



Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom
Monthly Themes- Links and Lessons
March 2021– Alpacas, Llamas and Corn



www.wisagclassroom.org

About this series:

The Monthly Theme Lesson Series from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is a compilation of resources found on Ag in the Classroom, commodity, and other educational websites, YouTube, and sources.

Each month we will feature an animal and crop and share lesson plans, career information, activities and videos about them.

Thank you to all our Ag in the Classroom partners, commodity groups, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, and other sources who help to tell the agricultural story and provide educational resources for our students, teachers and volunteers!

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Alpaca and Llama Resources and Links

National Ag in the Classroom

[Step into the Inca World](#)

This book explores the Inca civilization, including information on diet, domestic life, and religious beliefs. Instructions for making crafts that bring the past alive are included throughout. Sections on living on the land, hunting and fishing, food and feasts, and textiles and tunics provide useful information and activities for connecting agriculture and social studies.

Movie/Video

[Fascinating Farms Around the World](#)

Take an interactive journey around the world to visit 16 farms. These are not your ordinary farms with cattle, sheep, hay, or grain. These farms produce specialty crops such as salmon, tulips, alligators, wind, mussels, coffee, leeches, lavender, yaks, seaweed, ostriches, rice, sunflowers, salt, ostriches, solar power, and alpacas. This journey would be an excellent supplement for elementary geography and agriculture lessons to teach students about less common types of farms.

American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture

[Unusual Farms by Brenda Haugen - Recommended by American ...](#)

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 ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/unusual-farms>)

Wisconsin – University of Wisconsin Extension

Llama and alpaca projects- <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/large-animals/llamas-and-alpacas-project/>

Midwest Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association

Home page- <https://mopaca.org/>

About alpacas- <https://mopaca.org/About-Alpacas>

Great Lakes Alpaca Association

Home page- <https://greatlakesalpaca.com/>

Resource Center- <http://greatlakesalpaca.com/resource-center/>

Alpaca Owners Association, Inc

Leaders Manual – Alpaca Activities for Youth-

<http://www.alpacainfo.com/resources/dyn/files/608426z7514196d/fn/alpaca-activities-for-youth.pdf>

Alpaca Academy- <https://www.alpacainfo.com/learn>

Educational videos- <https://www.alpacainfo.com/academy/educational-videos>

Wisconsin Alpaca and Fiber Fest- <https://www.alpacainfo.com/show/detail/2020-wisconsin-alpaca-and-fiber-fest>

Midwest Lama Association

Home page- <https://midwestlama.org/home>

4-H grants- <https://midwestlama.org/4-h-grants>

Upper Midwest Alpacas

Home page- <http://www.uppermidwestalpacas.com/>

Other resources and links: <http://www.uppermidwestalpacas.com/page/3929/resources>

Corn Resources and Links

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom

World of Corn books- <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/world-of-corn/>

Corn Fact Sheet- <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Corn-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

This Business Called Agriculture- <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/this-business-called-agriculture/>

Corn Ag Mag (from AFBFA)- <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/product/ag-mag-corn/>

Into the Outdoors

A-maize-ing Corn-- <https://intotheoutdoors.org/topics/a-maize-ing-corn/>

Corn Ethanol- Fueling Options for the Future- <https://intotheoutdoors.org/topics/corn-ethanol-fueling-the-future/>

Wisconsin Corn Growers

Resources- <https://wicorn.org/resources/>

Corn facts- <https://wicorn.org/resources/corn-facts/>

YouTube- <https://www.youtube.com/user/wicorn/videos>

National Corn Growers Association

Education page- <https://www.ncga.com/key-issues/other-topics/education>

Key Issues- <https://www.ncga.com/>

Website directory- <https://www.ncga.com/stay-informed/resources/website-directory>

YouTube- <https://www.youtube.com/user/nationalcorngrowers>

National Ag in the Classroom-

https://www.agclassroom.org/matrix/search_result/?search_term=corn&findlesson=on&findresource=on&maxlessons=25&maxresources=25

[Corn an A-maizing Plant: Food, Fuel, and Plastic](#)

Students will examine the growth, composition, history, and uses of corn through a close reading activity, discussion of renewable and non-renewable resources, and hands-on exploration of bioplastics made from corn.

[Counting Sheep or People? Census 2020](#)

Students will explore the Census of 2020 by making a connection between shepherds counting their sheep and counting the population of the United States.

[Evaluating GMO Perspectives](#)

While many view genetically modified crops as a promising innovation, there is controversy about their use. This lesson provides students with a brief overview of the technology, equipping them with the ability to evaluate the social, environmental, and economic arguments for and against genetically modified crops.

