

# I Believe in Oklahoma Agriculture

## Background

You may believe your food just appears at the store, ready for your family to take home and eat. You can believe in the grocery store, because you may go there with your parents to buy your family's groceries. But would you believe there are many people you don't see who grow your food and help get it to the grocery shelves? You may not see all the people who work to produce your food, but you can believe in Oklahoma agriculture.

You may not ever have seen the farmer plowing a field of wheat for your bread. You may not have seen the people who care for the cows, hogs and chickens that produce your meat. You may not have seen the dairy farmer milking the cow for your cheese and ice cream. But you can believe all these people are working hard every day to provide your food.

You may not have seen what people in the food industry do to keep your food safe, but you can believe they care about the quality and safety of their products.

You probably have not seen all the jobs created by Oklahoma agriculture or the dollars it brings into your community and state, but you can believe Oklahoma agriculture contributed nearly \$5 billion in agricultural products to the state's economy in 2009. That means jobs not just for people working on the farm but also the drivers who transport the commodities, the mill workers, the equipment manufacturers who provide farm machinery and many more.

You may not see what Oklahoma farmers do to protect our natural resources, but you can believe they are committed to protecting wetlands and water quality, preventing soil erosion, and preserving wildlife habitats for future generations. You can believe Oklahoma's livestock and poultry producers care about the health and welfare of their animals, too.

You can believe in Oklahoma agriculture. People who work in agriculture are your neighbors and fellow citizens, and they believe in the work they do, helping to feed and clothe you and me.

## Activities

### ACTIVITY ONE: BELIEVE IT OR NOT?

1. Students will read the background independently from the Reading Page.
  - Students will use context clues to match as many of the words in bold print as they can with the vocabulary words on the Vocabulary Page.
  - Students will use dictionaries to look up the remaining words.
  - Discuss background and vocabulary. What does it mean to believe in

## P.A.S.S.

### GRADE 3

**Reading**—2.1,4; 3.2,3;  
4.1d,2ac,3ac; 6.1ce,2c

**Writing**—2.4

**Oral Language**—3.2

**Visual Literacy**—3

**Social Studies**—1.1; 3.3;  
4.3

**Visual Art**—3.2

### GRADE 4

**Reading**—1.1,4b; 2.3;  
3.1b,2abd,3ab,4a;  
5.1abde,2d

**Writing**—1.2; 2.7

**Oral Language**—3.2

**Visual Literacy**—3

**Social Studies**—1.1; 4.2,3;  
5.3,4

**Visual Art**—3.1

### GRADE 5

**Reading**—1.1b,4b; 2.2,3;  
3.1b,2ae,3a,4d; 5.1ce

**Writing**—6abc

**Oral Language**—3.2

**Visual Literacy**—3

**Social Studies**—1.1; 7.5

**Visual Arts**—3.1,2,3

**Visual Art**—3.1

something? What is the difference in believing something exists and having confidence in something? How is the word “believe” used in this reading selection?

—Students will discuss their own knowledge of the food industry and how food gets to the store.

#### ACTIVITY TWO: WEB QUEST

1. Students will work in groups to find answers to the following questions, using the MOST CURRENT data from the “Oklahoma State Fact Sheet, USDA Economic Research Service:”  
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/OK.htm>
  - How much total farmland do we have in Oklahoma? (43,905,445 acres)
  - What is the average farm size in Oklahoma? (405 acres)
  - What percentage of Oklahoma farms are 2,000 acres or more (4.1)
  - What was the number of certified organic operations in Oklahoma? (66)
  - How much Oklahoma farmland is enrolled in conservation or wetlands reserve programs? (1,150,524 acres)
2. Students will use online search engines to find what makes farmland eligible to be enrolled in conservation or wetlands reserve programs. What are the benefits? What are the disadvantages?
3. Students will use online search engines to determine what government agencies, state and federal, are responsible for food safety.
4. Students will use the answers to the questions above, along with other information they found on the Fact Sheet to write a summary of Oklahoma agriculture in paragraph form.
  - Students will use correct notation to cite the website as the source of information.

