Background
For every dollar we spend on food at the grocery store, only about 20 CENTS goes to the American farmer who grew it. From that amount, the farmer must pay expenses—for seed, feed, equipment, fertilizer, rent, labor, energy, etc. The remaining 80 cents goes off the farm to pay for getting the food to us at the grocery store or a restaurant. Of this 80 cents:

39 CENTS goes to pay the workers who handle the farm products after they leave the farm. These include assemblers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers (including grocery store workers) and workers in eating places.
9 CENTS goes to pay for packaging.
4 CENTS goes to pay for transportation—moving raw materials to storage and processing facilities, distribution centers and, finally, to the grocery store or restaurant.
3 CENTS goes to pay for electricity, natural gas, and other fuels used in food processing, wholesaling, retailing, and running food service establishments.
4 CENTS is profits earned by the businesses that manufacture and sell the food.
4 CENTS goes to pay for advertising food products on TV and radio and in newspapers and magazines.
5 CENTS goes for depreciation—the cost of repairing or replacing old equipment and buildings.
4 CENTS goes to pay rent for warehouses and other facilities for processing and selling food.
8 CENTS goes to pay for interest on loans, business taxes and other miscellaneous expenses.

Agriculture provides jobs for many people besides the farmer. One of every six jobs in our country is agriculture-related. In Oklahoma agriculture generates 255,000 jobs, 17 percent of all the jobs in the state.

Language Arts
1. Ask students to identify their favorite foods.
   — Students will say how much they think the food costs.
   — Where does the favorite food come from? Let students explore several different theories.
   — Ask who gets the money they pay for their food?

Materials
plastic coins
cups

www.agclassroom.org/ok
2. Use the vocabulary words to discuss opposites (spend/save, buy/sell, income/expense).

3. Discuss how the story of the Little Red Hen might have been different if she had received all the help she asked for (enough bread for everyone).

**Math**

1. Divide students into groups of four or five and provide each group with $1 in plastic coins and a plastic cup.
   —Read the background to explain to students where their food dollars go.
   —For each category, have students take turns counting out the correct number of pennies and dropping them into the cup.

2. Bring an assortment of change to class, and review the value of each coin. Discuss what kind of food each coin will buy.

3. Hand out student worksheets.
   —Students will label the coins.
   —Students will write the values of the coins in the spaces provided.
   —Students will shade or color in the correct coins to represent the distribution of the food dollar.

4. Students will write number problems in decimals as they subtract each expense from the food dollar, e.g., The Farmer gets 20 cents: $1.00-$0.20=$0.80; the workers get 39 cents: $0.80-$0.39=$0.41; etc. The final answer should be zero.

5. Students will write comparative number sentences using the expenses listed in the background.

6. Students will explore patterns to extend the problem, e.g., if the farmer gets 20 cents for every dollar, how much would he/she get from $100. From $200, etc.

7. Each student will bring one empty food package to school.
   —Tag each item with a price, from five cents to one dollar.
   —Students will cut out one dollar in paper coins from the page provided.
   —Students will buy and sell to each other for 10 minutes. Instruct students to buy what they really want or like.
   —When the time is up, check to see who has the most money and who has the largest number of items.

8. Students make a chart showing who gets their food dollars.

9. Students brainstorm all the jobs they can think of related to food. Survey the class to find out whose parents have jobs in the food industry. Make a graph to illustrate

**Extra Reading**


Your Food Dollar (and cents)

Name of coin ________  = _______ cents

Name of coin ________  = _______ cents

Who gets the money when your mom or dad buy food at the grocery store? Every dollar gets divided up by many people who help provide your food.

1. Electricity and natural gas costs 3 cents. Shade in the coins to show energy costs.

2. Moving the food from place to place costs 4 cents. Shade in the coins to show how much the package costs.

3. Rent for warehouses and other buildings costs 4 cents. Shade in the coins to show the cost of rent.

4. Advertising costs 4 cents. Shade in the coins to show the cost of advertising.
5. The businesses that handle the food get 4 cents profit. Shade in the coins to show profits.

6. Repairs and buying new equipment and buildings costs 5 cents. Shade in the coins to show the cost of repairs.

7. Interest on loans, taxes and other expenses cost 8 cents. Shade in the coins to show these costs.

8. The package the food comes in costs 9 cents. Shade in the coins to show how much the package costs.

9. The workers who handle the food after it leaves the farm get 39 cents. Shade in the coins to show how much the workers get.

10. The farmer who raises the food gets 20 cents. Shade in the coins below to show how much the farmer gets.

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.