[Fueling Up for a Career in Biofuel](#)

Students will recognize the importance of fuel energy and the fact that agriculture can produce biofuel; students will identify career opportunities in the biofuel industry.

[Get Popping!](#)

Students will discover how popcorn is grown and explore the phenomenon of how popcorn pops.

[Herbs and Spices of the World](#)

In this lesson students will recognize the difference between a spice and herb, learn how herbs and spices are grown on farms around the world, and participate in a culinary challenge to season popcorn for various cultural cuisines.

[Inherited Traits in the Living Corn Necklace \(Grades 3-5\)](#)

Students will observe the growth of Indian corn and popcorn seeds, observe similarities and differences between the two varieties, and discuss heredity.

[Inherited Traits in the Living Corn Necklace \(Grades 6-8\)](#)

Students will observe the growth of Indian corn and popcorn seeds, observe similarities and differences between the two varieties, and discuss heredity.

[Pests and Pesticides in Agriculture](#)

In this lesson students learn the definition of a pest and identify categories of pests including vertebrates, invertebrates, weeds, or disease. Through a classroom activity, students learn how pests affect the growth of crops and how integrated pest management (IPM) is used to control pests.

[Plant Nutrient Deficiencies \(Grades 6-8\)](#)

Students discuss the definition of “fertilizer” and relate it to plant nutrition and the need to restore nutrient balance in agricultural soils. They discuss how people and crops can suffer from nutrient deficiencies. Students assume the roles of plant doctors and diagnose nutrient deficiencies in corn plants.

[Serious Cereal Science](#)

Students will develop an appreciation for the extensive materials and career fields provided by agriculture, specifically as related to cereal grain production, processing, and consumption. Activities include playing a game in which students become agronomy specialists, mapping the top grain-producing states, and watching videos about careers related to grain production.

[The Columbian Exchange of Old and New World Foods \(Grades 3-5\)](#)

Students will explore New World and Old World food origins to understand how the Columbian Exchange altered people’s lives worldwide.

[The Columbian Exchange of Old and New World Foods \(Grades 6-8\)](#)

Students will explore New World and Old World food origins to understand how the Columbian Exchange altered people’s lives worldwide.

[The Columbian Exchange of Old and New World Foods \(Grades 9-12\)](#)

Students will explore New World and Old World food origins to understand how the Columbian Exchange altered people’s lives worldwide.

[The QUEST for the Whole Enchilada](#)

This lesson utilizes a process learning model to recognize how the Columbian Exchange and early Spanish explorers impacted the culture and cuisine of the Southwest United States. Students will participate in a food lab to make enchiladas and learn about the production of each ingredient.

[Three Sisters Garden](#)

Students will investigate the "three sisters" crops (corn, beans, and squash) and explore the benefit to planting these crops together. Students will also learn about Native American Legends and plant growth.

[Wheat: Ancient and Ageless](#)

Students will explore the importance of wheat in the development of culture by learning about the advent of agriculture, discussing wheat cultivation in ancient Egypt, threshing a head of wheat with their hands, and making a corn dolly out of wheat stems.

[Where Does It Come From?](#)

Students will explore the connection between geography, climate, and the type of agriculture in an area by reading background information and census data about the agricultural commodities beef, potatoes, apples, wheat, corn, and milk.

[Wheat Weaving: How to Make a Corn Dolly](#)

Students will learn about the history of weaving with straw and make their own woven wheat ornaments, traditionally known as "corn dollies." The art of weaving with wheat stems (straw) is practically as old as wheat itself. Traditionally, corn dollies were made using the last stems of harvested grain. Wheat was most common, but oats, rye, barley, and corn were also used. The woven ornaments with the heads of grain still on the stem were hung on inside walls where they made it safely through the winter. These sacred grains were then planted the next season to ensure the fertility of the entire crop.

[A True Book: Corn](#)

This book takes a thorough look at corn, providing high quality 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 text and photos describe how corn is used in both food and non-food items. A section on corn breeding and the use of corn in creating renewable fuels and biodegradable plastics is also included. The book ends with a useful glossary.

[Carlos and the Cornfield](#)

This dual-language (Spanish and English) book tells the story of Carlos whose father offers him a little money if he will help plant the family's corn field. Carlos takes a shortcut but feels guilty and learns the meaning of the phrase 'cosechas lo que siembras'--you reap what you sow. This engaging story illustrates the simple life of a farming family and underscores the importance of hard work and honesty.

