

Course	Agricultural Science II
Unit	Crop Science
Lesson	Economic Importance of Crops
Estimated Time	50 minutes

Student Outcome

The student will be able to describe the economic importance of crop production.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the major crops produced in Missouri.
2. Identify where Missouri is ranked in crop production in the U.S.
3. Identify the major crops produced in the world.
4. Describe the factors that affect which crops are grown.
5. Explain how crop production impacts international relationships.
6. Explain how crop production in other countries affects the U.S.
7. Explain how the efficiency of crop production has affected the development of society.

Grade Level Expectations

SC/ST/3/B/09-11/a

SC/ST/3/B/09-11/b

SC/ST/3/B/09-11/c

Resources, Supplies & Equipment, and Supplemental Information

Resources

1. *Crop Science* (Student Reference). University of Missouri-Columbia: Instructional Materials Laboratory, 1992.
2. *Crop Science Curriculum Enhancement*. University of Missouri-Columbia: Instructional Materials Laboratory, 2003.

Supplies & Equipment

- ☐ Agricultural food products or just the packages labeled AgriMissouri
- ☐ Display board for food products
- ☐ Large map of Missouri

Supplemental Information

1. Internet Sites
 - ☐ AgriMissouri Program. Missouri Department of Agriculture. Accessed January 9, 2008, from <http://www.mda.mo.gov/Market/agrimo.htm>.
 - ☐ Missouri Department of Agriculture. Accessed January 9, 2008, from <http://www.mda.mo.gov/>.
 - ☐ Missouri's Rank Among States, 2006 Farm Facts. USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. Accessed January 9, 2008, from http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Missouri/Publications/Farm_Facts/2006/Rank_Among_States.asp.

Interest Approach

The instructor should secure several agricultural food products labeled AgriMissouri (either the food product or just the package) and have a display ready to be used in introducing this lesson. A list of AgriMissouri products can be obtained from your local grocer. Using a large map of Missouri, have students locate where each finished, packaged product is from. Next, look at the agricultural ingredients in each product (e.g., wheat, corn, and pork). Using the information from the Missouri Farm Facts website (included in the Supplemental Information), locate the areas that produce the raw products.

Ask students to list the jobs that are involved in processing the products. Discuss the importance of the income received by those employed in processing and the importance of the products to the economy of each community and the state.

Communicate the Learning Objectives

1. Identify the major crops produced in Missouri.
2. Identify where Missouri is ranked in crop production in the U.S.
3. Identify the major crops produced in the world.
4. Describe the factors that affect which crops are grown.
5. Explain how crop production impacts international relationships.
6. Explain how crop production in other countries affects the U.S.
7. Explain how the efficiency of crop production has affected the development of society.

Instructor Directions	Content Outline
Objective 1 <i>Missouri's diverse geography allows for the production of a wide range of agricultural products. From flat land to rolling hills, from low delta land to forested mountains, Missouri is able to produce a variety of crops.</i>	Identify the major crops produced in Missouri. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Soybeans2. Corn3. Wheat4. Grain sorghum5. Cotton6. Rice7. Fescue seed8. Lespedeza9. Hay
Objective 2 <i>Crop production in Missouri plays an important part in the overall production of crops in the U.S. (Data at right is from the Missouri Farm Facts website for 2006.)</i>	Identify where Missouri is ranked in crop production in the U.S. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2nd in hay production (excluding alfalfa)2. 4th in hay production (all)3. 4th in rice4. 5th in grain sorghum5. 7th in soybeans6. 8th in corn for grain7. 9th in cotton

Instructor Directions	Content Outline
<p><i>Note: Farm Facts data is compiled annually. For the most recent information, consult the Missouri Farm Facts website.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. 9th in cottonseed 9. 9th in winter wheat 10. 10th in tobacco 11. 10th in watermelon
<p>Objective 3</p> <p><i>World trade in agricultural products is important to the U.S. economy. Spices were one of the first goods purchased from foreign lands. Before the new colonies in North America declared independence, crops like tobacco and potatoes were exported to England. Agricultural products were imported from other countries to meet the growing needs of the new colonies. Agricultural trade has increased since the early history of the U.S. and so has the production of agricultural crops by other countries.</i></p>	<p>Identify the major crops produced in the world.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cereal grains (wheat, barley, oats, rye, corn, sorghum, rice) 2. Oilseeds (cotton, soybeans, peanut, canola, rapeseed, sunflower, safflower) 3. Sugar (sugar beets, some sugar cane) 4. Fiber crops (cotton, hemp, flax, jute)
<p>Objective 4</p> <p><i>The U.S. has been richly endowed with much productive land and a temperate climate. American farmers are able to produce more than what is needed by the people of this nation. The efficient production of agricultural crops holds both benefits and disadvantages for farmers. Discuss what factors affect which crops are grown in a given area.</i></p>	<p>Describe the factors that affect which crops are grown.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land capability and use 2. Climate 3. Resource availability 4. Product demand 5. International trade
<p>Objective 5</p> <p><i>Differences in natural conditions and economic structures lead to great differences in the cost of production of agricultural</i></p>	<p>Explain how crop production impacts international relationships.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helps stimulate the U.S. economy 2. Helps provide jobs in export/import industries 3. Contributes to the U.S. trade balance 4. Builds allies

Instructor Directions	Content Outline
<p><i>products from country to country. Many developing countries depend heavily on agricultural exports for their primary source of earnings. Production of agricultural crops and the ability to export those crops are affected by international agreements and relationships between countries.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Overproduction can reduce prices. 6. Overproduction can push developing countries out of the market. 7. Overproduction can increase international tension. 8. Continued trade may result in dependency for developing countries.
<p>Objective 6</p> <p><i>Although the U.S. is the largest exporter of agricultural products, there has been an increase of competition from countries entering the foreign trade market.</i></p>	<p>Explain how crop production in other countries affects the U.S.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crops not produced in the U.S. may be imported (e.g., teas, coffees, other beverages, and fibers). 2. Excess foreign production may result in surpluses and lower prices. 3. Foreign countries with lower labor costs may make products cheaper for U.S. imports.
<p>Objective 7</p> <p><i>Development of a society depends on many interrelated factors. Natural resources and energy are among the many factors that will stimulate the growth of a society. However, agriculture and the ability to produce food are the keys to economic development.</i></p>	<p>Explain how the efficiency of crop production has affected the development of society.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People and resources are freed up to pursue other endeavors. 2. Less money is spent on food, leaving more money for other purchases. 3. Creation of jobs to meet the demand for other goods and services, which stimulates the economy 4. Trade is encouraged, which makes other products and opportunities available. 5. Assists other societies to develop
<p>Application</p>	<p>Other activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have students examine their community to discover how many agricultural products or ingredients are imported. 2. Locate a world map and identify countries that purchase crops from the U.S.
<p>Closure/Summary</p>	<p>Crop production in Missouri affects more than just the local economy. The economic value of crop production stimulates income and trade in the community, state, nation, and other countries. The U.S. owes its strength and greatness to the progressive, hardworking American farmer.</p>

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<p>Evaluation: Quiz</p> <p><i>Note: Questions 8–18 are based on Missouri’s ranking among states as determined by the National Agricultural Statistics Service for 2006. Rankings are updated annually and are available on the Missouri Farm Facts website.</i></p>	<p>Answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. True 2. False 3. False 4. True 5. True 6. True 7. False 8. 8th 9. 4th 10. 7th 11. 10th 12. 2nd 13. 9th 14. 9th 15. 5th 16. 4th 17. 9th 18. 10th