#### ACTIVITY THREE: WHAT’S MY JOB?

1. Invite a panel of people from your community who have jobs that relate to agriculture to your class.
2. Prior to the day of the panel, write the names of the different occupations that will be represented on the chalkboard.
3. Students will prepare questions ahead of time for each occupation represented.
4. On the day of the panel, introduce panel members, but do not reveal which person belongs in which occupation.
5. Students will ask their questions and determine which person represents which occupation, based on their answers.

#### ACTIVITY FOUR: MAKE A POSTER

1. Students will brainstorm ideas for making a poster about Oklahoma agriculture, with the theme “I Believe in Oklahoma Agriculture,” using ideas from the background or class discussion.
2. Students will share their ideas in group or classroom discussion.
3. Students will put their own ideas on paper by creating posters with the theme “I Believe in Oklahoma Agriculture.”

#### Extra Reading

Basel, Roberta, *From Corn to Cereal*, Capstone, 2005.

Bial, Raymond, *The Super Soybean*, Albert, Whitman and Company, 2007.

Llewellyn, Claire, *Bread*, Scholastic, 1999.

Mayo, Gretchen Will, and Susan Nations, *Cereal*, Weekly Reader, 2004.

Nelson, Robin, *From Cotton to T-Shirt (Start to Finish)*, Lerner, 2003.

Keller, Thoennes, *From Peanut to Peanut Butter*, First Facts, 2004.

# I Believe in Oklahoma Agriculture

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You may **believe** your food just appears at the store, ready for your family to take home and eat. You can believe in the **grocery** store, because you may go there with your parents to buy your family's groceries. But would you believe there are many people you don't see who grow your food and help get it there? You may not see all the people who work to get your food to the table, but you can believe in Oklahoma **agriculture**.

You may not see the farmer **plowing** the **field** of **wheat** for your bread. You may not see the people who care for the cows, hogs and chickens that **produce** your meat. You may not see the **dairy** farmer milking the cow for your cheese and ice cream. But you can believe all these people work hard every day to make sure you have food to eat.



You may not see what people in the food **industry** do to keep your food safe, but you can believe they care about the **quality** and **safety** of their **products**.

You probably have not seen all the jobs created by agriculture or the dollars it brings to your **community** and state, but you can believe Oklahoma agriculture added nearly \$5 billion to the state's **economy** in 2009. That means jobs for people working on the farm, the drivers who move the products, the **mill** workers, the people who sell farm **machinery** and many more.

You may not see what Oklahoma farmers do to protect our **natural resources**, but you can believe they are **committed** to protecting **wetlands** and water quality, preventing **soil erosion**, and preserving wildlife **habitats** for future **generations**. You can believe Oklahoma's **livestock** and **poultry** producers care about the health and **welfare** of their animals, too.

You can believe in Oklahoma agriculture. The people who work in agriculture are your neighbors and fellow **citizens**. They believe in the work they do, helping to feed and clothe you and me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Page

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— a farm devoted to the production of milk

— land or areas (as marshes or swamps) having much soil moisture

— the businesses that provide a particular product or service

— the science or occupation of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock

— of, relating to, or based on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services

— to pledge or assign to some particular course or use

— a farm machine used to cut, lift, and turn over soil

— something produced

— grade of excellence

— the act of wearing away by or as if by the action of water, wind, or glacial ice

— the place or type of place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows

agriculture

believe

commit

community

dairy

economy

erosion

field

generation

grocery

habitat

industry

machine

mill

natural resource

plow

produce

product

quality

wetlands

wheat

— a building with machinery for grinding grain into flour

— a dealer in food and household supplies

— an area of cleared land used especially for planting crops

— a group of individuals born and living at the same time

— a combination of parts that transmit forces, motion, and energy to do some desired work