[Combines: with Casey & Friends](#)

Combines introduces children to the world of modern farm equipment- showing how the most complex machines on the farm work to harvest crops. This book is filled with colorful action photographs, fun illustrations and a cast of cartoon equipment characters. Students can follow the timeline of harvesting equipment from the sickle to the mechanical reaper, international harvester, and eventually the modern-day combine. As a companion to lessons on grain crops such as corn and wheat, students will learn the process of harvesting these crops.

[Corn](#)

Perennial nonfiction favorite Gail Gibbons turns her spotlight on corn. Popcorn, corn on the cob, corn dogs, cornflakes - corn is used in many children's favorite foods. This book offers a cornucopia of information about the history of corn as well as details concerning planting, cultivation, harvesting, and its many uses.

[Corn in the Story of Agriculture](#)

This book introduces readers to the five stages of corn as it makes its way from farm to table; production, processing, distribution, marketing and consumerism. Each stage is presented in an easy-to-read chapter that includes graphs and colorful pictures. Full of vocabulary, fun facts and corn activity ideas.

[Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians](#)

A simple description of how corn was discovered and used by Native Americans and how it came to be an important food throughout the world. Popcorn, corn on the cob, cornbread, tacos, tamales, tortillas, and more are all made from this amazing plant.

[Farms Feed the World](#)

A simple introduction to the beauty and variety of farms from a wheat field in Montana to a rice paddy in Indonesia to the harvesting of seaweed from the ocean, to corn, pigs, and wool on farms around the world. Through simple text and stunning photographs, this book shows how farmers provide the world with food and fiber.

[Four Seasons of Corn: A Winnebago Tradition](#)

Many Native Americans regard corn as a gift, a food with sacred value. The Winnebago, or Hochunk people, tell a story about a clan leader who saw a spirit called Corn Person in a dream. Corn Person showed the man how to plant, grow, and preserve corn so his people would have food to eat all year. In this photographic essay, twelve-year-old Russell learns the traditions of corn from his grandfather, who is from the Winnebago reservation in Nebraska.

[Glorious Grasses: The Grains](#)

This book covers early history, cultivation, processing, and nutritional importance of grains. One chapter is dedicated to each grain, including wheat, rice, corn, millet and barley, and oats and rye. The two-column text reads easily and is full of informative material.

[Growing Vegetable Soup](#)

"Dad says we are going to grow vegetable soup." So begins Lois Ehlert's bright, bold picture book about vegetable gardening for the very young. The necessary tools are pictured and labeled, as are the seeds (green bean, pea, corn, zucchini squash, and carrot). Then the real gardening happens... planting, weeding, harvesting, washing, chopping, and cooking! In the end? "It was the best soup ever." Ehlert's simple, colorful cut-paper-style illustrations are child-friendly, as is the big black type. A recipe for vegetable soup tops it all off!

[Heartland](#)

Here, in their second stunning collaboration, Diane Siebert and Wendell Minor create a joyful, singing celebration of this country's Heartland, the Midwest. It is a land where wheat fields grow and cornfields stretch across the plains to create a patchwork quilt in hues of yellow, green, and brown; a land where herds of cattle graze in pastures draped in lush, green grass, and a newborn calf stands in the sun. And upon this land toils the farmer, strong and proud, whose weathered face tells a tale of a life of work that's never done. The Heartland's a land where, despite man's power, nature reigns.

[In the Garden: Who's Been Here](#)

Christina and Jeremy have been sent to the garden to gather vegetables for dinner. But they quickly realize that they are not the first visitors to the garden today. There's a slimy trail on a leaf in the cucumber patch, and some corn kernels have been pecked off the cob. Not only that, someone has been snacking on the lettuce leaves! Christina and Jeremy follow the clues to discover which birds, animals, and insects have been in their garden. Keep your eyes open and join Christina and Jeremy on a scientific journey in their own backyard!

[My Family's Farm Book Series](#)

Learn through the eyes of young farmers how animals are cared for, crops are raised, and renewable resources are used as they take you for a tour of their family's farm. This digital book series includes titles for beef, corn, soybeans, wind (energy), pigs, and apples.

[Pick, Pull, Snap! Where Once a Flower Bloomed](#)

In the orchard, a honey bee buzzes. Its legs brush pollen inside a fragrant pink flower. A small green fruit begins to grow and grow and grow...Peaches and peas and even peanuts—they all begin with a single flower. How? Open this book and find out!

[Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack](#)

How does a field of corn become a delicious bowl of popcorn? The story behind the fluffy snack the entire country loves is revealed in this photographic nonfiction picture book. Kids love food—and they especially love to eat popcorn! Author Cris Peterson offers an illuminating step-by-step examination of the history and science behind America's favorite snack. With photographs illustrating every stage, readers get a behind-the-scenes view of how popcorn is planted, grown, harvested, processed, tested, and finally shipped to stores and movie theaters all over the world. Back matter delves into the history of popcorn and how it became so popular in the United States.

[Popcorn!](#)

Pull up a chair and dig in! *Popcorn!* is chock-full of tidbits about one of America's favorite snack foods. Learn what makes popcorn pop, how Native Americans liked their popcorn, and how television almost wiped out popcorn's future. Cooking tips, recipes, and resources included.

[Step into the Inca World](#)

This book explores the Inca civilization, including information on diet, domestic life, and religious beliefs. Instructions for making crafts that bring the past alive are included throughout. Sections on living on the land, hunting and fishing, food and feasts, and textiles and tunics provide useful information and activities for connecting agriculture and social studies.

[The Boy Who Changed the World](#)

This book tells the story of Nobel Laureate, Norman Borlaug. Norman grew up as an average farm boy in Iowa, but later his work as a plant scientist reached far and wide to help improve the growth of wheat, rice, and corn all over the world. This book highlights the benefits of emerging science, but also has an underlying message to teach kids that, "Every choice you make, good or bad, can make a difference."

[The Popcorn Book](#)

Brothers Tiny and Tony are hungry for a snack, and their mother allows them to make some popcorn. The two boys learn about the history of popcorn in the Americas, how much popcorn is eaten on an annual basis, and methods of popping corn. Two recipes to pop corn are included in this book.

[The Story of Food: An Illustrated History of Everything We Eat](#)

This glorious visual celebration of food in all its forms reveals the extraordinary cultural impact of the foods we eat, explores the early efforts of humans in their quest for sustenance, and tells the fascinating stories behind individual foods. With profiles of the most culturally and historically interesting foods of all types, from nuts and grains, fruits and vegetables, and meat and fish, to herbs and spices, this fascinating culinary historical reference provides the facts on all aspects of each food's unique story. Feature spreads shine a spotlight on influential international cuisines and the local foods that built them. *The Story of Food* explains how foods have become

the cornerstone of our culture, from their origins to how they are eaten and their place in world cuisine.

[The Tortilla Factory](#)

Beautiful illustrations and a simple story tell how corn is planted and processed to provide the ingredients for the tortilla factory. The story comes full circle as the corn tortillas nourish the workers that return to the field to plant another year's crop.

[Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation](#)

Thomas Jefferson was more than a president and patriot. He was also a planter and gardener who loved to watch things grow—everything from plants and crops to even his brand-new nation. As minister to France, Jefferson promoted all things American, sharing corn and pecans with his Parisian neighbors. As secretary of state, he encouraged his fellow farmers to grow olives, rice, and maple trees. In this meticulously researched picture book for older readers, author Peggy Thomas uncovers Jefferson's passion for agriculture and his country. And Stacy Innerst's incredibly original illustrations offer the right balance of reverence and whimsy. Back matter includes an author's note on Jefferson's legacy today; timeline, bibliography; place to visit (Monticello); and source notes.

[Tomatoes, Potatoes, Corn & Beans](#)

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.

[Crazy About Corn](#)

This is a lively, fun-filled educational kit, including an educator's guide, activity books, a video, and songs on tape that will keep students interested while learning about pattern recognition, memory, counting, alphabetizing, geography, agriculture, and elementary scientific concepts. Use these resources to show students how amazing plants can be.

[Farming in a Glove \(Corn Seeds\)](#)

This kit contains instructions and enough materials for 35 students to plant five varieties of corn seeds – sweet corn, super sweet corn, popcorn, dent corn (also known as field corn), and flint corn (also known as Indian corn) – in the fingers of a food handler's glove and the cotton necessary to sprout them. Given a few days and some water, the glove will be alive with growing sprouts that your students can observe. An excellent activity for teaching plant growth and genetic differences. **Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Get Popping!](#)

How does popcorn pop? Investigate this phenomenon by observing how heat affects the water inside a popcorn kernel. See a demonstration of this investigation by viewing the [Get Popping! video](#). This kit contains safety glasses, test tubes, a test tube clamp, an alcohol lamp, balloons, aluminum foil, vegetable oil, boiling stones, and popcorn kernels. This kit complements the lesson *Get Popping!* **Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Grains and Legumes of the World](#)

