

## Get Agriculture Into Your Classroom!

### Buddy Board

Design a buddy board with information from your pen pal as a way to learn more about them.

- Create a map of where your pen pal is located and where your classroom is located.
- Have each student group write one fact about their new pen pal for the board.
- Post pictures from your farmer or rancher.
- Share a Nebraska fact about the area your farmer or rancher is from.

### Where Are You?

Pen pals provide a great opportunity to work in social studies standards. From directionality to mapping skills, this activity opens the doors to many standards.

Provide a map of Nebraska to each student or a larger map to display in your classroom.

On the map, find where your pen pal is located. This activity is open-ended to allow you to craft your own lesson or lessons. You could practice directionality (north, south, east and west).

This would also be a great idea to put on your buddy board.

### The Interactive Map Project ([www.nefbmap.org](http://www.nefbmap.org))

The Interactive Map Project contains more than 5,000 maps from Nebraska and the U.S. and uses data derived from the U.S. Census to help educators teach about natural resources, the infrastructure of the state, population, historical perspectives, soil types, what crops are grown in the state, and more. The Interactive Map Project is supplemented with activity guides to assist in the teaching process. Through use of the Map and lesson plans, students will connect to Nebraska and develop a thorough understanding of agriculture's importance to the state. All lessons are tied to state educational standards.

### My Favorite Recipe

People in Nebraska love to cook! This activity will take a little more coordination with your farmer or rancher.

Ask your pen pal to send you either a family recipe or their favorite recipe. You can have students bring in their own recipes to share with your pen pal. Bring in the ingredients for your pen pal's recipe and dive into food labels by using a health lesson that focuses on reading ingredients to find the link to agriculture. Which products come from Nebraska?

**Wanna Hangout?**

Google hangout is the perfect way for you to help your students learn. Ask your farmer or rancher if they would be willing to hang out during harvest to show the students how the combine works or to read a book without ever leaving the farm. If Google Hangout isn't an option, Skype works too!

**Makin' Movies**

Many schools have tech managers with video capabilities. Ask your tech manager if you can use an iPad or an iPhone to create a quick movie to send to your farmer or rancher. Create a project where you read your letter, or thank your farmer or rancher with a poem. The possibilities are endless!

**You're Invited**

Invite your farm/ranch correspondent or someone who has a career associated with agriculture to visit your classroom and give a brief presentation about their career. Need help finding an ag career? Ask Courtney for help, [courtneys@nefb.org](mailto:courtneys@nefb.org).

**Share Agricultural Information**

## September

- National Chicken Month

## October

- National Farm to School Month
- National Pork Month
- National Trucker's Day 10/4
- National Thank a Farmer/Rancher Day 10/12

## November

- National Farm City Week 11/20 – 11/24

## January

- Popcorn Day! 1/19
- National Cheese Lover's Day 1/20

## February

- National FFA Week 2/16 – 2/23
- President's Day 2/18

## March

- National Agriculture Week 3/19- 3/24
- National Reading Month

## April

- National Soy Foods Month

## May

- National Beef Month