by a modern combine. It also includes the mining information for salt and baking soda.

This is an unusual find. The book's sole shortcoming is the anthropomorphized animals which are used to tell the story. As the teacher utilizes this resource, that issue can be addressed.

Cook-A-Doodle-Do by Janet Stevens

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$17.00

ISBN: 0-15-201924-3

In this work of fiction, a rooster and his eager assistants set out to make strawberry shortcake. Rooster is glad to have the help but none of the helpers know how to cook so Rooster forges ahead to teach the helpers the basics of cooking and baking with entertaining results. While a book containing anthropomorphized animals would normally not pass our scrutiny, this one cannot be resisted. It provides great opportunities to build correct vocabulary and teach basic cooking skills.

Kids Cooking

Best for ages 6-12, Teacher
and/or Parent Reference

Price: \$13.95

ISBN: 0-932592-14-7

As with other Klutz Press books this book provides great information in a fun and colorful manner. It includes great simple recipes for kids to do with their parents or another adult. It includes recipes for play dough, face paint, giant soap bubbles and Fido's People Biscuits (doggie treats).

Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice by Sylvia Rosa-Casanova

Best for ages 6-10

Price: \$5.99

ISBN: 0-689-84249-X

Using the pot of rice with chicken, Mama barter with her neighbors to create a bountiful meal. As she does so she also takes her granddaughter, Lucy, on a marvelous cultural tour of the neighborhood. Woven throughout the book are the Spanish names for a variety of foods.

The Science Chef by Joan D'Amico

Best for ages 7-16 or adult
use with younger children

Price: \$12.95

ISBN: 0-471-31045-x

One hundred fun food experiments and recipes are explored in a variety of topics in this 180 page book. The book explores questions from "How does yeast make bread rise?" to "What makes popcorn pop?" and "Why does whipped cream froth?" in a series of 20 chapters. The book also includes cooking skills, safety rules, nutrition in a nutshell, food safety and a nice glossary.

The Usborne First Cookbook by Angela Wilkes

Best for ages 6-12
with adult supervision

Price: \$18.99

ISBN: 9-780794-51479-2

The colorfully illustrated recipes of this book will interest children in learning to cook and developing basic cooking skills. The easy to use recipes often require little or no cooking. The book closes with handy hints, tips for preparing vegetables, basic kitchen equipment and an excellent glossary.

The Earth and Nature

Crinkleroot's Nature Almanac by Jim Arnosky

Best for ages 6-11

Price: \$16.00

ISBN: 0-689-80534-9

Crinkleroot hikes through the traditional seasons starting with spring and honeybees. As the book progresses it divulges Crinkleroot's observations of nature and wildlife. It includes picture puzzles and descriptions of important concepts such as "habitat" and "pollinate" and some fun quizzes and nature activities that make learning about the outdoors active and fun. The mysteries of popcorn are explored in the trip through summer.

I Can Read About Seasons by Robyn Supraner

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-8167-4719-9

This colorful book explains why we have seasons and how they impact plants and animals. Each season provides both text and illustration to explain where we are in the earth's revolution around the sun and what dates each season brings. This is a great addition to help student understand what causes each season.

Our Seasons by Grace Lin

Best for ages 5-10

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 13-978-1-57091-360-0

Evocative haiku poetry accompanies season-related questions and answers about weather, the natural world, and the human body. The colorful pictures enhance the text to explain weather phenomenon and other natural phenomena. Why do leaves change color? Why do I tan? Why do I see my breath? Why do bees like flowers? Read this book and find the answers.

The Reasons for Seasons by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$16.89

ISBN: 0-8234-1238-5

As with almost all of Gail Gibbons' books, this one is well illustrated and accurate. The book is a wonderful combination of science (the Earth's revolution around the sun, equinoxes, solstices, impact of the Earth's axis on seasons, etc.) and history. Ancient and modern practices are nicely tied together to describe the impact of the seasons on the natural and human world.

Seasons (A True Book) by Paul P. Sipiera

Best for ages 8-10

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-20677-X

This book examines why the seasons change. The history of telling time and predicating the seasons and its impact on culture (from ancient times to today) is explored in text and pictures.

Sunshine Makes the Seasons by Franklyn M. Branley

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$16.89

ISBN: 0-06-059204-4 – hardcover

This book, focused completely on the sun-earth relationship, is an excellent resource for explaining the concept of seasons. The text even includes an excellent, student-centered technique that uses a pencil and orange to depict the seasons. This makes the information real.

Entomology and Foods From Insects

Bees by Ann Heinrichs
Price: \$7.95
ISBN: 0-7565-0165-2

Best for ages 7-11

This book nicely summarizes details of bees. It describes the kinds of bees, bee structure, how honey bees function and live in both a natural environment and a man-made one, and how bees make honey and wax. It also explains beekeeping, why bees sting, provides insight into killer bees, and how bees benefit us. The book includes a glossary and reference list.

The Bee Tree by Patricia Polacco
Price: \$6.99
ISBN: 0-698-11696-8

Best for ages 5-7

This work of fiction would be a great way to introduce students to bees. It also extols the virtues of reading. The adventure of chasing the bee back to its hive (the bee tree) provides a romp for a variety of people and animals as they join in the chase. That chase ends, of course, by gathering and eating the honey.

Beekeepers by Linda Oatman High
Price: \$14.95
ISBN: 1-56397-486-X

Best for ages 6-9

This is a beautifully crafted story about a girl, her grandfather and the passing of a legacy to be a beekeeper. The soft oil paintings and simple illustrations leave the readers with a warm feeling of shared experience between grandfather and granddaughter. This book fosters positive feelings about bees and beekeeping but does not provide a great deal of information about bees.

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs! By Mary Reid
Price: \$5.99
ISBN: 0-590-39792-3

Best for Ages 4-6

The best part of this early-reader book is the wonderful, up-close photos of insect anatomy. Each page focuses on one term and concept. Unfortunately for the title, not all of the insects identified are actually bugs. The last two pages provide information which an adult may read and share with the child.

Bugs for Lunch by Margery Facklam
Price: \$16.95
ISBN: 0-188106-271-5

Best for ages 5-8

This chipper picture book is full of recipes that may not be everyone's favorite dish. Bugs make tasty treats for many creatures, even humans. In simple rhyming verses this book offers a list of

critters that regularly dine on insects. It includes an illustrated glossary that expands on these basics, providing a plethora of fun facts. This book captures the world with realistic details and pictures that will appeal to the “yuck factor” in every child.

Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method by Sally Kneidel

Price: \$18.95

ISBN: 1-55591-118-8

Best for ages 10-18,
and Teacher Reference

This book contains more than 100 hands-on experiments for children that involve insects, worms and other creepy crawly things such as fungus. It provides detailed descriptions, directions, and ideas. This is a book for those who would like to seriously develop experiments.

Creepy, Crawly Caterpillars by Margery Facklam

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-316-27342-2

Best for ages 7-11

A combination of attractive and informative materials brings to life a metamorphosis of a butterfly, the anatomy and behavior of a caterpillar and dozens of other creepy, crawly insects. The colorful, magnified pictures help make this book great learning material for children.

Face to Face With The Ladybug by Valerie Tracqui

Price: \$9.95

ISBN: 1-57091-453-2

Best for ages 5-10

Useful to begin a discussion of beneficial insects, this book describes the life cycle, environment and characteristics of the ladybug. The book includes bright, colorful photographs that capture the ladybug beetle in its natural habitat.

From Caterpillar to Butterfly by Deborah Heiligman

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-06-445129-1

Best for ages 6-10

With lovely, fun illustrations this book takes the child on a journey through the life and metamorphosis of the butterfly from caterpillar to butterfly as the title suggests. After exploring that process and transformation it describes major butterflies students are likely to encounter and where they may see each, and provides four locations across the United States where they could learn more about butterflies.

From Flower to Honey by Robin Nelson

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0717-8

Best for ages 4-8

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The excellent photographs depict a mixture of modern production and processing equipment and practices. The book ends with a glossary.

Hooray for Bee Keeping! by Bobbie Kalman

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 0-86505-668-4

Best for ages 7-12

This book provides a nice overview of honey bees and beekeeping. It depicts bee structure, social structure and work assignments, making honey, pollination, hive structure, collecting honey, processing and using beeswax. An interesting addition to this book is the animals that prey on honeybees. The book concludes with a short glossary and two recipes. This book is a well written and illustrated source of information.

The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive by Joanna Cole

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$5.99

ISBN: 0-590-25721-8

Once again, Ms. Frizzle's students board the magic school bus for a class trip, this time to watch a beekeeper. Once the children turn into bees and the bus turns into a beehive, Ms. Frizzle leads them on an informative tour and explains the communication systems, inter-workings of the beehive and the social structure of one of the most beneficial insects.

The Honey Makers by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 0-688-17531-7

Gail does a wonderful job explaining how bees make honey. The detail of both the text and illustrations provides a wealth of information. It explains bee social structure and roles, pollination, honey making, beekeeping, harvesting honey, and includes a beekeeper's diary and fast facts. This book is a great addition to any library that wants to include bees and honey in its topic list.

Insects by Steve Parker

Best for ages 8-14

Price: \$5.99

ISBN: 0-7894-2215-8

Insects from definitions to habitats, metamorphosis, and anatomy are covered in this 61-page book. Insects of all sizes, shapes and functions are included. This is a nice book to provide an overview of insects without a student being bogged down with too much detail. It provides factual information for this age group.

It's a Butterfly's Life by Irene Kelly

Best for ages 6-11

Price: \$16.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8234-1860-2

An amazing amount of information flits on these pages just as the butterflies and moths do. The colorful and accurate illustrations depict a wide array of different butterflies and moths, their caterpillars, eggs, and even the chrysalis of some. The book discusses what and how butterflies eat and behave; their life cycle, mating, and metamorphosis; their anatomy; the predators that prey on them; and how they camouflage themselves as protection. Interesting information that will really capture some students is a practice that butterflies engage in called puddling and the correct name for caterpillar droppings. The book concludes with examples of plants that butterflies like to visit and a few amazing facts.

Nature's Friends, Ladybugs by Ann Heinrichs

Best for ages 6-11

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 0-7565-0167-9

This is a very nice book about the beneficial insect ladybug beetle. The text describes the beetle's anatomy, their diets, overwintering, and predators. It closes with a very short glossary, trivia and additional resources to consult.

Praying Mantises (A True Book) by Larry Dane
Price \$6.95
ISBN: 0-516-26769-8

Best for Ages 7-13

This book about the fascinating praying mantis is significantly enhanced by detailed photographs which capture praying mantises in all stages of life. The photographer has captured images of praying mantises mating, laying eggs, hatching, emerging from the egg case, dangling to the ground, stalking and consuming their prey, and molting. The text and photos take an amazing look at the various forms of camouflage employed by this insect in a variety of environments. A challenging glossary is included.

Farms and Farming

Farm Crops by Lynn M. Stone
Price: 22.79
ISBN: 1-58952-092-0

Best for ages 6-9

This book provides a nice overview of crops produced on farms. The text is enhanced with excellent photographs of modern farming images. While the Jersey cow grazing clover could be improved from a conformational perspective, she could not look more contented, standing knee-deep in clover with her eyes closed as she munches on a mouth crammed full of clover. The one major error is a photo labeled as Montana hay that is clearly straw. However, this is more than made up for by an image of dwarf-apple trees and a picker harvesting with the proper equipment. The author does a nice job of depicting and explaining the regional differences in crop production and why they occur.

Farm Patterns by Nathan Olson
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6732-0

Best for ages 4-8

While this book does not teach a great deal about farming it enhances the image of farms and farming with its beautiful photographs and explanations of the patterns and sense of order on our farms and ranches.

Farming by Gail Gibbons
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-8234-0682-2

Best for ages 4-8

Each season in this book brings to life a new chore or activity on the farm. This book about farming portrays not just one particular farm but a universal one. This book shows how real-life activities and chores on a farm can produce crops and food, indoors or outdoors, despite the forces of nature that may impact the farm. This book is traditional in concept but excellent in some depictions!

Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2008

Farmers Market by Carmen Parks

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$11.95

ISBN: 0-15-204881-2

Rise and shine, it is market day! This book was developed with fresh vegetables and fruits in mind! The story recounts a family trip to the farmer's market through the eyes of a small girl. The setting is southwestern as is the scenery.

Living on Farms by Allan Fowler

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-21564-7

This short, early-reader book gives a brief overview of farms and farming. It is a bit simplistic but as an early-reader book one cannot expect too much. For the most part, it depicts images and texts of modern farms after the introduction.

This Farm

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$15.93

ISBN: 0-7368-5986-1

Spanish/English Edition

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6022-2

This is an early-reader book with short question/and or statement sentences. The questions are not answered in text but the students can find the answers in the accompanying photograph. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book for a teacher to use to begin to teach reading for content and developing observation skills and question answering for the earliest learners. It could also be used as an interactive reading activity between parent and young child to develop their observation skills and have a participatory reading experience for the child. The Spanish/ English edition has the sentence in both Spanish and English on each page. This is most useful for helping Spanish-speaking children to learn English.

Unusual Farms by Brenda Haugen

Best for ages 6- 8

Price: \$19.93

ISBN: 0-7565-0668-9

This delightful book examines farm production that many do not connect as a type of farming. It provides high quality photos and brief explanations for ostrich, bison, llama, fish, silk, trees, and bamboo farms. Unfortunately, it takes one step too far and includes wind farms. While wind turbines may be an increasingly visible component in the rural landscape they really are not "farmed." The book closes with trivia and a short glossary.

Fertilizers

The World's Greatest Fix: A History of Nitrogen and Agriculture by G. J. Leigh

Price: \$14.95

ISBN-10: 0-195-16582-9

ISBN-13: 978-0195165821

Best for ages 15 – adult
and teacher reference

This is a book that would serve many audiences in a high school library - social studies, science and environmental studies foremost. While this may not seem like a title of any great interest, any person truly interested in the future of humans, population and the environment, this book is a must. One cannot fully comprehend the challenges facing agriculture unless they understand the requirements of producing food. This book explores early civilizations through today's modern capability and explains why we are now capable of feeding so many people. The book contains segments on the agriculture of Egyptian, Mayan, Aztec, Chinese, Roman, and English civilizations and their quest to escape famine by producing adequate food on land. The author makes fairly complex information easy to understand and clear for the average adult with an interest in the topic. The work is well documented with 150 footnotes from excellent sources. The nitrogen fixation explanation would serve well in a high school science class (either biology or chemistry).

Food and Culture

America's Food by Lynn M. Stone

Best for ages 5-9

Price: \$27.07

ISBN: 1-58952-314-8

As with Stone's other books this one has excellent photographs and accurate text. It does a nice job of weaving food and culture and the impact of one upon the other as well as the impact of both on our American culture. A nice inclusion is the description of how foods become accepted in the American melting pot and what each group contributes. One example is the bagel introduced by Eastern European Jews and the fact that Pennsylvania Quakers added cream cheese as a topping. The book ends with a nice glossary and description of a few regional specialties that are not likely to become regular menu items outside of their region of the country.

Midday Meals Around the World by Michele Zurakowski

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$22.60

ISBN: 1-4048-0281-9

Discover what children around the world eat for their midday meals. Menus include one or two meals from North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. It also includes kid-friendly recipes.

Food Safety

Food Safety (A True Book) by Joan Kalbacken

Best for ages 8-10

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-20757-1

This book covers various health concerns related to the food we eat and explains and discusses ways to avoid them. Personal responsibility for food safety and the importance of hand washing are stressed.

Food Safety (A True Book) by Joan Kalbacken

Best for Ages 7-13

Price: \$20.50

ISBN: 978-0516-2637-79

This book and its accompanying photos provide sound information about food safety for readers at an intermediate level. It contains excellent photos of several microbes as it describes that particular problem. All the essential messages of food safety are included and common myths are avoided. The book correctly describes food safety precautions, governmental oversight and individual responsibility. It does a good job of explaining pesticides and how food safety is maintained. Unlike many other books on this subject, this book contains information about food allergies. The information is accurate and provides good advice. The important focus on washing hands, fruits and vegetables because of bacterial contamination is excellent. The book ends with a glossary.

Food Safety by Sharon Gordon

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$9.99

ISBN: 0-516-22294-5

This book and its accompanying photos provide basic information about food safety for early readers. It contains an excellent photo of bacteria and provides good advice. The important focus on washing hands, fruits and vegetables because of bacterial contamination is excellent. All the essential messages of food safety are included and common myths are avoided. The book ends with a unique photo ‘glossary.’

Germes Make Me Sick by Melvin Berger

Best for ages 6-10

Price: \$16.89

ISBN: 0-06-024250-7

While this may seem to be a strange addition to a list of recommended books that addresses agriculture, before students can understand food safety they must understand microbes and illness. Hence, this recommendation is made. This is a basic book that explains that germs cause illness and we are surrounded by them. Basic sanitation is covered along with some simple explanations of microorganisms, transmission, the body’s immune system and rules for good health. With food safety issues facing agriculture (E. coli contamination), possible pandemics (bird flu), and bioterrorism (anthrax), this is an issue that every citizen needs to understand.

How to Prevent Food Poisoning by Elizabeth Scott, Ph.D. and Paul Sockett, Ph.D.

Price: \$14.95

Best for ages 14-Adult,
and Teacher Reference

ISBN: 0-471-19576-6

This book is a comprehensive examination of food safety. It examines causes of food-borne illness, impacts that are short- and long-term as well as fleeting or permanent, and prevention techniques. It explores food prepared and eaten at home, food prepared at home but eaten elsewhere, and food prepared and eaten outside the home. The authors also detail what conditions may make one most susceptible to food poisoning such as the regular consumption of antacids. The book closes with a self-assessment quiz, A-Z guide of food poisoning germs and an excellent glossary.

Safe Food for You and Your Family by Mildred M. Cody

Best for ages 12-18,
and Teacher Reference

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 1-56561-094-6

This book provides a wealth of information about food safety in a pint-sized book. It provides detailed information about foodborne illnesses, safely storing and preserving food, irradiated food, biotechnology and a host of other topics. This would be a great resource for high school students writing papers on the topic.

[Gardening - See Also Plants](#)

[Beyond the Bean Seed](#) by Nancy Allen Jurenka

Best as a teacher reference

Price: \$28.00

ISBN: 1-56308-346-9

The 11 chapters created by the author in this book provide information, resources, student-centered educational activities that connect the garden to required subjects, games, and recipes for treats. While a great book for teaching ideas and methodology to connect the garden to required learning, this book will not stand alone. It is intended as a teacher companion reference. If your school plans to weave a school garden into its curriculum and would like to have that garden impact education most effectively in a positive way, then this book is an excellent reference, especially for the elementary grades.

[Carrots Love Tomatoes](#) by Louise Riotte

Best for ages 14- Adult,
and Teacher Reference

Price: \$14.95

ISBN: 1-58017-027-7

As gardens and gardening move beyond the basics, this book would be a good resource for any gardener. It contains companion planting, pest control and fertilization techniques. The text provides advice on topics which include vegetables, herbs, fruit, grasses and field crops, ornamental trees, and shrubs. A detailed overview of poisonous plants would benefit any reader. The book includes a garden planning section which includes plans for a weekend garden, postage stamp garden, children's garden, kitchen herb garden, able disabled garden (raised), spirit garden, mini-garden and suggestions for window boxes.

[A Child's Garden of Verses](#) by Robert Louis Stevenson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$18.00

ISBN: 0-689-82382-7

This book celebrates children and nature through poetry. Throughout sixty-six poems, the author recalls the joys of his childhood, from sailing boats down river, to waiting for the lamplighter, to sailing off to foreign lands in his imagination. Its poetry can be used to introduce the topics and techniques to children as well as connect them to agriculture. From golden apples to meadows or climbing cherry trees and enjoying the activities of a cow, these poems celebrate the farm life of the 19th century.

[From Seed to Plant](#) by Gail Gibbons

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 0-8234-1025-0

As with all of Gail Gibbons' books, she depicts information accurately in both text and image. This is one of her stronger books from an illustration standpoint. The book describes plant

structure and function. It also includes how seeds move and the mechanisms that enable them to move. The book ends with an illustrated glossary of terms.

The Garden of Happiness by Erika Tamar

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$16.00

ISBN13: 0-15-230582-3

This is a story about an inner-city neighborhood's effort to clean up a vacant lot and transform it into a community garden. Colorful, multi-cultural images enhance and help tell the story. A little girl, Marisol, finds a small patch of her own where she plants a large flat seed. As the garden grows, her little seed out grows the rest of the plants, surprises everyone and becomes the happiest plant in The Garden of Happiness. This book would be an excellent resource to initiate planning a school garden or working to plant one in the spring.

Gardening Wizardry for Kids by Patricia Kite

Best for ages 6-adult,
and Teacher Reference

Price: \$14.95

ISBN: 0-8120-1317-4

This colorful book on gardening is an excellent book to introduce children to gardening. Packed with fun activities, facts, folklore, history, and gardening tips it is just the tool needed to get kids hooked on gardening. Divided into six sections, the book has history, fun activities, directions for science experiments, insect and earthworm-raising tips, and a section on herbs and craft projects.

Inch by Inch by David Mallett

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 0-06-443481-8

This book is an illustrated version of the song of the same title. If one wishes to interest students in gardening from an early age this is a great place to begin.

Lily's Garden by Deborah Kogan Ray

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-76-131593-4

Lily's grandparents move all the way across the country, but stay in touch with Lily by sending her plants and produce from their new home. Each spread deals with a new month and garden challenge for Lily. Her grandparents' advice helps her cope with the realistic challenges presented by managing a successful garden. This book is also a good exploration of seasonal changes.

The Summer My Father Was Ten by Pat Brisson

Best for ages 5-13

Hardcover Price: \$15.95 Paperback Price: \$8.95

ISBN: 1-56397-435-5 ISBN: 1-56397-829-6

One of the most touching stories available, this book takes a growing up journey. The cross-generational story uses the vandalism of a neighborhood garden to explore the lessons learned by the author's father. The thoughtlessness of youth is met with real consequences in the life of the elderly gardener. The unsentimental tale of mending one's ways and changing a life is illustrated by beautiful watercolors. If only a few books can be included in a library this is one that is a

must for many reasons. Those who know the investment of time, hope and love made by anyone growing a crop will make good use of this story to express that investment.

This Year's Garden by Cynthia Rylant

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$6.99

ISBN: 0-689-71122-0

This short book takes us on a year-long journey through a garden. Beginning in winter, the planning takes place for the next growing season. The story follows the activities of each season until we arrive back at winter and begin again.

Harvest and Harvest Celebration

Harvest Year by Cris Peterson

Best for ages 5-9

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 1-56397-571-8

Cris Peterson captures the concept that every single month food is being harvested somewhere in the United States with colorful and dramatic photos by Alvin Upitis. This book is a collaboration of clear and concise text and a map of harvest locations across the country. With an array of photographs that capture the colorful fields and orchards and a variety of workers and machines and children sampling foods from the year's harvest. While not every state is included, 27 states representing every region of the country are included, from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska to Florida.

Harvest Time by Jerry Cipriano

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$15.93

ISBN: 0-7368-2926-1

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2926-7

This is an early reader book with short statement sentences in a large font. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book for a teacher to use to begin to teach reading for content. The content and pictures could be used to begin to teach about the life cycle and seasons in science. What is particularly nice about this book is that the photographs and text depict how the fruit, vegetables or grain are grown, show the plant as it is either growing or ripe, describe and the harvest process. The strawberry section has an adorable picture of a small boy peaking under the leaves of the strawberry plant searching for the ripe berry. The photographs enhance the text and depict modern agriculture including apples being picked from dwarf trees.

A Midwestern Corn Festival: Ears Everywhere by Lisa Gabbert

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 0-8239-5341-6

This book explains the importance of corn as a crop. It explores corn's origins, history, and examines the rides, pageants, and other activities at a corn festival.

