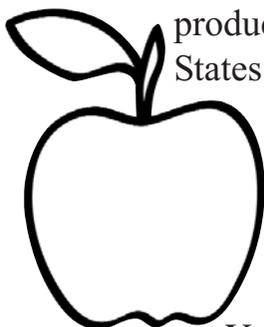


Intro to Agriculture

Agriculture, growing plants and raising animals, is important to New York State. About 25% of the state's land area, or 7.55 million acres of land, are used by the 35,600 farms to produce food products.



Milk is New York's leading agricultural product and ranks 3rd in the United States for milk production.

New York ranks 2nd in the nation for our production of apples. Our leading varieties are McIntosh, Empire, Red Delicious and Golden Delicious.

Grapes for juice and wine place New York 3rd in US production behind California and Washington. The four major grape producing areas are near Lake Erie, the Finger Lakes, the Hudson Valley and eastern Long Island.



In 2010, New York produced 312,000 gallons of maple syrup which ranked us 2nd in the nation behind Vermont.

Farmers in New York grow many other crops and raise birds and animals too! Be sure to look for our next installment when we will "crow" about poultry.

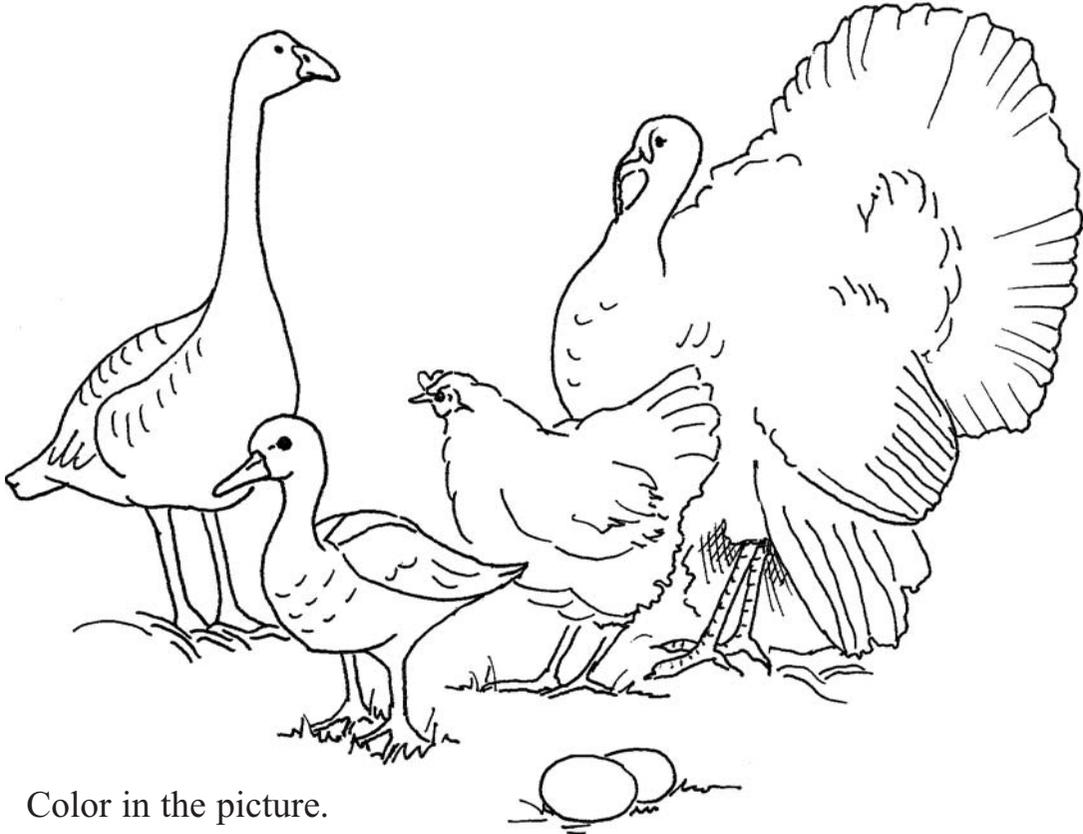
Newspaper Activity:

- ◆ Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads that show examples of New York State agriculture. How many examples did your class find?

Agricultural Literacy Week - March 21-25

What is Poultry?

Poultry are the domestic or farm birds raised for meat or egg production - ducks, geese, chicken and turkeys. The United States poultry industry is the world's largest producer and 2nd largest exporter of poultry meat.



Color in the picture.

