

North Dakota



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A Magazine about Agriculture for North Dakota Students

Welcome to the North Dakota Ag Mag

Here it is: the premiere issue of the *North Dakota Ag Mag*, a magazine about agriculture geared primarily for the state's third, fourth and fifth graders. This magazine is possible thanks to many people: the North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Council, North Dakota State University, the Ag Mag Teacher Advisory Committee, Farm and Ranch Guide, and other groups and individuals.

North Dakota Ag Mag will be distributed once each semester. Subscriptions are free, but if you're not on the mailing list or know someone else who wants to be added, contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture at 1-800-242-7535 or ndda@state.nd.us.

The goal of this magazine is to provide information and activities about North Dakota agriculture that can be integrated into the science, math, language arts, social studies and other classes you already teach. A N.D. Agriculture in the Classroom Council annual report is also enclosed to tell you about more opportunities to integrate ag into your teaching.

If you have any suggestions for the magazine, please contact me. I'd greatly appreciate your input.

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The Agriculture Cycle

Idea: Ask students to define agriculture. Most will probably say things related to farming and ranching. Explain that agriculture is production but also processing, distribution and consumption of food, fiber and forestry products.

Production — Answers may include a variety of crops and livestock: wheat, soybeans, canola, mustard, carrots, Christmas trees, beef cattle, turkeys, emus and more.

Processing — Pasta processing, feed manufacturing, potato chipping, sugar beet processing, bison processing, cheese making and much more.

Distribution — Trucks and trains primarily

Consumption — Anything goes!

Wheat — The Staff of Life

This first Ag Mag focuses on wheat — North Dakota's #1 crop. In 1998, 9.6 million acres of wheat were harvested in the state. That's 47 percent of the state's total cropland harvested. (Source: N.D. Agricultural Statistics Service, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/>)

The North Dakota Wheat Commission has many educational materials. See the list later in this Teacher's Guide of all the resources available to teachers.

Idea: Purchase the "Amazing Wheat" 16-minute video with teacher's guide and activities from the N.D. Wheat Commission for \$5. The video educates and entertains students, and the teacher's guide is full of classroom activities, copy-ready pages and background information on wheat production, processing, distribution and consumption.

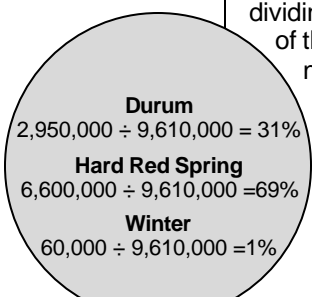
Wheat Production

Classes of Wheat

The six classes of U.S. wheat are hard red spring, hard red winter, soft red winter, hard white wheat, soft white wheat and durum. Check <http://www.wheatworld.org/facts02.htm> to have students learn about the differences.

Help your students draw a pie chart illustrating the percentage each class of wheat makes up of the state's total wheat production. Older students can figure the percentage of each class by dividing the number of acres harvested of that class of wheat by the total number of acres harvested.

Younger students can be provided with the percentages. Rounding can be discussed since all percentages are rounded up to the nearest whole number.



Idea: Ask a wheat grower to come to your class to talk about the classes of wheat he or she grows and the many steps required to produce wheat.

Idea: Grow wheat plants. Soak kernels of wheat overnight in three times their volume of water until they are saturated. Drain off water that hasn't been absorbed. Lightly pack soil into Styrofoam cups or small milk cartons ahead of time, and have students press the soaked kernels into the soil. Space seeds evenly, covering lightly with about 1/2 inch of soil. Place in a sunny location. Keep soil moist (not wet), and give extra water on Fridays. Seeds sprout in 6 to 8 days. Students might also chart daily growth, document how much water is used and identify the plant's parts. (Source: Amazing Wheat Teacher's Guide)