Issues

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier

Best for ages 7-13

Price: \$16.00

ISBN: 0-689-82460-2

This beautifully written and illustrated book tells the story of Beatrice, a poor Ugandan girl who longs to go to school. Her family's poverty makes that impossible because they cannot afford the school uniforms or books. The gift of a goat provides the answer even though Beatrice can initially only see the extra work it means. This story begins to teach students that the solution to world hunger is to help people lift themselves out of poverty. Selling her goat's milk allowed her mother to improve her family's nutrition and to send Beatrice to school. The goat's offspring, given to her friend's family, also sent her friend to school. And so the circle widens and multiplies the gift. Written about a real little girl, Beatrice is now a college student in America. Purchase of this book will benefit Heifer Project International.

Bio-Vision: World Life Sciences Forum Series

Price for the Series of Three Books: \$125.00

ISBN: 3-527-31489-X

Best for ages 14- Adult,
and Teacher Reference

While this book series has a hefty price tag, it also contains a wealth of information for any reader truly interested in the effort to reduce poverty and solve global hunger. It approaches the issues from a scientific perspective unlike most other public sources. This is a cross-disciplinary, international account of essential information provided by experts, not pundits, using research-based information not rhetoric. It includes the expertise of 20 Nobel Laureates in volumes with these titles: Agriculture and Nutrition; Bioindustry and Environment; and Human Health. Recommendations support the use of high-tech agriculture whether or not that includes biotechnology. This is information not available from any other source.

Eco-Freaks: Environmentalism Is Hazardous to Your Health! by John Berlau

Price: \$25.99

ISBN-10: 1595550674

ISBN-13: 978-1595550675

Best for ages 14 – adult
and teacher reference

While those in agriculture know that many accusations leveled by environmentalists are not true, this book and several others we are recommending will make you begin to question their stand against other industries as well. This author tackles ag topics and non-ag topics alike in this well-referenced book. Topics include global warming and climate change; the dangers of pesticides like DDT; trees and pollution; fuel economy and the auto industry ; the threat posed by asbestos; the lifesaving role of dams and levees; and plans to "rewild" America. In a surprisingly quick read, the award-winning author shocks, amazes, enlightens and entertains the reader. For any educator determined to teach his or her students not what to think but how to think, this book is a great addition as a counterpoint to what is currently believed about these topics or what students may read in their textbooks.

Food: The Struggle to Sustain the Human Community by Jake Goldberg

Price: \$23.00

ISBN: 0-531-11411-2

Best for ages 12-18

This book's author looks at the struggle to feed the human population from the earliest days through the present. It provides a nice overview of the development of agriculture but comes up short as it explores agriculture's future. Surprisingly, a discussion of biotechnology is absent. This book is recommended in spite of that because it does a credible job in other areas.

Invasive Species in a Changing World by Harold A. Mooney Best for ages 15-adult, and
Price: \$37.50 Teacher Reference
ISBN: 1-55963-782-x

As the world becomes smaller, the issue of invasive species becomes evermore probable and their impacts more damaging. Though noxious, invasive species have long been recognized and challenged by agriculture, others are now taking notice with the threat of a bird flu pandemic. Invasions of fire ants and Africanized honeybees have made average Americans realize that this is a very real threat to all. This book provides a well-referenced, comprehensive overview of the issues and looks not only at the ecological implications but also the economic costs.

Peanut Butter, Milk, and Other Deadly Threats: What You Should Know About Food Allergies by Sherri Mabry Gordon Best for ages 11 - adult
Price: \$31.93 and teacher reference
ISBN13:

While the title might be scary, the content is excellent and very accurate. The author clearly describes food allergies, dispels many myths and provides an excellent overview of the topic. The author clarifies the differences between true food allergies and food intolerances. It provides specific information about peanut, milk, shellfish and fish, tree nuts, eggs, soy, and wheat allergies. The text addresses not only the physical symptoms, reaction and impacts but it also delves into the social, emotional, political and educational impacts of food allergies. It also explores the research underway to study, understand, prevent and treat food allergies. The book provides information sources, a glossary and references for further research.

Saving The Planet with Pesticides and Plastics by Dennis Avery Best for ages 14- adult
Price: \$19.95 and teacher reference
ISBN: 0-55813-069-1

Back with the second edition of this controversial book, Dennis Avery again challenges the conventional wisdom with well-referenced facts. This edition expands on the previous publication, tackles some new issues such as intensive meat production for the 21st century and deletes or refocuses the discussion on others. This book keeps the discussion current with the changes made in this new edition. Any high school student challenged to examine both sides of an issue would be well served to have this book in the school library. Teachers interested in helping their students to become critical thinkers would be well-served to include this reference as a source of information as they consider what they are teaching and how. For those in agriculture, this book has a new chapter titled “What can Farmers Do?” Our industry and the people we feed deserve that we read it and heed its advice.

The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World by Bjorn Lomborg Best for ages 14- adult
Price: \$23.00 and teacher reference
ISBN-10: 0-521-01068-3
ISBN-13: 978-0521010689

Bjorn Lomborg begins his book with a preface that explains how he began this journey and why it led to this book. He (a self-professed left-wing Greenpeace member) challenged ten of his brightest statistics students at the University of Aarhus in Denmark to challenge Julian Simone’s claim that environment was getting better not worse. They expected to show, using statistics, that

Simon was only spouting right-wing American propaganda. What they discovered was that Simon was correct on a large number of issues. This led to a series of articles explaining their results and grew into a huge Danish debate. This, in turn led to the book and a huge backlash by the environmental community. The book begins by describing the litany of ills we have been led to believe. Then it explores topics which include human welfare, hunger, disappearing forests, energy, resources, prosperity, air and water pollution, acid rain, allergies and asthma, waste, chemical fears, biodiversity, and global warming. He ends by describing the real state of the world. Every high school, college and public library should contain a copy of this book. Every environmental educator should require that his or her students include this author's documented evidence as they explore issues. English and social studies teachers should provide this resource to their students so that they may explore both sides of these issues. As a model example alone, the author's inclusion of 2,930 footnotes and 173 charts and graphs of data supporting his claims should be shown to students as a well-written and documented exploration of these issues.

See also: [**Superfood or Superthreat: The Issue of Genetically Engineered Food**](#)
And [**The Man Who Fed the World**](#) by Leon Hesser

[**Machinery and Equipment**](#)

[**Farm Tractor**](#) by Matt Doeden
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6721-4

Best for Ages 4-8

This early reader book captures a great deal of insight into tractors. Students will find out how tractors work and about tractor's components. Modern tractor technology, structure, and operation are accompanied by information on how a tractor functions. Excellent color photographs of large tractors in a variety of work arrangements enhance the text. Every tractor in the book has rollover protection. The book includes a glossary, recommended book list and Internet sites.

[**Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2007**](#)

[**I Drive a Tractor**](#) by Sarah Bridges
Price: \$7.95
ISBN: 1-4048-1609-7

Best for Ages 4-8

Students can learn a great deal about tractors by having this book read to them or reading it themselves. Modern tractor technology, structure, and operation are accompanied by how a tractor functions. The authors have wisely included some tractor safety information such as the slow-moving vehicle sign and what it signifies. The driver explains how he courteously and safely uses the road, aware of cars that may want to pass. While the book depicts only one person on the tractor, it does not actually address this issue. The book includes a vocabulary list.

[**The Tractor Goes Farming**](#) by Roy Harrington
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-929355-68-7

Best for ages 3-8

What can a tractor do? Read this book and find out. The many diversified jobs performed by tractors, on and off the farm, are described and accompanied by excellent photographs.

Developed by the American Association of Agricultural Engineers, tractors of all makes and colors are represented. The book also includes a variety of other farm equipment made by a variety of manufacturers.

Tractors by Darlene R. Stille

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$21.26

ISBN: 0-7565-0287-X

Through bright colors and informative text, young readers can explore the world of tractors in this book. This book encourages an interest in the machines and activities that they help us with on the farm and beyond.

Microorganisms and Fungi

The Fungus That Ate My School by Arthur Dorros

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$15.95

ISBN: 0-590-47704-8

This work of fiction is a fun way to introduce fungi to the classroom. During a damp spring break, a science class mold experiment outgrows its jar. Three elementary school students return from vacation to find an amorphous green shape dominating the lab. This book is a silly, eccentric caricature of how fungus spreads that can be used to introduce how easily all microorganisms spread and how they impact humans.

Good Mushrooms and Bad Toadstools by Allan Fowler

Best for ages 6-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-20808-X

This early-reader book explores this world sometimes hidden from view unless one seeks it out. A variety of colorful and interestingly shaped mushrooms and toadstools are depicted. It gives adequate warning that the novice should not pick or eat mushrooms as they can be very dangerous.

Slime, Molds and Fungi by Elaine Pascoe

Best for ages 8-14

Price: \$14.22

ISBN: 1-56711-182-3

Beautiful photographs enhance the descriptions of this unlikely subject. From mushrooms to yeast, the organisms in this group are very important to the food system. Some cause damage; others are beneficial. All are essential to moving the composition cycle along. Producers work to control many fungi or to promote others. Some fungi can be fatal while others can provide life saving assistance such as the antibiotic penicillin. The book contains great science experiments and demonstrations, sources for supplies, further readings and an index.

Natural Fibers

From Plant to Blue Jeans by John L'Hommedieu

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-20366-5

This wonderful photo essay documents the process of making blue jeans. From the first step of planting cotton to sewing the finished denim into jeans, the process is captured in image and text.

From Cotton to T-Shirt by Robin Nelson
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-4661-0

Best for ages 7-10

As with the other books in this series, this is an excellent book. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cotton plant to harvesting and processing. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a glossary.

From Sheep to Sweater by Robin Nelson
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-4661-0

Best for ages 7-10

This is the weakest book in an excellent series. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate for what it portrays. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from sheep to sweater. Most of the images depict hand production of yarn and sweater. We are including the book because there are no others on this topic that provide more modern images or text. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a glossary.

Nutrition

Eating Well by Lisa Trumbaur
Price: \$15.93
ISBN: 0-7368-2937-7

Best for ages 4-7

This is an early reader book with short statement sentences in a large font. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book to use to teach reading for content as well as good nutrition. The photographs enhance the text and depict a complete array of foods in each food group. Unlike many nutrition books at this age level, this book avoids the use of the food guide pyramid but still uses the food groups. The teacher will need to provide the image of the food guide pyramid if he/she wishes to include it in instruction.

The Edible Pyramid by Loreen Leedy
Price: \$17.95
ISBN13: 978-0-8234-2075-9

Best for ages 4-8

While we strive to avoid the anthropomorphic representation of animals we will make exceptions for excellent books. This well-written book on nutrition and the food-guide pyramid is one such example. The text does depict the normal foods that various animals would consume (the pelican hopes there is seafood while the frogs hope there are fresh flies). Also the author represents all foods equally. On the page depicting protein foods there are seafoods, eggs, turkey, chicken, ham, meatballs, steak, and fish. The text and illustrations are accurate. This would be a great way to introduce the nutritional recommendations of the food-guide pyramid.

The Monster Health by Edward Miller
Price: \$6.95

Best for ages 7-11

ISBN 13: 978-0-8234-2139-8
ISBN 10: 0-8234-2139-2

A friendly green monster helps make what could be a dull and dry series of health lectures into a fun romp through life including scattered trivia. Focusing on nutrition and healthy habits, more than two-thirds of the book is nutrition information. The balance focuses on exercise, sleep and healthy habits. While the book is fun, it is also packed with information on the food pyramid, food groups and their nutrients, reading nutrition labels, and mealtime suggestions. Sections of food issues will need explaining to younger students but provide an excellent place to initiate the discussion.

