

# AGRI CULTURE is everywhere!

## GRAINS

Missouri is a diverse agricultural state. Missouri farmers grow a variety of crops and raise livestock.

### Corn

A bushel of corn weighs about 56 pounds.

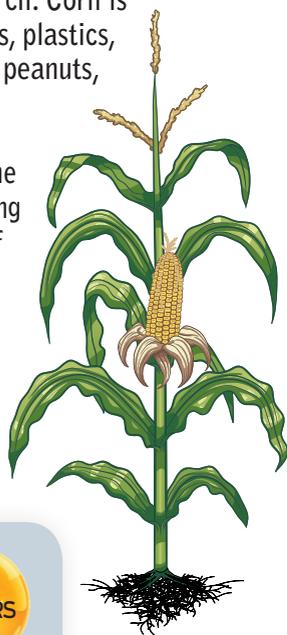
Corn is mainly used for food items and to feed livestock such as cows, pigs and chickens. There are more than 4,200 products that contain corn and new uses are being found every day.



An ear of corn has, on average, 800 kernels in 16 rows. A kernel of corn is mostly starch. Corn is used in sweetener, antibiotics, paints, plastics, glue, chewing gum, fabrics, packing peanuts, wallpaper and as fuel.

At the top of a mature corn plant is the tassel, the male part of the plant. Along the stalk are the leaves and the ear of corn, wrapped closely in husks.

Hundreds of filaments, called silk, protrude from the top of each ear. These are female flowers. Corn roots spread deep into the soil.



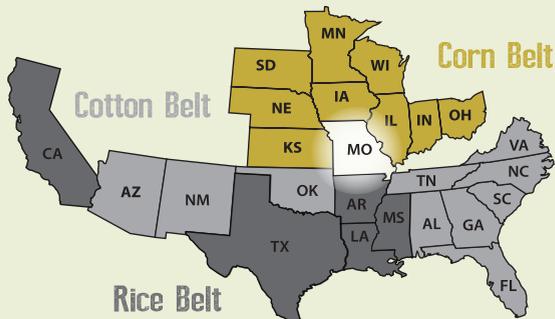
An **Agronomist** researches and monitors plants, soils and the environment.



**Agricultural Engineers** design farm equipment such as tractors, combines, buildings, irrigation systems and storage.

### ACTIVITY

Use your community newspaper to make an agricultural collage. Find pictures, stories, words and ads that feature agriculture production, legislation and products.



Missouri is one of the Midwestern states in what is known as the "corn belt" because the conditions are excellent for growing corn. The unique location of Missouri makes it possible to grow a variety of crops including soybeans, rice and cotton. Cotton and rice are grown in the southeastern part of the state.

### Soybeans

A bushel of soybeans weighs about 60 pounds.

A soybean is a small round seed that grows on a plant. Soybeans are legumes and help to improve the soil. Soybeans are planted in the late spring and harvested in the fall. It takes 80-120 days from planting to harvesting.

Soybeans and products made from them are used in many food items, animal feed, candles, biodegradable inks, paints, cosmetics, furniture and biodiesel. Soybean oil accounts for 80 percent of all the vegetable oils and animal fats consumed in the U.S. Soybean oil is the only ingredient in vegetable oil.

Each soybean has a hilum, a small brown spot where the seed was attached. The soybean has three basic parts. The outside covering protects the seed. The cotyledon is the first leaf or pair of leaves within the embryo that stores food. The embryo is the part of the seed that develops into a new plant including the stem, leaves and roots.

