

Why Should I Teach About Agriculture?

- Act 26 of 1995 and Pennsylvania's Chapter 4 Environment and Ecology Standards call for agriculture education for all students within the Commonwealth.
- Most Americans know little about agriculture, its social and economic significance in the United States, and its links to human health and environmental quality.
- In Pennsylvania, one in four workers is involved in an agriculture-related job.
- Agriculture is Pennsylvania's #1 industry.
- Agriculture & Society is one of the least taught content areas of the Pennsylvania Environment and Ecology Academic Standards.
- Promoting agricultural literacy among students will enable them to make informed choices about the foods they consume and the clothing and other fiber products they buy, since the vast majority of people no longer have a close connection to the land.
- The ultimate goal of environmental education is to create "environmentally literate citizens, prepared to make wise decisions and take positive action on behalf of the environment, from their kitchens to the voting booth."
- It is important for people to know where their food comes from and to understand the costs, both economically and environmentally, of producing it.

(Sources: National Research Council Committee on Agricultural Education in Secondary Schools, *Understanding Agriculture---New Directions for Education*, 1988, and the PA Department of Environmental Protection, 2005)