**April 21, 2020**

Another in the series of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom non-fiction text examples to be used in your classroom. Remember, these will be available every MONDAY afternoon that *FarmWeek* is published during the school year.

Questions about this can be directed to Kevin Daugherty, Education Director of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom at [kdaugherty@ilfb.org](mailto:kdaugherty@ilfb.org).

\*\*Reminder these questions are designed to use with the on-line version of *FarmWeek.*

<https://www.farmweeknow.com/eedition/>

Note, by request of teachers we have included the answers to the questions immediately following the questions on a separate worksheet.

*Teachers want to be sure to get this in a timely fashion? Sign up for your copy to be directly emailed at* <http://www.agintheclassroom.org/FWArticle/fwarticle.shtml>

**NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CLASS PERIOD\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions:** Please use the online version of *FarmWeek.*  <https://www.farmweeknow.com/eedition/>

Use the article titled:

Losses on livestock farms continue to mount; system backs up

1. Name two main reasons livestock farms are facing losses at this time.
2. What is the estimate hog farmers could lose per animal this year?
3. In the last couple of years, hog markets expanded, then there was a trade war. How does the closure of bars and restaurants impact pork specifically?
4. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted meat processing plants?
5. How would you describe the issues related to Labor in agriculture relating to the pandemic?
6. How has the school closure impacted milk and dairy farmers.

***TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE….relating to Earth Day! Posted every Wednesday on Facebook, complete the challenge and post it to earn a chance for a great incentive!***

Answer Key

1. Reduced demand and production issues.
2. Loses could be about $37 per animal, totaling nearly $5 billion on all hogs marketed the rest of the year.
3. COVID-19 measures then chopped off a quarter of the pork market with the closure of bars and restaurants, where items such as pork bellies (bacon) and ribs are big sellers.
4. Several plants have hand to close due to employees testing positive for the virus. Additionally, social distancing measures have slowed the process down for those plants that are still open.
5. Answers will vary but should include that Labor was in issue before the recent shutdown and will be an even bigger problem afterwards.
6. Answers will vary but should include the fact that every student taking a school lunch took milk. Now students are home and it too time to shift from making ½ pints for schools to packaging in gallons and ½ gallons for grocery stores.