WHO GETS YOUR FOOD DOLLAR?

Ag in the Classroom
Louisiana

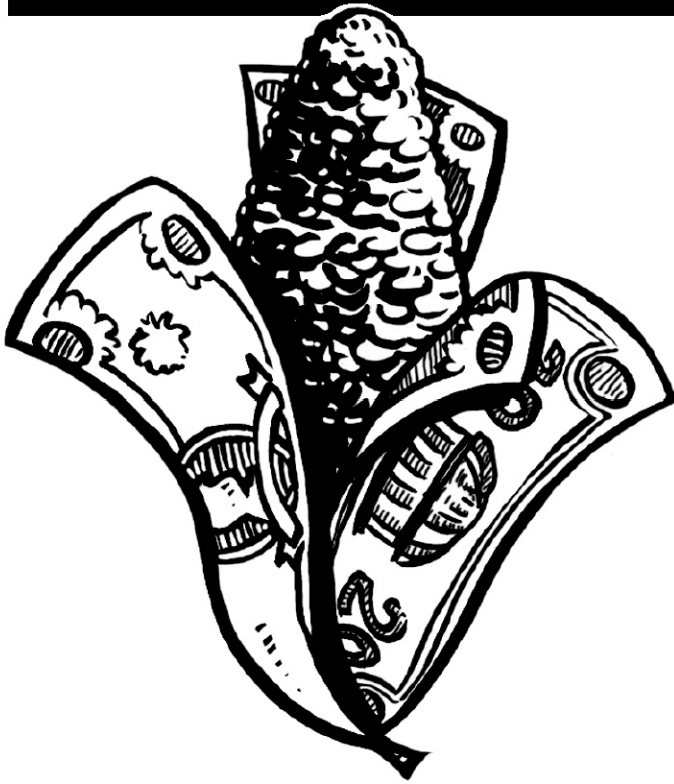## Materials

- Grocery bag with various food items
- "Farm Facts" brochure. See below for contact information.
- Dollar copies *(1 sheet per student)*
- Scissors *(1 pair per student)*

DIRECTIONS

Attention-Getter:
Bring in a grocery sack with various food items inside. Take them out one at a time and ask the students how much each costs. Write on the board their guess, and the actual cost.

Next:
Ask students: "Where does your food dollar go?" Put on the board all of your students' responses, including the following items: **farmers** (farm value or return to the farmer), **laborers** (the money paid to people for processing, wholesaling, and retailing), **packaging** (food containers, wrappers, etc.), transportation (railroads and trucks), and **advertising**. There are other costs noted in the American Farm Bureau's "Farm Facts" brochure.

Then:
Using either copies of the dollar provided or play money and a pair of scissors, ask students to estimate and cut off the portion of each dollar they think a farmer receives. This is a good time to incorporate some math skills — half a dollar is 50 cents, a quarter of a dollar is 25 cents, etc. The correct cut should be slightly less than a quarter (22 cents - 25 cents).

Using the American Farm Bureau Farm Facts brochure, discuss with students where the rest of their food dollar goes.

The Extra Step:
Using the actual costs of the food items you brought in as an attention-getter, ask the students to calculate how much the farmer received for each product. Simply take the cost of the item and multiply it by .23; this will be a ballpark figure. Products such as macaroni and cheese have very little farm input but a huge labor and packaging input; conversely a steak has less labor and packaging costs and returns more to the farmer.

- The "Farm Facts" brochure may be ordered from **www.fb.com** or from the Louisiana Ag in the Classroom office at 225.922.6503.

Credit: *Utah Agriculture in the Classroom,* www.agclassroom.org/ut

"FOOD DOLLAR" PLAY MONEY