The New Food Guide Pyramid, Eating Healthy by Emily Green Best for Ages 5-7
Price: \$15.95
ISBN13: 978-0-531-17850-8

This early reader book provides very basic information about the revised food guide pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

The New Food Guide Pyramid, Fruits by Emily Green Best for Ages 5-7
Price: \$15.95
ISBN13: 978-0-531-17850-8

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of fruit to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for fruit in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

The New Food Guide Pyramid, Grains by Emily Green Best for Ages 5-7
Price: \$15.95
ISBN13: 978-0-531-17851-3

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of grains to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for grains in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The text provides good information about how to add a variety of grains in all forms to one's diet. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

The New Food Guide Pyramid, Meat and Beans by Emily Green Best for Ages 5-7
Price: \$15.95
ISBN13: 978-0-531-17854-6

This is the best book of this series on the food guide pyramid. The cover image is of a juicy hamburger with lettuce, tomato, onion and a swirl of ketchup. The early reader book provides very basic information about the value of meat and beans to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for all kinds of meats and beans in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The text and photos represent all meats: steak, a pork chop, a chicken breast, eggs,

trout, and salmon, and describes the nutrients each adds to one's diet. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

The New Food Guide Pyramid, Milk, Yogurt and Cheese by Emily Green

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$15.95

ISBN13: 978-0-531-17855-3

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of milk to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for milk and dairy foods in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

The New Food Guide Pyramid, Oils by Emily Green

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$15.95

ISBN13: 978-0-531-17856-0

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of oils to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for oils in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. In addition to the presentation about beneficial oils, the book also describes fats that are not good for us and stresses that reducing or avoiding harmful fats should be a focus. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

The New Food Guide Pyramid, Vegetables by Emily Green

Best for Ages 5-7

Price: \$15.95

ISBN13: 978-0-531-17857-7

This early reader book provides very basic information about the value of vegetables to proper nutrition. It contains the revised food guide pyramid and the text describes the place for vegetables in the pyramid. The simple, yet direct and accurate information is complemented by the excellent photographs. The text provides good information about how to add vegetables to one's diet and the vitamin nutrition found in vegetables. The book ends with a glossary. We recommend the whole series.

The Quest to Digest by Mary K. Corcoran

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 1-57091-664-0

Children always wonder what happens after our food is swallowed and where it goes. Follow an apple's journey from the mouth to the small intestines on a quest to learn about the digestive system. Many questions regarding burps, passing gas and vomit will be answered. Accompanied by comic illustrations, this book is fun, fascinating and concise for all readers. Although not technically an agricultural topic this resource will help teachers begin to discuss nutrition and healthy food choices as students learn how their body digests food.

When Vegetables Go Bad by Don Gillmor and Mary Louise Gay

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$5.95

ISBN: 1-55209-261-5

This work of fiction is a great tool to introduce nutrition to younger audiences and encourage them to eat vegetables. The title might mislead you to think the vegetables in the book are spoiling but the story is really about vegetables behaving badly because Ivy refused to eat them. Instead of eating her vegetables, Ivy stuffed them into her pocket. At night when she is sleeping, the vegetables form a taunting chorus in Ivy's sleep and invade her dreams with nasty songs. No matter how Ivy tries to run from this nightmare, the vegetables chase her down and continue their harassment. Once she admits she likes vegetables, the nightmare stops.

People in Agriculture

Eli Whitney and the Cotton Gin by Jessica Gunderson
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6843-3

Best for ages 7 - 13

This book from the Graphic Library collection is produced in a comic book format that will appeal to the most challenged reader. The book tells the story of the creation of the cotton gin and the difficulties that Eli Whitney had in becoming successful. The story does not avoid the impact the cotton gin had on increasing slavery, which is to be commended. It also tells the story of how Eli Whitney became successful and the impact his success had on the civil war and ultimate freedom of the slaves. The book ends with a timeline of advances made by Eli Whitney, a glossary, a recommended reading list, recommended Internet sites, and a bibliography.

George Washington Carver: Ingenious Inventor by Nathan Olson
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5484-3

Best for ages 7 - 13

This book from the Graphic Library collection is produced in a comic book format that will appeal to the most challenged reader. The book tells the story of George Washington Carver beginning with his life as a slave, his mother's kidnapping and his adoption by the Carvers. It also tells the story of how George left their home at the age of 12 to go to school and the struggles he endured to become educated and eventually become an educator and inventor. The book ends with a timeline of advances made by George Washington Carver, a glossary, a recommended reading list, recommended Internet sites, and a bibliography.

George Washington Carver: Scientist and Inventor by Judy Monroe
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5484-3

Best for ages 7 - 13

Although not as colorful as the previous book, this book provides black and white photographs to enhance a more detailed text. The book tells the same story of George Washington Carver's life beginning as a slave and then his adoption by the Carvers. It also tells the story of how hard George struggled to become educated and eventually become an educator and inventor at Tuskegee Institute. This book provides a great deal more information about his work, successes and recognition he achieved later in life. The book ends with copy of the postage stamp issued recognizing him in 1948, fast facts, a timeline of his life, a glossary, a recommended reading list, and recommended Internet sites.

Louis Pasteur and Pasteurization by Jennifer Fandel
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6843-3

Best for ages 7 - 13

This book from the Graphic Library collection is produced in a comic book format that will appeal to the most challenged reader. The book tells the story of food borne illness, the discovery of microorganisms and the development of pasteurization to make milk safe. The book ends with a timeline of advances made by Louis Pasteur, a glossary, recommended reading list, recommended Internet sites, and a bibliography.

2008 Book of the Year

The Man Who Fed the World by Leon Hesser

Best for ages 12 - adult

Price: \$24.95

ISBN: 1-930754-90-6

While many Nobel Laureates are well know to the public, the one man who has literally saved millions from starvation, Norman Borlaug, still toils in relative obscurity. This well-written, well-researched book details his amazing life and world-changing life's work. Born in 1914 on the Iowa prairie, Norman Borlaug would appear to be the most unlikely of heroes. He attended a one-room school house, flunked the university entrance exam yet ultimately came to be hailed as one of the most influential men of the 20th century. There is no Nobel prize for agriculture so they gave him the Nobel Peace Prize for averting hunger and famine by developing the short variety wheat that would start the "Green Revolution." These miracle wheat varieties would lead Mexico, Pakistan and India from the edge of starvation in the 60s (in spite of huge grain donations from the United States, Canada and Australia) to self sufficiency in grain production. In fact, India became, and still is, a grain exporter. This is a book about hope and will demonstrate to children and adults alike that one person can change the world.

Plants, Foods From Plants and Goods From Plants

Flowers

A Field of Sunflowers by Neil Johnson

Best for Ages 4-8

Price: \$3.25

ISBN: 0-590-96549-2

High-quality photographs depict the process of growing sunflowers from soil preparation through seed production. The book explains phototropism, pollination, and pollinators accurately and would be an excellent resource for teachers explaining these concepts. The community delight in the field of sunflowers and the resulting interaction helps readers or listeners appreciate agriculture. The book is a bit less realistic in explaining that the farmer decided not to harvest the field but to leave it to feed the wild birds. Few farmers could afford that luxury.

The Flower Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-88106-459-9

The author and illustrator of this book have collaborated to produce a stunning bouquet of words and pictures about the world of flowers. This book includes a variety of flowers from A-Z beginning with the Amaryllis and concluding with the Zinnia.

The Great Sunflower Book by Barbara Flores
Price: \$15.95
ISBN: 0-89815-837-0

Best for ages 12-Adult

Almost everyone enjoys seeing the bright and sunny face of sunflowers in a garden, field, or bouquet. But how many of us know the history of the sunflower or that sunflowers come in many varieties? Did you know that Jerusalem Artichokes are the roots of a sunflower? This book, with its beautiful photographs and well-research information, will provide information on history, cultural impacts, cultivation, and varieties. Uses are detailed. The book includes a variety of recipes with sunflower seeds and/or oil. It ends with a list of heritage seed sources and reference list.

It Could Still Be a Flower by Allan Fowler
Price: \$4.95
ISBN: 0-516-27308-6

Best for ages 5-7

This early-reader book gives the basics about flowers. The book's title is misleading in that the book only focuses on those flowers which would be readily identified. There are no unusual flowers here or tree flowers other than magnolias or cherry blossoms.

The Life Cycle of the Sunflower by Linda Tagliaferro
(Gail Saunders-Smith Ph.D, Consulting Editor).
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6714-6.

Best for ages 4-7

This early reader book captures the development of the sunflower from seed through germination, growth, flower development and pollination and on to seed development. It does not depict commercial sunflower production but focuses on the growth of a single plant. This would be an excellent book to teach about the life cycle of a plant. The book includes a glossary, recommended reading list and suggested Internet sites.

Fruits and Fruit Foods

Amazing Apples by Consie Powell
Price: \$15.95
ISBN: 0-8075-0399-1

Best for ages 5-8

From blossom to pollination to picking, this beautifully illustrated book details how apples grow, their various uses, and the different varieties of apples through an interesting methodology. Each single or double page contains an acrostic poem that describes part of the story. The acrostic words are apple, orchard, leaves, bees, sun, rain, core, worm, bushel, pick, varieties, cider, dried, sauce, pie, basement, and winter. This book also includes a detailed description of apples.

Apples by Gail Gibbons
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-8234-1497-3

Best for ages 5-8

From blossom to pollination to picking, this beautifully illustrated book details how apples grow, their various parts, and the different varieties of apples. This book also includes instructions on how to plant and care for an apple tree.

Apples (A True Book) by Elaine Landau
ISBN13: 978-0-5162-1024-7

Best for ages 7-13

As with the other books written by this author, this text provides an accurate and comprehensive look at the subject. From the early cultivation of apples in Greece and Rome to the introduction of apples to Europe and then the Americas, the text and photos tell apple's story. This book moves beyond basic reader level and presents the complex story of apple production in a very comprehensive manner. The book ends with a good glossary and recommendations for other books and Web sites.

Apples of Your Eye by Allan Fowler
Price: \$4.95
ISBN: 0-516-06026-0

Best for ages 6-8

This a good, basic explanation of how apples grow and the foods made from them. While a few of the images are not completely current, the information provided is excellent for this age group. Most importantly, the author explains that while apples can grow from seed, apples are grafted (to guarantee the apple variety). The book does a good job of depicting and explaining one type of grafting.

Apples Here! by Will Hubbell
Price: \$16.95
ISBN: 0-8075-0397-5

Best for ages 5-8

From blossom to pollination to picking, this beautifully illustrated book details how apples grow, their various parts, and some of the different varieties. The rhyming text takes the reader on a year-long journey from winter, with a young girl and her grandfather, to spring, with a boy and girl, to summer, where three children enjoy the orchard and watch apples develop, through fall, where two boys enjoy the harvest and fresh-from-the-tree apples. Another girl buys apples at a farm market and uses them to make a pie and other people include apples in celebrations. The final page is of a deer also enjoying the apples. The book also includes a detailed description of the apple production process, varieties, history and uses.

Bananas by Elaine Landau
Price: \$24.00
ISBN: 0-516-21025-4

Best for Ages 8-13

This text provides an A to Z overview of bananas. Banana history, botany, production, types, trade, ripening, nutrition and trivia are wrapped in colorful photos and informative text. The book closes with a glossary, an index and additional resources – books and Web sites.

Bananas by Jacqueline Farmer
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-88106-115-8

Best for Ages 7-12

Whatever a child would like to know about bananas can be explored in this colorful text. Banana production, types, trade, ripening, history, nutrition and trivia are wrapped in colorful artwork and informative text. The book closes with banana recipes and jokes.

The Berry Book by Gail Gibbons
Price: \$16.95
ISBN: 0-8234-1697-6

Best for ages 4-8

Gail Gibbons has developed another excellent book on an agricultural topic. This time she weaves her storytelling magic about all sorts of berries. Her discussion of how berries grow in the wild and how they are cultivated in fields and gardens domestically includes the impact of climate. The author describes the uses of edible berries and even gives directions on how to grow strawberries. The colorfully illustrated book includes recipes for berry jams, pies and ice creams.

California Grapes by Karen Adler
Price: \$7.95
ISBN: 0-86505-668-4

Best for ages 7-12

The content of this book, written in poem format, is excellent. Unfortunately, the watercolor illustrations are a very mixed assortment. Images of the vines, vineyard and grapes are fine but the human illustrations are amateurish at best. Having made that observation, this is the best book on this topic currently available. The author does a complete job of capturing this industry in California.

From Apples to Apple Sauce by Kristin Thoennes Keller
Price: \$19.95
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2633-4

Best for ages 7-10

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences describing the harvest process through finished applesauce being sold to a consumer. It does a very complete depiction from tree to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The book ends with glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

From Fruit to Jelly by Shannon Zemlicka
Price: \$19.93
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0942-4

Best for ages 5-7

As with the other books in this series, this early reader presents factual information in a few brief sentences per page with excellent pictures accompanying the text. All in all it does an excellent job of depicting the production of jelly from tree to consumer. This is information that most adults no longer understand.