This hands-on activity explores grains and legumes common in global agricultural production—barley, dent corn, popcorn, oats, rice, wheat, soybeans, lentils, and pinto beans. Students create their own journals that include important facts, descriptions, and samples of the seeds of these crops. Teachers can use the information to expand students' knowledge of agriculture while connecting to lessons in social studies and science. This kit contains enough seeds for a classroom of 35 students. A master copy of the grains and legumes information cards is also included. **Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Living Necklace Kits](#)

Grow your own necklace! These kits contains enough materials for 35 students to make a living necklace. Plant a seed in a mini Ziploc, and after a few days, and some water, the necklace will be alive with growing sprouts - baby plants for students to observe. **Order these kits online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Packing Peanuts](#)

Engage students in a quick and simple activity using a product that can be made from either renewable or non-renewable resources—packing peanuts. This kit contains enough petroleum-based, Styrofoam packing peanuts and corn-based, biodegradable packing peanuts to complete five demonstrations showing how one dissolves in water and the other does not. **Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Popcorn on the Cob](#)

Pop popcorn right off the cob! Place the cob in a paper bag, fold the top of the bag down twice to secure the top, place in the center of a microwave, and heat on high power for 1-1/2 to 3-1/2 minutes. Kit includes a popcorn cob and a brown paper bag. **Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Seed Samples](#)

This kit contains a variety of agronomic or crop seeds. Samples of corn, wheat, rice, and quinoa seeds are included. **Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Seeds for Terrariums](#)

This kit contains a variety of agronomic or crop seeds for planting in terrariums. Seed varieties include wheat, soybeans, popcorn, and bean seeds. **Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Serious Cereal Science Kit](#)

Use this kit to introduce students to careers that keep cereal on grocery store shelves. Just as grains were foundational in the advent of agriculture thousands of years ago, they continue to play a central role in agriculture and food security today. Corn, rice, and wheat provide more than half of the calories consumed by people worldwide. The science of cereal science is serious business! **Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Three Sisters Seed Packet](#)

Native Americans relied heavily on corn, squash, and beans, the "three sisters," for their survival. This packet contains organic, heirloom seeds ready to plant in the garden to demonstrate early Native American farming techniques. **Order these seeds online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Agricultural Commodity & Natural Resource Fact Sheets](#)

These fact sheets provide information on the history, production, top producing regions and economic values of various agricultural products and natural resources. The activity sheets provide specific lesson ideas and fun facts for each topic. Commodities include agricultural water, alfalfa, almonds, artichokes, asparagus, avocados, beef, cantaloupes, carrots, citrus fruits, cling peaches, corn, cotton, cut flowers, dairy, dried plums, dry beans, forest resources, mushroom, pears, pistachios, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, processing tomato, rice, strawberries, table grapes, walnuts.

[Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States](#)

A collection of historical maps representing from 1839 until 1930 in the United States. View production maps of specific commodities such as corn, cotton, cattle, and wheat.

[Corn and Soybean Processing and Utilization Poster](#)

Corn and soybeans have hundreds of uses. These reproducible posters depict how corn and soybeans are fractionated and converted into food ingredients, biofuels, and biobased products.

[Crop Cards](#)

Double-sided cards representing ten agricultural crops. Each card shows the plant in each stage of growth, explains how and when it is planted and harvested and describes its use as feed for

animals or food for humans. The cards can be printed from the attached PDF or prints can be ordered from the Nebraska Foundation for Agricultural Awareness.

[Interactive Map Project](#)

Use this interactive map to help students see how geography and climate affects the production of agricultural crops. The map has USDA statistics built in to allow your students to answer questions such as, "Which state(s) produce the most cattle?" "Where does [my state] rank nationally in corn production?" "What region of the United States produces the most cotton?" etc. There are many agricultural maps available including field crops such as corn, wheat, barley, and alfalfa in addition to fruit and vegetable crops, ornamental nursery crops, and livestock.

[Who Makes the Best Burger?](#)

This 42" x 25" bulletin board teaches students about the production of the ingredients in hamburgers. A large picture of a hamburger is featured in the middle of the bulletin board and pictures of the ingredients and their descriptions are in each corner. An envelope asking students to vote for "Who makes the best burger?" is included. The envelope can be removed after the voting to display the words "FARMERS and RANCHERS." The bulletin board is mailed in a reusable storage tube. **Order this bulletin board online from agclassroomstore.com.** This website includes a series of interactive online modules with nearly five hours of programming on everything about corn, targeted to high school students.

