

Grades 4-6

THE "RIPPLE EFFECT"

When Idaho farmers grow crops and livestock they do more than just produce food. Many other things happen as a result of agriculture. That's called a "ripple effect". Agriculture creates food that must be transported, processed and sold. Many things are necessary to produce the food you eat.

It's a good estimate that one Idaho farmer creates three to four jobs OFF the farm. (Maybe you have a friend that works in a fast food restaurant. How's that a "ripple effect" of agriculture?)

Look at the items on the left below. Then try to guess the "ripple effect" (something that has happened because of what the farmer did). Write the letter of the ripple effect by its matching statement.

RIPPLE EFFECT

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>___ 1. John Hewitt grows grass seed on his farm in Lewiston and needs to buy seed.</p> <p>___ 2. Kristi Nixon has a dairy farm and needs someone to pick up her milk every day.</p> <p>___ 3. American farmers produce more food than Americans need.</p> <p>___ 4. Jackie Sherer has a beef ranch and needs new software for her computer to help market her beef.</p> <p>___ 5. To plant his wheat crop, Bryan Anderson needs to get a loan to buy seed.</p> <p>___ 6. Idaho farmers ask the state of Idaho for better laws on soil conservation.</p> | <p>a. A computer company develops software programs especially for the farm.</p> <p>b. A city bank has a special department for handling agricultural loans.</p> <p>c. A truck driver picks up farm products from the farm.</p> <p>d. A new store opened in town so farmers can buy seed, feed and other supplies.</p> <p>e. Lawmakers work with farm groups to pass special laws for agriculture.</p> <p>f. The U.S. ships food to other countries in the world.</p> |
|--|---|



What "ripple effect" does agriculture create in your town?

Answers: 1. d; 2. c; 3. f; 4. a; 5. b; 6. e