From Oranges to Orange Juice by Kristin Thoennes Keller
Price: \$19.95
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2636-5

Best for ages 7-10

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from tree to consumer. Of special interest is the whole processing aspect of orange juice production. All of the images are of modern farm

equipment and modern processing operations. The book ends with a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

From Pit to Peach Tree by Ellen Weiss

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$19.99

ISBN13: 978-0-531-18538-4

This book is unique in that it explains peach production from a peach pit. Each of the books in this series by the same author begins with vocabulary words and photographs depicting the meaning of the words. It identifies the term in bold letters and instructs the reader to look for the word in the text in its bold format. As a result this is a great vocabulary builder and reading-for-content book. Each page has three to five sentences and the facing page has an excellent photograph with a caption. The content covers how peaches are grown and harvested. Unfortunately, the book does not depict grafting and that is a major flaw in this book. The book ends with the peach life cycle and a glossary.

From Shoot to Apple by Stacy Taus-Bolstad

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0719-2

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The major flaw in the book is that while it depicts grafting scion wood it depicts it being done on fairly mature trees. This type of grafting is done only when a grower wishes to change a block of apple trees from one variety into another. It would have been much better to depict grafting onto rootstock as is commonly done. The best feature of this book is that it depicts dwarf apple trees and most children's books show old-fashioned trees forty feet tall. The book ends with a glossary.

Fruit by Lynn M. Stone

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$27.07

ISBN13:978-1-60044-552-1

This beautifully photographed book about fruit is basic but accurate. It is an excellent resource for any teacher trying to explain the difference between a fruit and a vegetable. This book would also be useful when teaching pollination and seed development.

Hooray for Orchards! by Bobbie Kalman

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$7.95

ISBN: 0-86505-667-6

This book provides a nice overview of orchards and fruit production of many types. It begins with a description of various types of fruit and which of those fruits are produced in orchards. Images depict modern dwarf varieties of apples, grafting, flowering and pollination, pruning, spraying, harvesting and processing. While the book does address pests and pest control, one of the shortcomings is the description near the end of the book on beneficial insects and pesticide use. The author over simplified a very complex issue. The book concludes with a short glossary and recipe for apple crisp. This book is a well written and illustrated source of information.

How Do Apples Grow by Betsy Maestro
Price: \$4.95
ISBN: 0-06-445117-8

Best for ages 5-10

This well-illustrated book detailing apple production can be used in a unit teaching about seasons, pollination, parts of the flower, honey production or just apples. It does an excellent job depicting the total process from dormancy through apple harvest. A credible illustration of apple harvest depicts dwarf apple trees, which are the modern image of an orchard yet seen in very few books of this type. This book is strongly recommended to teach about flower parts, pollination, fertilization and fruit growth.

How Do You Raise a Raisin? By Pam Munoz Ryan
Price: \$16.95
ISBN: 1-57091-397-8

Best for ages 5-10

This funny and informative book about this ancient food delivers a multi-dimensional look at one of America's favorite healthy treats. The book explains how grapes become raisins, who introduced the seedless grape, raisins throughout history, nutrition, and the many uses for raisins besides snacks.

I Like Berries by Jennifer Julius
Price: \$4.95
ISBN: 0-516-23054-9

Best for Ages 4-7

This early-reader book focuses on the foods that contain berries. It depicts strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries with text and products. It contains text about cranberries and red currants but photos only of cranberry sauce and currant jam. The one glaring error is that the author confuses blackberries with black raspberries. The text describes blackberries but the photo is of both black and red raspberries. On a previous page the photo includes blackberries along with red raspberries. The book has a three-word glossary.

I Like Oranges by Robin Pickering
Price: \$4.95
ISBN: 0-516-23011-5

Best for Ages 4-7

While the chapter designations in this book are very artificial, this is one of the best books of the series. It depicts the fruit growing on trees and identifies it as a fruit. It also describes and depicts the structure of an orange and the process of making juice. The book ends with a nice glossary.

Johnny Appleseed: A Tall Tale by Steven Kellogg
Price: \$16.99
ISBN: 9-7806-8806417-4

Best for ages 6-9

While this book has been in print since 1988, its story and artwork are timeless. The well known story of Johnny Appleseed is enhanced with the author/artist's complex and colorful illustrations. A great addition to any library, this book is also a great fictional introduction to the topic of apples. As teachers weave folktales into their language arts instruction, this book is a must.

My Apple Tree by David Baur
Price: \$15.93

Best for ages 4-7

ISBN: 0-7368-5974-8
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5974-5

Spanish/English Edition
ISBN: 0-7368-6010-X
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6101-9

This is an early reader book with short statement sentences in a large font. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book for a teacher to use to begin to teach reading for content. The content and picture could be used to begin to teach about the life cycle and seasons in science. The photographs enhance the text and depict modern dwarf apple trees instead of old-fashioned 40-foot trees as so many books do. The Spanish/ English edition has the sentence in both Spanish and English on each page. This is most useful for teaching Spanish speaking children to learn English.

Picking Apples and Pumpkins by Amy and Richard Hutchings Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$3.95
ISBN: 0-590-48456-7

This book would be a good one to read in the fall when pumpkins and apples are being harvested. Harvest is really the only connection between the two. The very traditional text and images depict a family with a grandmother taking a trip to the farm to harvest their own apples and pumpkins. A warning is needed to address the hazards of climbing in trees and reaching to pick fruit.

A Story about Raisins by Karen A. Adler Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$14.95
ISBN: 0-9679772-3-1

This book for young readers gives a brief overview of raisins. It describes a bit of their history, production and uses. The book contains four simple recipes that children can make themselves. The book also contains a CD with 3 songs.

The Story of Orange Juice by Lisa Trumbauer Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$15.93
ISBN: 0-7368-5846-6
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5846-5

This early reader book has about three sentences per page. Vocabulary words are bold and a glossary defines those words in the back of the book. The content is accurate and for an early reader book tells the story very well. The text would be very useful to teach life cycle, pollination, and pollinators using oranges as the topic. It also contains good nutritional information and could be used to teach a sequential process in meeting human needs in social studies.

Tall and Tasty: Fruit Trees by Meredith Sayles Hughes Best for ages 7-13

Price: \$26.60
ISBN: 0-8225-2837-1

This book is packed with information about apples, peaches, mangoes, figs and citrus. Each chapter examines the discovery and migration of these plants as well as their roles in cooking, technology and world cultures. Through a close-up look at planting, pollination, harvesting, and processing, readers will also learn how fruit crops make their way from field to table.

Up, Up, Up! Its Apple-Picking Time by Jody Fickes Shapiro

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$21.26

ISBN13: 978-0-82341-610-3

While this book does have some content limitations, it helps reconnect the non-farm public to the farm. The heartwarming tale of a family visiting the grandparent's orchard to pick apples and picnic will be a favorite with children. The inside cover of the book has illustrated versions of many apples, some common, others heirloom varieties. As the book is used, please address that large full-grown apple trees are rarely seen on most farms. Newer dwarf varieties are much safer for pickers to harvest and yield a high quality fruit with less energy and pest control chemicals required. The one caution is that students need to be told that due to the dangers of E. coli contamination, drop apples are no longer harvested for pressing into cider. They should be left on the ground because insect damage, rodent and bird droppings contaminate them.

We Love Fruit by Fay Robinson

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-46006-4

This early-reader book begins to teach students about fruit. A few basic concepts are addressed superficially, which is appropriate at this age level. The nice photos enhance the text.

What's for Lunch, Banana by Pam Robson

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$18.52

ISBN: 0-516-26217-3

As with the other books in this series, the colorful, high-quality photographs complement the text and tell half the story. The book accurately depicts planting bananas, banana growth, plant structure, harvesting, processing and ripening bananas. The book concludes with shipping bananas, familiar foods made from bananas and an excellent glossary.

A Visit to the Apple Orchard by Patricia J. Murphy

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$19.93

ISBN13: 978-1-4296-0081-1

This book about the basics of apple production and packing is available in both an English/Spanish edition and English version. This recommendation is the English/Spanish version. The colorful photos are accurate portrayals of modern apple production and enhance the basic text. The one shortcoming is that the one photo of a tractor depicted in the books does not have rollover protection. The book contains a glossary, Internet sites, and index in both English and Spanish.

General

Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z by Lois Ehlert

Best for ages 2-5

Price: 0-15-224435-2
ISBN: \$16.00

In brilliant watercolor collages, Lois Ehlert introduces young readers to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables from A to Z. Clearly labeled and easy to identify, the collection includes favorites such as apples, bananas, potatoes and tomatoes - as well as some less common edibles like jalapeño peppers and radicchio. This book includes a glossary which offers useful and interesting information about each fruit and vegetable.

The Fresh Tastes from the Garden State by Carol Byrd-Bredbenner Best for ages 14 to
Price: \$32.00 Adult, and
ISBN: 0-8135-3129-2 Teacher Reference

While this book focuses on one state, New Jersey, the content, recipes and photos cross those boundaries and are suitable anywhere. Each chapter examines a fruit, group of fruits or vegetable and describes its history, impact on culture, its nutrition and phyto-nutrition and how it is sold and used. Modern production practices are illustrated and beautifully photographed. Each item of produce is depicted on the plant as it grows.

Growing Colors by Bruce McMillan Best for ages 2-5
Price: \$16.99
ISBN: 0-688-07844-4

The wonderful photographs of this book are designed to help teach more about colors than plants but a skillful reader can use it to teach both.

Lan's Plant by Sandy Riggs Best for ages 5-7
Price: \$3.99
ISBN: 0-7641-3287-3

Readers Clubhouse presents a comprehensive program for young readers that reviews the short-a vowels and the short-e vowels while telling a story of a girl and her plant, how she cares for her plant and watches it grow.

Plant Cycle by Ray James Best for ages 5-7
Price: \$22.79
ISBN: 1-60044-180-7

While a very basic text, this book covers all appropriate information about seeds, germination, flowering, and pollination. The excellent photographs enhance the limited text and tell a good part of the message. Various dissemination methods and adaptations to differing climates are also included. One nice addition is the inclusion of trees and nuts, which many books omit.

Accurate Ag Books Program Book 2007

A Seed in Need by Sam Godwin Best for ages 4-8
Price: \$22.60
ISBN: 1-4048-0920-1

A first look at the plant cycle has never been so fun. In this book a colorful parade of inquisitive insects follows the progress of a sunflower seed in this first look at the life cycle of a sunflower. This book would be a great accompaniment for a lesson on planting seeds.

Seeds Grow! by Angela Shelf Medearis

Best for ages 3-6

Price: \$3.99

ISBN: 0-590-37974-7

Basic plant germination and growth is described in rhyming poetry. This colorful book by Scholastic is designed for early readers. Without complex detail, germination, plant growth, flowering and pollination are identified. Activities in the back of the book are most suitable for first graders or children who have begun to read.

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$18.95

ISBN: 0-88708-015-4

Eric Carle's fanciful collages give this fictional story plenty for young children to view. Intended more as a book to interest children in nature, the book does contain some factual information for young children.

The True History of Chocolate by Sophie Coe and Michael Coe

Best for ages 12- Adult

Price: \$21.95

ISBN13: 978-0-500-28696-8

This thoroughly researched and engaging book details the story of chocolate. It covers the early history of chocolate with the Olmecs, Mayans and Aztecs, its travel and success in Europe, to today's modern mass production. This is a scientific study of the social and cultural history of chocolate. The authors' documentation and insights make for a unique study of a major food as well as providing insight into Western history of colonial rule, the Renaissance and modern global trade. The illustrations are wonderful and greatly enhance an already superb text.

Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-15-29285-10

Unfortunately, it is virtually impossible to avoid anthropomorphication of animals in children's fiction books. In spite of that fact, we are recommending this book because of the information it delivers. Bear and Hare are involved in a gardening project. Hare, the book's main character, tricks his lazy colleagues into sharing crops which only benefit the hard work of the hare. During the process children learn which foods grow above the ground and which grow below the ground, hence the title-tops and bottoms. This is a great book to introduce gardening topics.

