



MATH

Food and Farm Facts Section: **MODERN FARMERS**

Farmers FEED US

Students use words to describe the meaning and application of the “How Many People Does One Farm Feed?” graphs from *Food and Farm Facts*.

Standards: *Interpreting Functions*

Materials:

- An overhead version or a printout for each student of the “How Many People Does One Farm Feed?” graphs from *Food and Farm Facts* (page 10)

Activity Sequence:

1. Ask students to write down their hypothesis on the following: Currently, how many people does one farm feed per year? Also make hypotheses for how many in the following years: 1940, 1980 and 2000.
2. Project an image of the “How Many People Does One Farm Feed” graphs or hand out a copy to each student.
3. Assign students to small groups (two to four) and announce that each group will work together to report (verbally or on paper) the following:

- a. A description of the graph.
- b. The current trend in the data and what that means in our everyday lives.
- c. What farmers are doing to get these results.

Discussion:

- What about the data surprised you? What would you have predicted?
- Knowing each U.S. farm feeds 165 people each year, how many farmers does your town/city, county and state rely on? How many farmers would it have taken to feed the same amount of people in 1940?
- Did you know that by 2050, farmers will need to grow about 70 percent more food than they do now? If the amount of land we farm isn't increasing, how will farmers accomplish this?

Learn More!

Discover the relationship between agriculture, food, fiber and energy in the free *Addressing Misconceptions* tool available at www.agfoundation.org/resources/addressing-misconceptions