Newspaper Activity:

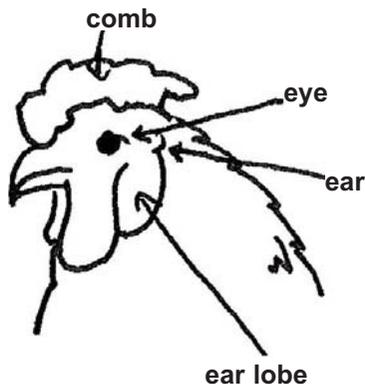
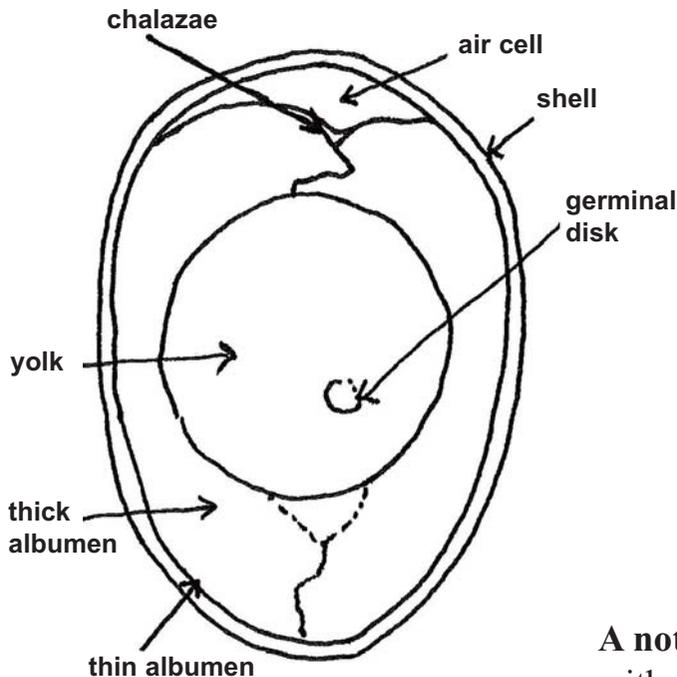
◆ Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads about the industry, or types of businesses, in your community. How many have ties to agriculture?

This series was created by the New York News Publishers Association NIE Program in cooperation with NY Ag in the Classroom and funded by the New York Newspapers Foundation

◆ www.nyaged.org ◆ www.nynpa.com ◆

The Hen - "Eggs"pert Producer

Most of the eggs we eat come from chickens. Hens are female chickens. They are the ones that lay eggs. It takes about 28 hours or a little more than a day for a chicken to make an egg and lay it. Look at the parts of an egg in the diagram below:



A note on shell color: Breeds with white feathers and ear lobes lay white eggs; breeds with red feathers and ear lobes lay brown eggs.

Newspaper Activity:

- ◆ Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) and other sources for recipes on ways to cook and serve eggs. Select one. Draw each step of the recipe like a cartoon strip. Write in key instructions. Share the drawings as a class.

Let's "Talk Turkey"

The expression "talk turkey" means to speak plainly about something. There are other sayings that have their origins, or beginnings, on the farm. Here are a few more:

Don't let the foxes guard the hen house.

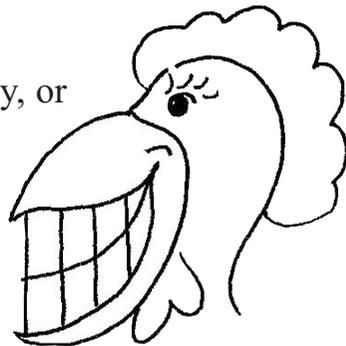
Don't give a job to someone who might steal from you.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Don't count on something before it actually happens.

As rare as hen's teeth...

is something that is extremely unlikely, or impossible, because hens don't have teeth.



Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Don't put all your hopes or resources in one thing, because if it fails you'll have nothing.

To have egg on your face...

means to be embarrassed about something.

Newspaper Activity:

- ◆ Look for expressions or sayings in newspaper headlines or stories. As a class or in small groups, look up the meanings and origins of any sayings you don't know. Are you surprised where the sayings come from?

Agriculture Word Search

e h x d p u r y s p g f
g n a r u q s f n m k e
g e g s e p a r g a l g
s w r n k m j k c p o c
c s i m a l r l m l y y
h p c j a p i a p e t s
i a u z b i f m f u e z
c p l d u c k s r l h e
k e t r o z g k p t w h
e r u l z j e p g g e e
n v r w r y a z i u j n
s z e e s e e g p g o s

Find and circle the agricultural words listed below:

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
| agriculture | ducks | geese | maple | syrup |
| apples | eggs | grapes | milk | turkeys |
| chickens | farmer | hens | newspaper | yolk |

Newspaper Activity:

◆ Select a story from the newspaper that is interesting to your class. Use the important words from the story to make a new word search or crossword puzzle. Give yourselves extra credit if the story is about New York State agriculture!

To learn more about NYS Agriculture go to www.nyaged.org