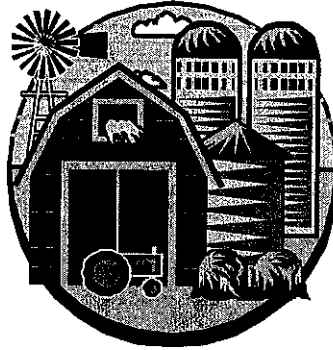


## FARMS



- Go to your public, school, and classroom libraries and check your home for any books about farms and farming. Collect all the different materials you can on this topic and bring them to school. Read and research all you can about farms and farming. Keep a bibliography on all the books you read and record them on your "Finding Out About Farms" chart.
- Using a large United States map, identify the different types of farms and farming that are found across the country. Make a more detailed chart focusing on the types of farming in your area.
- Select a type of farm (family farm, soy bean farm, corporate hog operation, cattle ranch, etc.) Make a large salt clay aerial model of the type of farm you selected. Use a variety of materials to make your model realistic. Label all of the different parts of your model.
- Try to visit a local farm. Remember that even in very urban areas there are often small farming operations specializing in specific products. Outside the busy Boston area are several small herb farms, small goat cheese operations can be found across the country, maple sugaring is common in the northeast and grapes are harvested throughout California. Share what you have learned with your classmates. Some ways of sharing would be pictures arranged in a display, or a video.
- Make arrangements to interview both a family farmer and a manager of a corporate farm organization. Use the "Interview Planning Sheet" to help you prepare your questions. Focus on the similarities and differences as you interview both people.



- Research what foods would have been included in a typical farm lunch in the 1950s. Prepare a menu based on your research. Next prepare a shopping list, shop for and purchase the ingredients, and prepare the meal you selected. Keep a record of how much time each step takes and the total amount of time the entire process takes.



- Create your own mini-farm of plants and animals that you can keep in your classroom. Keep a journal of your experiences.

- Select a time period in which you are interested. Make a set of paper dolls with costumes, animals, equipment and props. Create several backgrounds based on your research of farming in America. Examples of settings to include:

- The fields and crops around the farm
- The farmhouse
- The barn

- There are many songs about farms and farming. Pick five or six songs and make an illustrated songbook. Teach your class at least one of the songs in your songbook.

