

## **2010 GFB Essay Contest Topic: How Many Hats Does a Farmer Wear?**

The origin of the phrase is not certain, but sometimes we refer to someone who has many responsibilities as having many hats. It possibly comes from a time when everyone wore hats that were specific to their trade, official position or function. A cowboy wore a cowboy hat, a construction worker wore a hard hat, the mortarboard was worn by professors (and students) at graduation, etc. Some of today's professions have specific hats as well (i.e. policeman, fireman, military branches, etc.) So someone who has several roles is referred to as wearing many hats.

While today's farmer depends on many people to carry out his or her responsibilities on the farm, they must still be able to do many jobs themselves. Here are just a few of them.

- Business person
- Accountant
- Financial planner
- Computer operator or programmer
- Environmentalist
- Animal caretaker or assistant veterinarian
- Mechanical engineer
- Bookkeeper
- Community leader
- Entrepreneur
- Soil conservationist
- Forester

Can you think of others? Research some of the jobs a farmer needs to be able to do and tell why you think he or she needs to be able to do them and why it is important for them to be so versatile. Remember, a farmer can be a man or a woman.