[America's Heartland: Nebraska Corn Farm](#)

The road to some creative uses for corn starts here in Nebraska on Alan Tiemann's farm. This video will take you on a half-hour journey following this commodity halfway around the world. Visit Taiwan to learn about corn plastics and China to learn how US corn is used as dairy cattle feed.

[Better Paper, Plastics with Starch](#)

USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists developed a new starch-based film, or coating, that can make paper and other materials more water resistant and biodegradable. The film can potentially be used in food packaging, plastic bags, and other products, reducing the amount of synthetic products clogging landfills.

[Connecting to Agriculture](#)

This 17-minute video is a great way for students to learn about how agriculture connects to their lives. Animation, fun facts, and farmers tell the story of agriculture and how it relates to economics, science, and business. Interwoven through the commodity stories of corn, cotton, apples, dairy, and soybeans are important concepts such as: biodegradable properties, renewable resources, biotechnology, foreign trade, pest management, conservation practices, and food quality. **Order this DVD online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Crop Genetic Engineering Simulation](#)

To learn more about a career in genetic engineering and to better understand the process of creating a GMO, use this simulation. Students can create a Cinna-apple (cinnamon flavored apple) or Bt Corn (corn resistant to the European corn borer).

[Genetically Engineered Crops in the United States Report](#)

Despite the rapid increase in the adoption of genetically engineered (GE) corn, soybean, and cotton varieties by US farmers, questions persist regarding their economic and environmental impacts, the evolution of weed resistance, and consumer acceptance. This report examines issues related to three major stakeholders in agricultural biotechnology: GE seed suppliers and technology providers (biotech firms), farmers, and consumers.

[How It's Made: Corn Tortillas](#)

This five-minute video shows how corn tortillas are mass produced in factories, starting with Grade A corn that is de-husked, removed from the cob, and stored in huge steel silos and ending with tortillas ready to package.

[How Stuff Works: Corn Plastic](#)

This 3-minute video clip from HowStuffWorks on the Discovery Channel illustrates how corn can be used to make plastic. Students can discuss and compare the use of a renewable resource, such as corn, to make plastic in comparison to petroleum, a non-renewable resource.

[How Stuff Works: Popcorn](#)

From Discovery Channel's *How Stuff Works*, watch how our favorite movie snack explodes from kernel to white fluffy treat. The shell of a corn kernel can withstand an internal temperature of 450 degrees. After that threshold, the kernel explodes. Find out what it takes to create the perfect popping kernel in this three-minute video.

[Into the Outdoors: A-maize-ing Corn](#)

This 5-minute video is all about corn and makes a great way to introduce your students to the impact corn has on our society, how it is farmed in a sustainable way, and some of the science behind how corn grows. A discussion guide is also available on the website.

[Modern Marvels: World's Largest Combine](#)

The Lexion 590R is the largest farm combine of its kind. Harvesting exponentially more and faster than hundreds of human laborers, see why this machine is at the top of its class. Use this three-minute video to give students an example of the importance of technology in agriculture.

[NASA Shows U.S. Corn Belt Literally Glowing with Productivity](#)

Help students identify the "Corn Belt" region of the United States with an image taken from space which shows the agricultural productivity of the region.

[Popped Secret: The Mysterious Origin of Corn](#)

View this 17-minute video to learn about the origins of corn. Discover how the domestication of corn impacted society and what plant domestic corn originates from. This video supports lessons on the domestication of plants and genetic evolution.

[Sheep - Utah's Agricultural Cornerstone](#)

During the first decades of the 20th century, sheep were the most important livestock in Utah in both numbers and value. In the 1920s there were over 2.5 million sheep in Utah worth \$23 million dollars! Utah, with its millions of acres of desert land, was an ideal region for raising sheep. This DVD explores the history, life cycle, and environmental issues associated with raising sheep in Utah. Learn from Utah wool growers about the hardships and future of this adaptable dual-purpose animal. This video is available on DVD or [YouTube](#). **Order this DVD online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[The Facts and Knowledge of BT Corn](#)

A 13-minute video to answer questions about genetically modified BT corn. Understand questions such as Why is it safe to consume BT corn? What is BT (*bacillus thuringiensis*) and where does it come from? How is BT corn (and other GMO plants) regulated?

[Those Amazing Kernels of Corn!](#)

This fast-paced 8-minute DVD will hold the attention of your students as they learn about corn planting and harvesting processes and find out that corn is used to make biodegradable plastics, sweetener, chewing gum, and more. As fewer children live on farms or have relatives who are farmers, it is important that they have the opportunity to learn about America's corn industry. Included with this DVD are two fact sheets on corn. **Order this DVD online from agclassroomstore.com.**

[Top 10 Foods That Originally Looked Totally Different](#)

Everyday foods, fruit and veggies used to look totally different before we started cultivating them. But did you know they haven't always looked like they currently do? Here are 10 fruits and veggies that looked very different before we started cultivating them!