Understanding Photosynthesis with Max Axiom by Liam O'Donnell

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$25.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6841-9

This colorful, comic-format book will capture the attention of those students with an interest in super heroes. Max Axiom is projected to be a super-hero scientist. He explains photosynthesis

at an age-appropriate level. The one shortcoming of this book is when it deviates from the topic and strays into the global warming issue.

The Yummy Alphabet Book: Herbs, Spices and Other Natural Flavors by Jerry Pallotta
Price: \$16.95 Best for ages 4-8
ISBN: 10-0-88106-898-5

In this subject-oriented alphabet book the light-hearted style of Pallotta is expressed through mysterious and informative watercolors and creative alphabetic spice suggestions for cooks of all ages. This book is imaginative in introducing spices and herbs from ginger and garlic to bearberry which can only be eaten by bears.

What is a Plant? by Bobbie Kalman Best for ages 7-12
Price: \$5.95
ISBN: 0-86505-959-4

This book provides a nice overview of plants. It identifies plant characteristics, their structures, the function of those structures, adaptations that plants have made to stay alive, how plants make food, novel ways plants meet their nutritional needs, germination, pollination and fertilization, seed dispersal and uses of seeds. It includes information on carnivorous and parasitic plants, vegetative reproduction, and forests. The book's one serious shortcoming occurs at the end of the text. In the "Threats to Plants" section, the information under wetlands and forests is a reiteration of commonly held environmental beliefs, several of which have no scientific basis. The statement that tropical rainforests are being cut down to make room for cattle ranches is the most egregious. If this book is used, that is an area for discussion and to point out to students that just because a statement is in print does not make it true. (Tropical forests are cut down for a type of slash-and-burn agriculture which cannot be sustained in fragile tropical soils. Grazing cattle is the last use of areas cleared when no other crops can be produced.) It is unfortunate that the author did not stop before including this section of the book.

50 Words About Plants by David and Patricia Armentrout Best for ages 4-8
Price: \$28.99
ISBN13: 978-1-5895-2345-6

Rather than a text this book is more of an illustrated dictionary of plant terms. Well defined and accompanied by excellent photographs, the words included are an excellent representation of words typical for plant production and scientific study. While very basic this is a good starting book to develop sound understandings of plants and science.

Grains and Grain Foods

Bread and Wheat

Bread by Eric Treuille Best for ages 12-Adult
Price: \$20.00
ISBN: 978-0756-1889-6

This book moves beyond the basics of how bread is made and explains how cultures interpret bread and how bread impacts culture. It explains and displays a wide variety of bread from across the globe, explains the characteristic of each and sometimes what its name signifies. This is an updated, paperback edition of the book *Ultimate Bread*.

Bread, Bread, Bread by Ann Morris

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$15.99

ISBN: 0-688-06334-9

This book shares the idea that people eat bread all around the world and explores the forms that bread takes in each of those cultures. As an early-reader book this book does not contain too much detail but the excellent photographs help tell the story very well. The index contains pictures and identifies where each type of bread originates.

Bread Comes to Life by George Levenson

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$15.99

ISBN: 1-58246-114-7

This book shares the story of wheat in a rhyming poem and excellent photographs. Unfortunately, the effort to successfully complete the rhyme precludes using modern production techniques in the telling. Accurate up to the baker sowing the seed in his back yard, the story includes hand harvesting and threshing the wheat instead of the modern use of sowing seed in large fields using a seed drill and combine. While the poem and images are not technically incorrect, they are not modern. The best use of this book would be as an accompaniment with another book that included modern images. The index contains pictures and detailed descriptions and student centered activities.

Bread is for Eating by David and Phyllis Gershtator

Best for ages 6-8

Price: \$6.95 (paperback)

ISBN: 0-8050-5798-6

While this book does depict some stereotypical images it does provide an accurate description of the story of wheat. The story is colorfully illustrated using modern production techniques for the most part as it takes the reader on a journey from field to meal. A nice addition is the bilingual text, introduction of Spanish words, Guatemalan fold art and the depiction of a variety of peoples and the forms their breads take.

Everybody Bakes Bread by Norah Dooley

Best for ages 5-8

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-87614-895-X

On a rainy Saturday, what is better to do than bake bread? Carrie and her brother bicker so much that their mother sends Carrie on a fool's errand to borrow a rolling pin. People in each house she visits offer her a new kind of bread and by the time she returns home the bread is ready at her house. This tummy warming story is both informational and fun for families to enjoy together as each new kind of bread represents a household of a different culture.

Everybody Eats Bread by Janet Reed

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$15.93

ISBN: 0-7368-2909-1

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2909-0

This is an early reader book with short statement sentences in a large font. While the content is minimal this would be a very good book to use to begin to teach reading for content. The content and picture could be used to begin to teach about cultures and meeting human needs in social studies. The photographs are excellent and enhance the text.

From Wheat to Bread by Kristin Thoennes Keller

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2638-9

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with depicting wheat kernels and moves to harvesting wheat. Most students and teachers have never seen wheat seeds. The excellent photographs depict modern production and processing. The book ends with wheat weaving, a glossary, a recipe and recommended Internet sites.

From Wheat to Bread by Stacy Taus-Bolstad

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0715-4

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with planting a wheat field as well as harvesting one. This is rarely seen in children's books or textbooks. The excellent photographs depict modern production and but the bread making depicts much more old fashioned processes and equipment. The book ends with a glossary.

Loaves of Fun by Elizabeth Harbison

Best for ages 8-adult

Price \$14.95

ISBN: 1-55652-311-4

The text of this book is much better than its black-line illustrations. The illustrations are rudimentary at best while the text is well researched and written. The book starts in 8000 B.C. in Asia with the first known use of a ground grain and water mixture. It ends with a look at a modern bakery today. Included are breads from many countries, cultures and celebrations. Beyond bread, it includes recipes for poster paints, squeeze paints and play dough that use wheat flour as an ingredient. The book ends with a well-developed glossary.

Ultimate Bread by Eric Treuille and Ursula Ferrigno

Best for ages 12-Adult

Price: \$20.00

ISBN: 0-7894-3513-6

Other books make the wheat-to-bread connection for younger students. This book moves beyond that to display and explain how cultures interpret bread and how bread impacts culture. It explains and displays a wide variety of bread from across the globe, explains the characteristics of each and explains the area in which it developed and sometimes what its name signifies.

Wheat (A True Book) by Elaine Landau
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-516-26792-2

Best for ages 7-13

As with the other books written by this author this text provides an accurate and comprehensive look at wheat. From the early cultivation of wheat over 17,000 years ago through modern culture today, the text and photos tell wheat's story. The author has even depicted and described the milling process. The author does a good job describing the six classes of wheat and the difference between winter and spring wheat. The one small flaw appears in the caption of a photo which identifies large round bales of wheat straw as bales of hard red winter wheat. The book ends with a good glossary.

Corn and Corn Foods

Burro's Tortillas by Terry Fields
Price: \$8.95
ISBN13: 978-934359-18-1

Best for ages 5-7

This is a tortilla version of the little red hen's story of bread making from wheat but here the burro make tortillas from corn. The story follows the same pattern that none of the characters but the burro is interested in helping when there is work to be done but they are interested in eating the product of that work. While we usually do not recommend books that anthropomorphize animals, in this instance the accuracy of the process warrants that we include this book. The book concludes with classroom-appropriate student activities and instructions for making tortillas.

Corn (A True Book) by Elaine Landau
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-516-26759-0

Best for ages 7-13

This excellent book takes a thorough look at corn by providing high quality, sound information in both text and image. It provides a comprehensive overview of types of corn and their uses, how and where corn grows, the history of corn, and the uses of corn for food and more. The book provides text and photos which describe using corn in both food and non-food items and even the most surprising uses. It also includes a section on corn breeding and its use in creating renewable fuels and biodegradable plastics. The book ends with a good glossary.

Corn by Gail Gibbons
Price: \$16.95
ISBN13: 978-0-8234-2169-5

Best for ages 7-11

As with most of the books developed by Gail Gibbons this one depicts the agricultural information correctly. The artwork is simple but correct. Unlike most books about corn this book describes the difference between the four major types of corn and provides further descriptors of their individual uses. It is unique in that it depicts the corn silk as the pollen tube that it is and an illustration shows the process of fertilization of a single kernel on an ear. It also depicts the multitude of ways in which corn is used in a variety of food and non-food items. If there could be only one book on corn purchased for a school this could be the book that we recommend.

Corn by Lisa Trumbauer
Price: \$15.93
ISBN: 0-7368-5846-6
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-5846-5

Best for ages 7-11

This is an early reader book with about three sentences per page. Vocabulary words are bold and a glossary defines those words in the back of the book. The content is accurate and for an early reader book tells the story very well. The text deals with corn's origins but is not quite accurate here. It states that corn grew wild and Native Americans learned how to use it. This is not the case. Corn was developed by humans from its wild ancestors. That is the only technical inaccuracy and is a relatively minor one.

From Corn to Cereal by Roberta Basel
Price: \$19.95
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4284-6

Best for ages 7-10

This is one of the best books in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from seed to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The growing cornfield is so vibrant one can almost hear the rustle of leaves in the breeze and the sweet corny sent that surrounds a cornfield on a hot and humid day. The book ends with a page on the Corn Palace of South Dakota, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

From Kernel to Corn by Robin Nelson
Price: \$19.95
ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0944-8

Best for ages 4-8

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers that come from plants and animals. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The image of a farmer plowing a field is not accurate but the rest of the book is fairly sound in image and text. It depicts sweet corn production from seedling to consumer. There is an excellent page describing why farmers use pesticides to control weeds and insects that compete with and/or damage crops.

From Kernel to Corncob by Ellen Weiss
Price: \$19.99
ISBN13:978-0-531-18536-0

Best for ages 4-7

Each of the books in this series by the same author begins with vocabulary words and photographs depicting the meaning of the words. It identifies the term in bold letters and instructs the reader to look for the word in the text in its bold format. As a result this is a great vocabulary builder and reading-for-content book. Each page has three to five sentences and the facing page has an excellent photograph with a caption. The content covers how corn is grown and harvested. This is the weakest book of the series. Unfortunately, it never explains that sweet corn and field corn are different and used differently. It uses the images of each interchangeably. It does not show field corn dried down nor mechanical harvesting. Also, the sequence of photos in this book does not accurately accompany the text the way the other books in the series do.

Either the author should have just depicted sweet corn and left out any references to field corn or she should have explained the difference and included more information about field corn, its uses and production. The book ends with the corn life cycle and a glossary.

I Like Corn by Robin Pickering

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-23009-3

This early-reader book provides basic information about corn. It does not differentiate between sweet corn and field corn but discusses both as food, a problem on two levels. The text describes corn as a vegetable. We eat sweet corn as a vegetable but is (botanically) a fruit. On the other hand, field corn is considered a grain. This book nicely depicts corn growing, one method of irrigation, corn in the husk, on the cob, tamale making, and foods made with corn. The book ends with a nice glossary.

Popcorn by Elaine Landau

Best for ages 5-9

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 1-57091-443-5

Join the zany popcorn-loving raccoon on a journey through the history and science of popcorn. You'll learn where archaeologists found 5,600 year old ears of popcorn, how a hard little kernel turns into a fluffy snack and much more! While the book is a bit silly, it encompasses everything you ever wanted to know about popcorn. Take the opportunity to have children seek out the ridiculous images and correct them as you read the book. (Hint: The Pilgrims did not watch football on television at the first Thanksgiving.)

The Popcorn Book by Tomie de Paola

Best for ages 5-9

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-8234-0533-8

This engaging book entertains as it instructs. Designed as a quick and fun overview of popcorn, most of the information is accurate. The one exception is that the description of Indians holding an ear of popcorn over a fire on a stick is untrue. As American Indians pointed out when reviewing the book, it is absurd to believe anyone would pop corn in this way. As the kernels popped they would fly all over the place and be lost as a food. This can be used as a teachable moment to students to instruct them that just because something is written does not guarantee its accuracy.

