AGBU 34: Agricultural Economics and Geography

LESSON PLAN 01.02

(50 Minutes)

Lesson Title:

The documentation and description of the agricultural landscape in the US.

Objectives:

1) Students will be able to discuss how agricultural activity is widely dispersed across the United States but individual agricultural activities tend to cluster in specific regions.

2) Students will be able to identify and discuss the five agricultural regions of the agricultural landscape in the US.

3) Students will be able to label and explain the belts of agricultural production on a map of the US with 100% accuracy.

Key Terms:

Agricultural Economics, Geography, Agricultural Census Data, Production Terms

Tools/Equipment/Supplies:

Blank Map of the US, Colored Pencils, Handout #1

Warm Up/Interest Approach:

Brainstorm the Big 5 production areas in the United States

Teaching:

1) Notes
    a. Documentation and description of the agricultural landscape in the US.
        i. Using geographic facts/data
        ii. What will the students see
    b. Introduce terms
        i. Dot Density Map
        ii. Choropleth Map
        iii. Surface Maps
        iv. Isogeotherm Line & Isohyet Line
    c. 5 Agricultural Belts

        i. Eastern General Farming Region
       ii. Dairy Belt
      iii. Corn Belt
      iv. Wheat Belt
       v. Grazing Belt

2) Map Activity
   a. Students will receive a blank map of the United States and colored pencils to color the 5 agricultural regions of the United States

3) Discussion (HANDOUT)
   a. Review the map activity and provide a correct map
      i. 5 Agricultural Belts
         1. Eastern General Farming Region
            a. Closest to Megalopolis (NYC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C.
            b. Intensive Agriculture
            c. Truck Farming
            d. Southern = POULTRY
         2. Dairy Belt
            a. Eastern = Fluid Milk
            b. Western = Value Added (Cheese, Ice Cream, etc.)
         3. Corn Belt
            a. Some of the most productive and highly developed agriculture in the world
            b. Can also be referred to as the nations "Meat Belt" i.e. Hogs & Cattle
         4. Wheat Belt
            a. 20" line: moves from 20" of rain to less than 20" of rain
            b. Spring Wheat vs. Winter Wheat (based on weather)
         5. Grazing Belt
            a. Dispersed THROUGHOUT the US
            b. Animals (i.e. Cattle and sheep) pre-conditioned here for fattening in corn belt/plains feedlots
            c. Large breeding operations (i.e. cow-calf operations)
   b. Discuss Handout #1 that further discusses the agricultural regions in the US and provides more information regarding each specific region.

Independent Practice/Assessment:

Homework: Use Handout #1 to prepare for a short quiz on the agricultural regions during the next class period

<u>Wrap Up:</u>

Brief Review of the lesson-What are the Big 5 Production areas? Why do they exist?

Time	Activity
5 Minutes	Introduction/Warm-Up
15 Minutes	Notes
10 Minutes	Map Activity
15 Minutes	Discussion/Handout
5 Minutes	Wrap-Up/Questions