**March 3, 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.

\*\*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>

**County yield estimates reflect 2019 challenges,variability**

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

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

Use the article titled:

 **County yield estimates reflect 2019 challenges,variability**

1. What is the USDA NASS?
2. What was special about the first six months of 2019?
3. What percentage fewer acres were planted less in corn in 2019? In soybeans?
4. What was special about Illinois Soybeans last year?
5. Name the two Illinois counties that harvested the most soybeans in the nation last year. Using a map, describe what is interesting about these two counties.
6. Name the county in Illinois that produced the most corn in the nation.
7. Describe what is meant when the author says 2019 had pleasant surprises.

Answers.

1. United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service
2. The first six months of 2019 were the wettest on record in the state and this delayed planting last spring.
3. Corn 5% decrease, Soybeans, 8% decrease
4. 4. Illinoi led the nation in soybean production last year with 532 million bushels harvested.
5. 5. Mclean and Livingston counties produced the most soybeans last year. Located in Central Illinois, these two counties are located next to each other.
6. McLean County nudged out Kossuth County, Iowa for the largest corn crop. McLean County produced the most corn and soybeans
7. Answers will vary, but it was a difficult, wet planting, a long dry summer, and a difficult and wet harvest. However, IL counties lead the nation in the production of corn and beans. Students might further explain what technology advances helped this situation.