The Story of Corn by Betty Fussel

Best for ages 12- Adult

Price: \$16.47

ISBN13: 978-0-8263-3592-6

Largely a look at the history of corn and its impact on the world, this book documents corn from its earliest roots to today. The author examines the cultural influences and ways that corn has been woven into the culture of earlier American societies and the culture of today's civilizations. While the book mainly discusses field corn there is a bit about popcorn and sweet corn. Corn as human food, animal feed, converted into alcohol, and now as a renewable fuel, this book addresses each area with factual discernment not rose-colored glasses. Perhaps of particular

interest to those learning about Meso-American cultures, the author weaves text illustration, poetry and photos throughout the book.

From Wheat to Pasta by Robert Egan

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-26069-3

The excellent photographs beautifully illustrate this story from the wheat to the finished meal. The photos and story depict growing wheat, combining wheat, grain elevators, milling flour, and making pasta. The book closes with photos and descriptions of six different types of pasta.

Glorious Grasses, The Grains by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 10-18

Price: \$26.60

ISBN: 978-0822-5283-19

This series provides a wealth of information on each topic. It covers seven major grains in a fairly complete fashion. The first two-thirds of the book are dedicated to the three major grains: wheat, rice and corn.

What's for Lunch, Rice by Pam Robson

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-26224-6

Representative of rice production worldwide, the book depicts planting seed rice through harvest and consumption. Although a bit confusing, photos of the high-tech method of rice production of the United States are interspersed with those of the hand-labor production methods in developing countries. This is the weakest book in the series but recommended because of a lack of any other book depicting modern rice production. The book mentions insect damage and the need for chemical intervention but the photo accompanying the text is of fertilizer application by hand. It concludes with familiar foods made from rice and an excellent glossary.

Legumes

I Like Peanuts by Jennifer Julius

Best for Ages 4-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-23058-1

As with other books in this early reader series, this book focuses most on products made from peanuts. It has a nice photos of peanuts still attached to the plant and makes it clear that the peanuts develop underground. That process is not discussed. It also makes clear that peanuts are not a nut in a woody husk or shell, but a seed in a pod. The book ends with a nice glossary.

From Peanut to Peanut Butter by Kristin Thoennes Keller

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2637-2

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from seed to consumer. All of the images are

of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The book ends with a page on George Washington Carver, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

From Peanut to Peanut Butter by Robin Nelson

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-0944-8

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. This is one of the best books in the series and while it does not show the peanuts growing underground it does depict the whole plant with the peanuts attached at the roots, harvesting, sorting, roasting and peanut butter making. The book ends with a glossary.

Seed to Peanut by Oliver S. Owen

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$22.78

ISBN: 1-56239-489-4

This story tells about peanuts from A to Z. It provides the history of the peanut, its structure and growing habits, peanut farming, George Washington Carver, the use of peanuts, and how to grow peanuts in a 25 pages of text. The book contains an excellent glossary. Excellent photographs and illustrations enhance the information presented.

Spill the Beans and Pass the Peanuts, Legumes by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 10-18

Price: \$26.60

ISBN: 0-8225-2834-7

This series provides a wealth of information on several types of legumes. The book covers peanuts, lentils, peas, and beans. Each chapter covers the vegetable's history, sources, production methods, and uses. In some cases, nutritional benefits are addressed.

The Super Soybean by Raymond Bial

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$16.95

ISBN-10: 0-807-57549-6

ISBN-13: 978-0807575499

This book captures the A-Z of soybeans. From seed to harvest the photos and text depict how soybeans are grown, harvested, chipped, and marketed. Unlike many other books about food crops this one also describes how soybeans are used for other purposes like crayons, ink, fuel, plastics, and soap. The readers will learn that the United States produces more soybeans than any other country – over 3 billion bushels per year. The book also describes the history and origins of the soybean in China and how they came to grow in the United States so plentifully. Early advocates and researchers included George Washington Carver and Henry Ford. The excellent photographs nicely complement the accurate text.

Pumpkins

See Also: **Picking Apples and Pumpkins** under the Fruits heading.

From Seed to Pumpkin by Wendy Pfeffer
Price: \$15.99
ISBN: 0-06-028038-7

Best for ages 4-7

It is unfortunate that this wonderful book has to open with the farmer standing in bib-overalls with a hoe in his hand and a straw hat on his head. Three for three stereotypes on the first page of a book is an unusual negative accomplishment. It is unfortunate because the rest of the book is wonderful. It accurately depicts germination; pumpkin plants growing and flowering; pollination by bees; young pumpkins growing; larger pumpkins growing and still green; pumpkins changing colors; and uses for pumpkins. In fact, unlike almost all other books about pumpkins, this one is accurate. That is why we are recommending it in spite of the stereotypes. Please address that when using this book.

The Pumpkin Book by Gail Gibbons
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-8234-1465-5

Best for ages 5-9

This is one of the few pumpkin books that explains that pumpkins are a member of the squash family, and that there are different varieties and each has a different purpose. As with her other books, Gail does a great job of getting the information correct. This book provides a nice overview of how pumpkins are grown, their history, uses, and it includes a few fun activities.

Pumpkin Circle by George Levinson
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-8075-6666-7

Best for ages 4-6

This book contains more excellent photographs of the life cycle of the pumpkin than any other book on any topic. The poetry of the text winds in and around these photographs like the tendrils of a pumpkin vine, snaring your imagination and trapping your interest in where the story will lead. Unlike most books this one truly tells the story of the life cycle as a cycle complete with seeds for the next crop and the decomposition of the pumpkin back into the soil.

Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubbell
Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-8075-6666-7

Best for ages 5-8

Join Jack in his voyage of discovery as he experiences death, decomposition and rebirth as his Jack-o-lantern fades, rots and new plants grow from a seed left inside the pumpkin shell. That seed sprouts and the growth leads to a new crop of pumpkins.

Pumpkins by Jacqueline Farmer
Price: \$16.95
ISBN: 1-57091-557-1

Best for ages 4-8

From Halloween jack-o-lanterns to Thanksgiving pie, pumpkins brighten up autumn days in so many ways. This book discusses where pumpkins come from, why we carve them on Halloween, and how to make pumpkin pie. This book brings you facts about pumpkins and can help to teach geography, history, nutrition, and life sciences.

Too Many Pumpkins by Linda White

Best for Ages 4-8

Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-8234-1320-9

This colorful work of fiction will charm the students who hear it or read it. In the process they will learn that pumpkins grow from seeds, that pumpkin plant grows as a vine, that pumpkins are harvested in the fall and the many uses of pumpkins as food and decorations.

Sugar and Syrup

From Cane to Sugar by Roberta Basel

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4283-9

This is another in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cane to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. Particular attention is paid to the total sugar making process. A few of the photographs are common in several books but this book has additional images that clarify the sugar-making process. This book depicts sugar making from sugar cane but also includes sugar beets. The book ends with a glossary and index.

From Cane to Sugar by Jill Braithwaite

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2637-2

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from cane to consumer. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. Particular attention is paid to the total sugar-making process. The book ends with a glossary and index.

From Maple Tree to Maple Syrup by Kristin Thoennes Keller

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-8225-1390-0

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. Unlike the next book on the list, this book depicts both bucket and modern collection of sap. It does a very complete description from tree to consumer. The book ends with a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

From Maple Tree to Syrup by Melanie Mitchell

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-2634-1

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has

one to five sentences. The major flaw in the book is that the images of collecting sap are all with buckets – the old fashioned way to do this. There is one picture that depicts the modern system but is not addressed. The best feature of this book is it depicts a newly planted sugar bush not more than a year or two old. This fosters the concept of trees as a renewable resource. The book ends with a glossary.

Sugar (A True Book) by Elaine Landau
ISBN13: 978-0-5162-1027-8

Best for ages 7-13

As with the other books written by this author, this text provides an accurate and comprehensive look at sugar from both sugar cane and sugar beets. From the early cultivation of sugar in India and China and other sweet sources around the world to the introduction of the sugar to the Americas and Africa to modern culture today, the text and photos tell sugar's story. This book moves beyond basic reader level and presents the complex story of sugar in a very comprehensive manner. The book ends with a good glossary and recommendations for other books and Web sites.

Trees, Forestry and Wood Products

Christmas Tree Farm by Ann Purmell
Price: \$16.95
ISBN13: 978-0-8234-1886-2

Best for ages 7-13

This book examines the production and marketing of Christmas trees. It begins with harvest on a family-owned Christmas tree farm but progresses to planting tree seedlings in the spring. It includes tree trimming and the benefits of a tree farm to wildlife. This is a very comprehensive look at Christmas tree farming

Forestry by Jane Drake, Ann Love and Pat Cupples
Price: \$5.95
ISBN13: 978-1-5533-7423-7

Best for ages 7-14

This book examines commercial forestry – the processes and benefits. It includes research and development, raising seedlings, planting trees, forest fires, tree farming, clear cutting, marking trees, logging, removing trees in challenging locations, lumber mills, and papermaking then ends with wildlife habitat. This is a very comprehensive look at forestry.

From Tree to Paper by Pam Marshall
Price: \$19.95
ISBN: 0-8225-0720-X

Best for ages 4-8

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with replanting a forest. This fosters the concept of trees as a renewable resource. The excellent photographs depict modern production and processing from tree to paper. The book ends with a glossary.

From Tree to Table by Jill Braithwaite

Best for ages 4-8

Price: \$19.95
ISBN: 0-8225-0947-4

This is one in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers.. As an early reader book, the content is minimal but fairly accurate. Each page has one to five sentences. The best feature of the book is that it begins with replanting a forest. This fosters the concept of trees as a renewable resource. This book is weaker than the previous text and depicts much more old fashioned processes and equipment. The book ends with a glossary.

2007 Book of the Year

The Tree Farmer by Chuck Leavell and Nicholas Cravotta

Best for ages 6-14

Price: \$16.95
ISBN: 1-893622-16-9

This is the story of a tree farmer, his love of the land and his appreciation for the beauty of trees and forests. As he shares that love, he is challenged by his grandson to explain how he can grow beautiful trees only to cut them down. Ready to meet that challenge, the tree farmer shares his knowledge and understanding of trees as a renewable resource. He also shares his love of the products trees provide and how they touch the souls of the people whose lives they grace. The author (Rolling Stones' keyboardist Chuck Leavell) shares his second life as a tree farmer. This is a book that shares a farmer's love of the land and wise use of its resources. It reaches out to touch the heart of the reader in a way few accurate books about agriculture do. Most books connect to the public's feelings only when they are tearing down agriculture or modern agricultural practices. This is exactly the type of book we need to reconnect the public to those who produce their food, forest and renewable fuels products.

Vegetables

Buried Treasure, Roots and Tubers by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 10-16

Price: \$26.60
ISBN: 0-8225-2830-4

This series provides a wealth of information on each topic. Discussing foods that grow in the ground can be tricky because some are roots, some modified stems, some leaves, etc. This book handles those issues nicely by just addressing roots and tubers. The book covers five topics in some detail the last of which is divided into three root crops.

From Eye to Potato by Ellen Weiss

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$19.99
ISBN13:978-0-531-18535-3

Each of the books in this series by the same author begins with vocabulary words and photographs depicting the meaning of the words. It identifies the term in bold letters and instructs the reader to look for the word in the text in its bold format. As a result this is a great vocabulary builder and reading for content book. Each page has three to five sentences and the facing page has an excellent photograph with a caption. The content covers how potatoes are grown and harvested. It does not show mechanical harvesting. That is one flaw. The book also describes how potatoes are grown from potato sections termed seed potatoes but then describes

and displays the fruit of the potato and seed without explaining that the seed is only used to breed potatoes not grow them commercially. The book ends with the potato life cycle and a glossary.

From Tomatoes to Ketchup by Roberta Basel

Best for ages 7-10

Price: \$19.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-4286-1

This is another great book in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and fibers. As an early reader book, the content is short but fairly accurate. Each page has three to five sentences. It does a very complete depiction from the growing plant to the processed product. All of the images are of modern farm equipment and modern processing operations. The photos in this book greatly enhance the text. The book ends with a page on, a glossary, recipe, and recommended Internet sites.

