**August 17, 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:

**Shrimp venture a nice catch for Speckhart family**

1. The Speckhart family is from Payson in Adams County. Where is this in the state?
2. What happened in 2014 that caused the Speckhart family to investigate raising shrimp.
3. Explain what Brent Speckhart means when he says he “was looking for something where he set the price in stead of always selling for what they give you.”
4. Describe the shrimp farm.
5. How is the entire Speckhart family engaged in the shrimp farm, even if they are not on the farm in Payson.
6. Describe the shrimp growing process on the Speckhart farm.
7. Describe a challenge the family has had raising shrimp.
8. How big are the shrimp when they are harvested?
9. Describe the potential market for Illinois raised shrimp.

Answers

1. Payson is located south-east of Quincy in west-central Illinois close to the Mississippi River.
2. The Speckhart family sent son Daulton to the University of Missouri where he worked on a research farm raising shrimp.
3. Answers will vary, but commodities like corn and soybeans do not allow farmers to set a price. They have to take what is given to them. In a specialty crop like shrimp, the family can set their price.
4. The renovated hog barn includes two nursery pools and six finishing pools to raise shrimp.
5. Answers will vary, but each of the children continues to participate in the farm remotely including marketing, sales and designing systems.
6. 30,000 shrimp larvae are shipped overnight from a hatchery in Florida before they spend 1 ½ months in a nursery pool before going to a finishing pool for 3 ½ months.
7. An oxygen pipe malfunction in 2018 took many shrimp at the same time a hurricane damaged hatcheries. This plus a steep learning curve because not many people raise shrimp in the area.
8. 20 count—or 20 shrimp per pound.
9. 90% of shrimp consumed in the U.S. are imported, mostly from Asia. There is certainly a market.