— to bring something out by work

— to accept as true

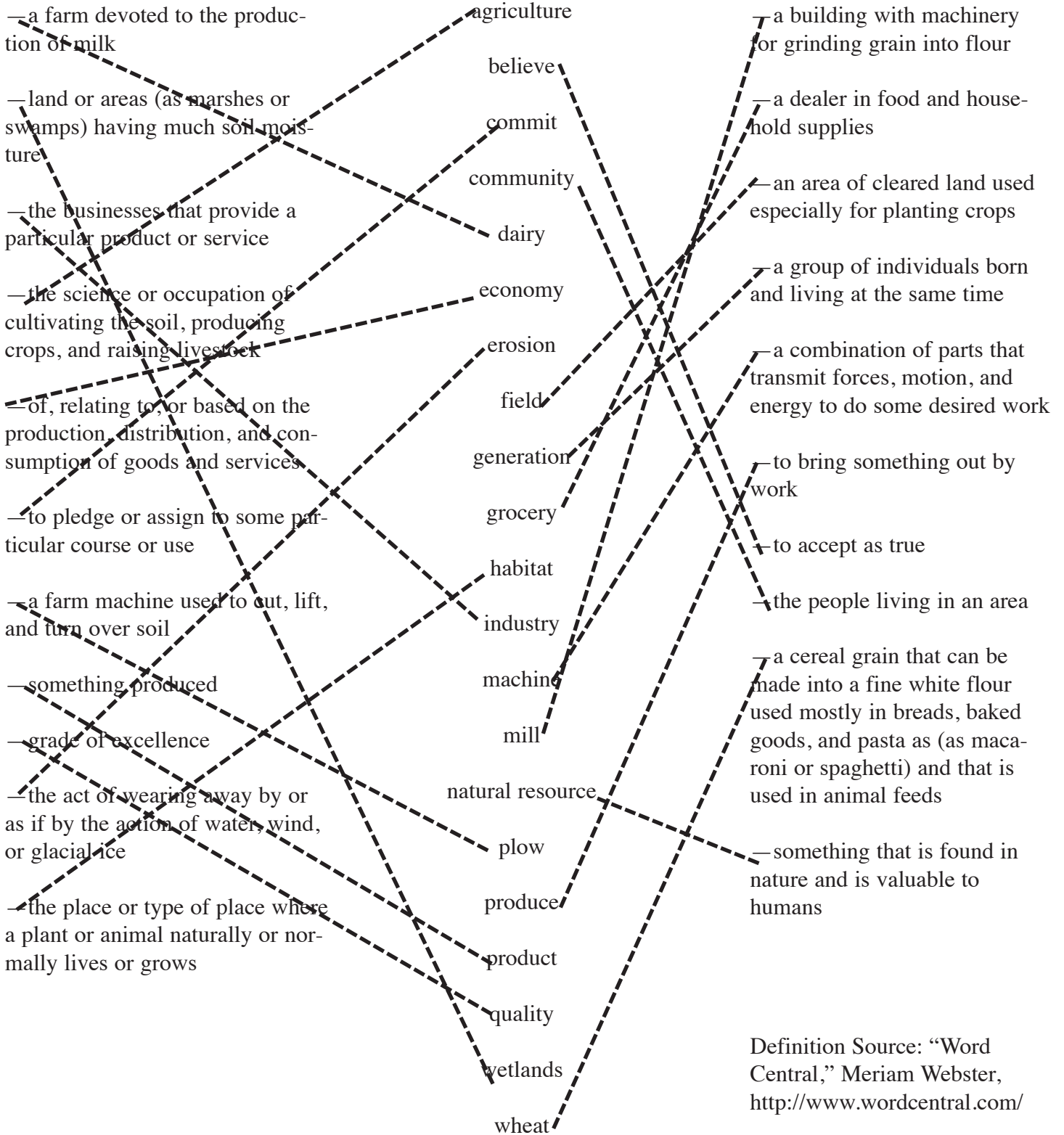
— the people living in an area

— a cereal grain that can be made into a fine white flour used mostly in breads, baked goods, and pasta (as macaroni or spaghetti) and that is used in animal feeds

— something that is found in nature and is valuable to humans

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Page (answers)



Definition Source: "Word Central," Meriam Webster, <http://www.wordcentral.com/>