Green Power, Leaf and Flower Vegetables by Meredith Sayles Hughes

Best for ages 10-18

Price: \$26.60

ISBN: 0-8225-2839-8

This series provides a wealth of information on each topic. The book covers cabbage, broccoli, artichokes, spinach, Belgian endive, and lettuce. Each chapter covers the vegetable's history, sources, production methods and uses. In some cases, issues with the crop are presented, in others, nutritional benefits are addressed.

Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

Best for ages 2-5

Price: \$6.00

ISBN: 0-15-232575-1

This colorful book is designed to capture the attention of young children and interest them in gardens. The bright (florescent) colors and shapes will capture the attention of most preschool children.

The Life Cycle of a Bean by Linda Tagliaferro
(Gail Saunders-Smith Ph.D, Consulting Editor).

Best for ages 4-7

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6714-6.

This early reader book captures the development of the green snap bean from seed through germination, growth, flower development and pollination and on to seed development. It does not depict commercial green bean production but focuses on the growth of a few plants. This would be an excellent book to teach about the life cycle of a plant. The book includes a glossary, recommended reading list and suggested Internet sites.

The Life Cycle of a Carrot by Linda Tagliaferro
(Gail Saunders-Smith Ph.D, Consulting Editor).

Best for ages 4-7

ISBN13: 978-0-7368-6714-6.

As with other books in this series, this early reader book captures the development of a carrot from seed through germination, growth, flower development and pollination and on to seed development. Unfortunately, it mixes wild carrot (Queen Anne's Lace) with domesticated carrot production. It also refers to pulling carrots out of the ground. This is a bit misleading since most

carrots need to be dug since pulling would only result in breaking off the foliage in all but the softest of soils. The book includes a glossary, recommended reading list and suggested Internet sites.

I Like Potatoes by Jennifer Julius

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-23134

This early-reader book gives the basics about potatoes. It focuses mainly on how potatoes are cooked and eaten rather than growing or history.

Lettuce Introduce You by Laura Purdie Salas

Best for ages 4-7

ISBN 13: 978-1-4296-1703-1

This fun assortment of poetry explores different poem formats and nutrition at the same time. Read to the youngest children they will find delight in humor and amusing pictures as well as the clever word use.

Plant Plumbing: A Book about Roots and Stems by Susan Blackaby

Best for ages 7-9

Price: \$21.26

ISBN: 1-4048-0109-X

While the illustrations of this book detract from its overall appeal, the content is excellent. The book's focus on roots and stems is an unusual approach. The author explains the role of roots and stems, the two types of roots, stems found both above and below ground, function of their structures and how both help plants survive. It also includes a depiction of a seed germinating and some simple experiments. Included at the back of the book are a few Web sites and four additional books to read on the subjects.

Plant Stems and Roots by David M. Schwartz

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$2.99

ISBN: 0-8368-2581-0

This early-reader book gives the basics about plant roots and stems without too much detail. The right-hand side of the page gives a clue (sometimes a strange one) as to what the reader will find when the page is turned.

Potato by Larry Zuckerman

Best for ages 13- Adult

Price: \$15.00

ISBN13: 978-0-86547-578-6

This engaging book details the story of how this humble vegetable had an enormous impact on the Western world. It covers history from 11,000 B.C. to today, with a special emphasis on the time period from the 1700s through World War 1. This is not a scientific study but rather a social history. The author's documentation and insights make for a unique study of a major food.

Taking Root by Allan Fowler

Best for ages 5-7

Price: \$4.95

ISBN: 0-516-27058-3

This early-reader book begins to teach children about roots. Roots used for food are explored along with other root functions. The information is limited but appropriate for this age level.

Tomatoes (A True Book) by Elaine Landau

Best for ages 7-13

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-516-26773-6

As with the other books written by this author, this text provides an accurate and comprehensive look at the subject. From the early cultivation of tomatoes by the Aztecs to the introduction of the tomato to Europe by the Spanish Conquistadors and modern culture today, the text and photos tell tomato's story. The author has even depicted and described backyard, greenhouse and large scale tomato production. The story of processing the tomato into a variety of products is enhanced by including the rise of the Campbell Soup Company. The book ends with a good glossary.

Tomatoes, Potatoes, Corn and Beans by Sylvia A. Johnson

Best for ages 12-Adult

Price: \$16.00

ISBN: 0-689-80141-6

This excellent book describes how foods from North and South America changed eating around the world. It focuses on corn, beans, peppers, peanuts, potatoes, tomatoes, and chocolate but also includes other foods that originated in the Americas. Can you imagine Italian food without the tomato? Indian curries without the pepper? German or Irish food without the potato? Corn is now the most widely grown grain in the world. This book details the history of those transitions and is illustrated with historic artwork and modern photos. For anyone wishing to understand the real gold found in America, this book is an essential read.

The Ugly Vegetables by Grace Lin

Best for ages 6-9

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-88106-336-3

This fiction book is a good introduction to multiculturalism and the benefits of differences. A little girl is distressed by the ugly vegetables her mother is growing in their garden. The neighbors were all growing pretty flowers that filled the yards with color, aromas and pretty butterflies flitting about. But the plants grown by the girl's mother in her garden looked strange and the vegetables it yielded were ugly and bumpy. When it came time for harvest, the girl's mother filled the air with a wonderful aroma. The whole neighborhood stopped to partake of the delightful scent. Before long the neighborhood is gathering to trade their flowers for her soup. The book closes with a list of the "ugly" Chinese vegetables, their names, pronunciations, images, and descriptions along with the recipe for the "Ugly Vegetable Soup."

The Vegetable Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta

Best for ages 4-7

Price: \$6.95

ISBN: 0-88106-469-6

A wonderful blend of facts and humor make learning about vegetable gardening fun and easy for children. The wonderful, accurate illustrations guide children through a variety of vegetables and terms from A to Z relating to vegetable gardening.

What's for Lunch, Corn by Pam Robson

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$18.52
ISBN: 0-516-20823-3

As with the other books in this series, the colorful, high-quality photographs complement the text and tell half the story. The book accurately depicts planting corn, corn growth, plant structure, pollination, mechanically harvesting sweet corn, and processing sweet corn. The book accurately portrays insect damage in one of the best photographs of the whole series, the need for chemical intervention to halt that damage and aerial spraying. The book's one short coming is that the author does not understand or explain the difference between sweet corn and field corn. It treats them as one and the same and the reader should address this with students. The book concludes with familiar foods made from corn and an excellent glossary.

What's for Lunch, Peas by Claire Llewellyn

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$18.52
ISBN: 0-516-21549-3

This is one of the best books in the series. The colorful, high-quality photographs are excellent. The book accurately depicts planting seed through harvesting, storage, packing and processing peas. Included with the production photos are a series of three time-lapse photos of seed germination and seedling growth. The book accurately portrays aerial spraying to control pests. Perhaps the best inclusions in the book are the two photos of mechanical pea harvest. As with the other books in the series, an excellent glossary will help build vocabulary.

What's for Lunch, Potatoes by Claire Llewellyn

Best for Ages 6-10

Price: \$6.95
ISBN: 0-516-26223-8

The colorful, high-quality photographs complement the text and tell half the story. The book accurately depicts planting seed potatoes, potato growth, fields of growing and harvested potatoes, harvesting, storage, packing and processing potatoes. Interspersed with these production photos are a series of "below the soil" photos which expose tuber formation and growth. The book concludes with familiar and not-so-familiar foods made from and with potatoes. An excellent glossary will help build vocabulary.

Rural Life

Living In a Rural Area by Lisa Trumbauer

Best for ages 7-11

Price: \$15.93
ISBN: 0-7368-3631-4
ISBN13: 978-0-7368-3631-9

This is an early reader book about three sentences per page. Unlike the other books in this series the vocabulary words are not in bold-faced type, but a glossary in the back of the book defines words that may be unknown to students. The content is accurate and for an early reader book tells the story very well. The text deals with life in a rural area and includes both farming and non-farming environments. Where appropriate it does identify farms and ranches that will be found and the type of agriculture they represent. This would be a good book to introduce the concept of rural versus urban in the early elementary grades.

Science Projects

Science with Plants by Helen Edom and Jane Felstead

Best for ages 7-12

Price: \$5.99

ISBN13: 978-0-7945-1485-3

Basic science concepts are presented here in fun, hands-on activities for early elementary students. Topics covered include seed germination, water transportation, transpiration, stem and leaf structure, pollination, vegetative reproduction, composting and basic soil structure. The book closes with an excellent description of how our needs are met by plants and a soft environmental message entirely appropriate for this age level.

Science Projects About Plants by Robert Gardener

Best for ages 8–14

Price: \$23.95

ISBN13: 978-0-89490-952-5

The six chapters of this book each deal with a separate part of the plant or process such as germination. Within each chapter there are five to 12 different science projects that can be undertaken. Each project details the supplies needed, concept behind the project, step by step instructions, and any precautions students should be aware of. Illustrations for each project enhance the text and illuminate the process.

Super Science Projects About Earth's Soil and Water by Robert Gardener Best for ages 7–10

Price: \$23.95

ISBN13: 978-0-7660-2735-0

Soils are an area that has limited options for excellent children's books, yet it is one of the most important topics in understanding agriculture. This book is a very pleasant surprise with one exception. The text and pictures lead students to explore soil composition, structure, capabilities and its relationship to water and plants. The one area of concern is under the title "A Polluted Aquifer." It refers to fertilizers in the same category as pesticides and infers that they are poisons. If this book is used that area should be addressed and students should understand that fertilizers are nutrients. As with many other substances if used properly they are not toxic but the dose makes the poison and can be hazardous if present where they should not be or in quantities above recommended fertilizer rates.

Soils and Soil Conservation

Dust Bowl Diary by Ann Marie Low

Best for ages 12-Adult

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 0-8032-7913-2

Taken from the diary of a young girl, this true-life account of the dust bowl is heart wrenching. The detailed, often humorous account is painful in its description of the ravaged land. One unusual insight is the description of government ineptitude and callous disregard for the damage done to human life. The timeliness of that connection makes this era come to life. This book

would be an excellent accompaniment for classes reading the “Grapes of Wrath” or studying the dust bowl years in American history.

The Science of Soil by Jonathan Bocknek

Best for ages 7–14

Price: \$24.67

ISBN: 0-8368-2468-7

One of the topics largely ignored in children’s books and instruction is soil. Yet it is of utmost importance in the food production system. This is one text that is both available and accurate. This book provides an excellent overview of a number of soil topics. It addresses soil formation, structure, components, nutrients, and issues. It also covers soil conservation, organic farming and non-agricultural topics such as building with soil.

See Also: **Super Science Projects About Earth’s Soil and Water** under the category of Science Projects

Technology

Rainmakers: A Photographic Story of Center Pivots Forward by Congressman Tom Osborne

Price: \$34.95

Best for ages 7-Adult

ISBN: 0-9765058-0-0

This book takes us on a journey that explains how center pivot irrigation is an important tool for growing the food on which we depend. This important story is presented through instructive and beautiful photographs making the books a visual delight for even the casual reader. The goal of the book is to help all of us appreciate the history and complexity of center pivot irrigation and how the technology helps producers nourish our world.

High-Tech Harvest, A Look at Genetically Engineered Foods by Elizabeth Marshall

Price: \$12.00

Best for ages 14-Adult

ISBN: 0-531-11434-1

and Teacher Reference

While genetic engineering could be a very complex issue, this book makes the topic, techniques, and issues very understandable. The author has produced a text that examines the issue of genetically engineered foods in a very objective manner. She does not shirk from exploring those opposed to this new technology nor does she criticize their opposition. As such, this is a great addition to a library or classroom as a resource for this topic. The book provides references for each chapter, resources for further exploration and a glossary.

Superfood or Superthreat: The Issue of Genetically Engineered Food by Kathlyn Gay

Price: \$31.93

Best for ages 14-Adult

ISBN13: 978-0-7660-2528-8

and Teacher Reference

Most of the books available about biotechnology are written by activists opposed to the use of this technology. This book is a rare exception. The author has accurately presented the opposition’s issues against genetic engineering and then presented the opposing viewpoint using the scientific evidence refuting those claims. This is exactly the type of book that we should include in classrooms and libraries all across the United States. It presents the issues and facts in an amazingly objective manner. This author is to be commended. The book provides information sources, a glossary, and references for further research.