[Virtual Food Safety Labs](#)

Food safety and science come together with these virtual labs. Students can see and practice some of the laboratory techniques used by researchers and food scientists. Visit the website to see eight virtual labs including Testing for Corn Mold, Bacteria Sampling, Gram Staining, Using

the Microscope, The pH Scale and Meter Calibration, Testing and Adjusting pH, Understanding Water Activity, and Controlling Water Activity in Food.

[Garden Genetics: Teaching With Edible Plants](#)

Tired of teaching genetic concepts with the same old pink petunias and Mendel's peas? With *Garden Genetics*, you can present core content in ways that are fun for students and fresh for you. This two-part set—a teacher edition and companion student edition—is adaptable to biology students at all levels, including AP. It uses a series of activities and inquiry-based experiments with familiar foods to teach genetics while helping students make connections to ecology, evolution, and plant biology.

[Gourmet Lab: The Scientific Principles Behind Your Favorite Foods](#)

Hands-on, inquiry-based, and relevant to every student's life, *Gourmet Lab* serves up a full menu of activities for science teachers of grades 6-12. This collection of 15 hands-on experiments, each of which includes a full set of both student and teacher pages, challenges students to take on the role of scientist and chef as they boil, bake, and toast their way to better understanding of science concepts from chemistry, biology, and physics. By cooking edible items such as pancakes and butterscotch, students have the opportunity to learn about physical changes in states of matter, acids and bases, biochemistry, and molecular structure. What better topic than food to engage students to explore science in the natural world?

[In The Three Sisters Garden](#)

In this Common Roots Guidebook, Sister Corn, Sister Squash, and Sister Bean introduce children to gardening in two distinct year-long adventures that explore the ancient wisdoms of the land. Each is a unique journey through the four seasons, rich with earth-friendly gardening methods, history, hands-on activities, stories, and provocative ideas. The lessons incorporate social studies, literature, and science. Plants can be grown in the garden or classroom to supplement this unit. An easy resource to utilize when teaching early American traditions.

[Native American Gardening](#)

This book provides stories, projects, and recipes that can easily be adapted for use in the classroom. *Native American Gardening* brings the magical world of stories together with the nurturing experience of gardening. Native stories lay the groundwork for understanding, while hands-on activities show readers how to continue the work of generations of Native farmers.

[Evolution of Corn](#)

How did we get the familiar large yellow ear of corn today? Through the study of genetics, we know today that corn's wild ancestor is a grass called teosinte. Teosinte doesn't look much like maize, especially when you compare its kernels to those of corn. But at the DNA level, the two are surprisingly alike.

[Into the Outdoors: Farm Science](#)

Into the Outdoors is a science website that has a section devoted to farm science. Visit the website to find activities and video clips about aquaculture science, beef cattle, soybean farming, dairy science, and corn. Each subject area has supplemental content for all grade levels K-12.

[Thanksgiving Maps and Posters](#)

Visit this website to see maps and graphs to discover where your Thanksgiving dinner foods such as green beans, carrots, celery, sweet corn, cranberries, onions, pecans, potatoes, pumpkins, squash, sweet potatoes, turkey, and wheat were produced.

[Weather-Tracking Tool Helps Track Migrating Insects](#)

Farmers are faced with the potential of crop damage each year that stems from migrating insects such as the corn earworm. However, signals taken from the National Weather Service Doppler radar network has the potential for tracking insects that move through the night such as the corn earworm. This resource supports reasons why farmers are concerned with productivity in crops that can be completely devastated by migrating insects.

American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture-

- [The Three Sisters](#)
Nov 8, 2016 ... **Corn**, beans and squash also create a balanced, nutritious diet which is why these crops were so important for Native Americans, and later the ...
(<https://www.agfoundation.org/news/the-three-sisters>)
- [Corn Ag Mag by American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture ...](#)
NEWLY updated **Corn** Ag Mag! This nonfiction reader is best for grades 3-5. Find out how **corn** grows, what can be made from **corn**, and careers related to **corn**!
(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/corn-ag-mag>)
- [Corn & Corn Foods - Publications Recommended by American Farm ...](#)
Corn (an A to Z book). Susan Anderson, JoAnne Buggiey. 978-1-926781-02-0. Added: Dec 23, 2014. Plants, Foods from Plants & Goods from Plants **Corn** ...
(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/category/corn-corn-foods>)
- [Corn \(A True Book\) by Elaine Landau - Recommended by American ...](#)
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 ...
(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/corn-a-true-book>)
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[I Like Corn by Robin Pickering - Recommended by American Farm ...](#)

