


Social Studies

Genre

Nonfiction gives information and facts about a topic.

Text Feature



Calendars show the days, weeks, and months in a year. They also show when events will happen.

Content Vocabulary

schedule

harvest

crop

Farming Corn

Farmers in Iowa usually grow the most corn in all of the United States. From April to November they work hard to grow as much corn as they can. Because corn grows best at certain times of the year, corn farmers follow a **schedule**. This tells them when to plant and when to pick, or **harvest**, the corn.

Spring is here. The corn farmers' work has just begun. Their first job is to plow the fields.

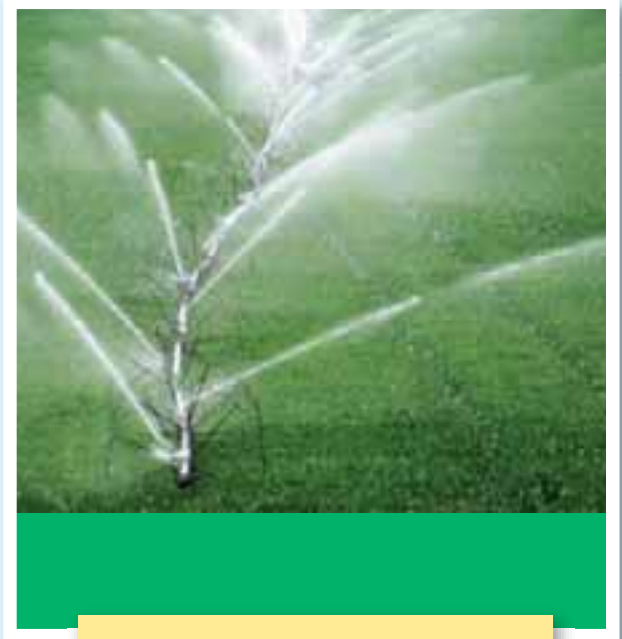
Plowing breaks up the soil and turns it over. Plowing makes the ground ready for the seeds to be planted. On big farms, farmers use planting machines to spread the corn seeds in the field.



July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

These calendars show two months that farmers work in the corn fields.



In July and August the farmers water the fields.

After several weeks, the plants begin to grow. Then it is time to weed the fields. The farmers use machines to make the soil loose around the growing plants. This helps kill the weeds. Rain and sun help the corn grow, too. The corn should be about two feet high by the Fourth of July.

Fall is an important season for the corn farmers. By then the corn should be 7 or 8 feet high. It is harvest time. Farmers pick the fully grown corn using a machine called a combine. After the **crop** is picked, f [REDACTED] the corn so that it will last longer. When the farmers sell the corn, it is shipped to other states in train cars. This type of corn is called seed corn. It is used to feed farm animals all over the world.



Connect and Compare



1. According to the calendar, how many weeks do farmers water the fields? **Calendar**
2. Think about this article and *Click, Clack, Moo*. What other things might Farmer Brown have to do besides take care of the cows?

Reading/Writing Across Texts



Social Studies Activity

Research your favorite fruit or vegetable. Make a calendar that shows when it is planted and harvested.



Find out more about farming at www.macmillanmh.com

Writer's Craft

Precise Words

Good writers use **precise words** to show how they feel.

Write a Letter to the Editor

12 Elm Street
Raleigh, NC 34567
May 16, 20--

Precise words tell exactly how I feel.

I used and to combine sentences with the same subject.

Dear Editor,

Why is the mayor increasing the speed limit on Main Street? I don't think this is safe for our town.

Speeding cars are dangerous and could hurt wild animals and pets.

If a car is going too fast, it won't be able to stop in time to let an animal finish crossing the street.

I think the speed limit should stay low so animals in our town aren't put in danger.

Anthony P.

Your Turn

Write a letter to the editor of your town or school newspaper. Tell how you think or feel about something in your school or town. Choose precise words so that the reader will understand exactly how you feel and why. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Word Choice:** Did I use **precise words** that tell exactly how I feel and why?
- Ideas:** Did I add details that make my reasons stronger?
- Conventions:** Did I combine sentences with the same subject by using *and*?
- Organization:** Is my letter easy to follow?
Is my message clear?