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 ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/i-like-corn>)

[Corn & Corn Foods - Publications Recommended by American Farm ...](#)

Roberta Basel. 978-0-7368-4284-6. Added: Dec 23, 2014. Plants, Foods from Plants & Goods from Plants **Corn & Corn Foods Books Elementary School ...**

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/category/corn-corn-foods/P10>)

[What's for Lunch, Corn by Pam Robson - Recommended by ...](#)

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**, ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/whats-for-lunch-corn>)

[The Story of Corn by Betty Fussel - Recommended by American ...](#)

Largely a historic 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 ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/the-story-of-corn>)

[Tomatoes, Potatoes, Corn and Beans by Sylvia A. Johnson ...](#)

This excellent book describes how foods from North and South America changed eating around the world. It focuses on **corn**, beans, peppers, peanuts, potatoes, ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/tomatoes-potatoes-corn-and-beans>)

[The Life and Times of Corn by Charles Micucci - Recommended by ...](#)

... Times series, Micucci presents fascinating facts and cheerful illustrations as he tells the story of the rock star of grains—**corn**—and its rich history in America.

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/the-life-and-times-of-corn>)

[From Corn to Cereal by Roberta Basel - Recommended by ...](#)

From **Corn** to Cereal. By Roberta Basel. This is one of the best books in an excellent series of books depicting the various plant and animal sources of food and ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/from-corn-to-cereal>)

[A Midwestern Corn Festival: Ears Everywhere by Lisa Gabbert ...](#)

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.

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/a-midwestern-corn-festival-ears-everywhere>)

[Is high fructose corn syrup the cause of obesity in the U.S.?](#)

High fructose **corn** syrup (HFCS) is a common sweetener in sodas and drinks. Recently, it has come under fire for impacting obesity, but research suggests that ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/common-questions/view/is-high-fructose-corn-syrup-the-cause-of-obesity-in-the-u.s>)

[Corn: an A-Z Book Educator Guide by American Farm Bureau ...](#)

Best for grades K-2, these lesson plans introduce students to **corn**, how it grows, how we use it, nutrition and more! Lessons are aligned to national learning ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/corn-an-a-z-book-educator-guide>)

- ### [Corn \(an A to Z book\) by Susan Anderson, JoAnne Buggey ...](#)

The book introduces young readers to agriculture by providing basic information on **corn**. The information is presented simply and to the point. Young readers ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/corn-an-a-to-z-book>)

- ### [Corn in the Story of Agriculture Educator Guide by American Farm ...](#)

Best for grades 3-5, this educator guide introduces students to **corn**, export, import, nutrition, consumerism, production, marketing and more. Lesson plans are ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/corn-in-the-story-of-agriculture-ed-guide>)

- ### [From Kernel to Corn by Robin Nelson - Recommended by American ...](#)

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 ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/from-kernel-to-corn>)

- ### [Corn by Gail Gibbons - Recommended by American Farm Bureau ...](#)

Unlike most books about **corn** this book describes the difference between the four major types of **corn** and provides further descriptors of their individual.

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/corn>)

- ### [Did Somebody Say BBQ?!](#)

May 16, 2019 ... **Corn** seeds, or kernels, are planted with a piece of machinery called a planter. **Corn** is planted in the spring, so the soil is warm enough to ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/news/did-somebody-say-bbq>)

- ### [What makes candy sweet](#)

Apr 6, 2020 ... Where does sugar come from? · Sugarcane · Sugar beets · High Fructose **Corn** Syrup · Honey.

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/news/where-does-sugar-come-from>)

- ### [6 Breakfast Foods and Where They Began](#)

Jan 29, 2016 ... For example, frosted **corn** flakes start as **corn**, and Cheerios start as oats. Other cereal grains include rice and wheat. Hot cereals are also popular ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/news/6-breakfast-foods-and-where-they-began>)

- ### [Cereal: Farm to Spoon](#)

Mar 7, 2019 ... Nothing like **corn** flakes, Wheaties, or cinnamon oat squares quite reminds us of Saturday morning cartoons, rushing to school, or midnight ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/news/cereal-farm-to-spoon>)

- ### [From Kernel to Corncob by Ellen Weiss - Recommended by ...](#)

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 ...

(<https://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs/from-kernel-to-corncob>)