

OCTOBER 2025

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

Thank a Farmer

By Maria Gianferrari

Bread, milk, wool, fruits, and vegetables: things that fill our day to day lives. But where, and who, do they come from? Across wheat fields and city rooftop gardens, mushroom beds and maple forests, *Thank a Farmer* traces the food and clothing that a family uses back to the people who harvested and created them.

With Maria Gianferrari's informed and poetic text and monumental artwork from Monica Mikai, *Thank a Farmer* gently emphasizes the importance of agriculture in our day-to-day lives and reminds readers to give thanks to farmworkers around the world.

**FARM
BUREAU
GEORGIA**



[YouTube Read Aloud](#)

Fun Facts:

- Georgia's top 10 commodities: 1. Broilers: \$5.8 billion, 2. Eggs: \$988 million, 3. Beef: \$981.7 million, 4. Cotton: \$938.6 million, 5. Peanuts: \$915 million, 6. Timber: \$885.8 million, 7. Greenhouse: \$585 million, 8. Blueberries: \$526.6 million, 9. Corn: \$514 million, 10. Dairy: \$456.1 million
- Georgia commodities directly represent a value of over \$17.6 billion to the state's economy. In 2023, food and fiber production and related industries contributed \$91.4 billion in output to Georgia's \$1.4 trillion economy and more than 381,200 jobs.
- Georgia has around 42,000 farms and approximately 9.6 million acres of land in agricultural production.
- The average age of a Georgia farmer is around 58 years old. This is similar to the national average.
- Agriculture is Georgia's largest industry and contributes more than \$74 billion to the state's economy each year!
- In Georgia, 9,953,730 acres of land is used by farms and the average farm size is 235 acres.
- Harvested cropland accounts for 3,628,707 acres.
- To learn more about Georgia Agriculture read the [Georgia Impact Report](#). [Educator Resources](#)

Videos:

- Visit GFB's [Agventure YouTube Channel](#) or [Farm Monitor's YouTube Channel](#) to find a farmer to showcase!
- [Without Farmers, Georgia Can't Grow](#)- Learn how agriculture shapes our state and what we grow in each region.
- [How Does it Grow?](#) Discovers where our food actually comes from, hosted by Nicole Jolly.

Activities:

- Farm-City Week is November 19-26! Celebrate by having students write [thank you letters or postcards](#) to farmers. Check with your [local Farm Bureau](#) for the submission deadline—they'll handle delivery!
- Fall is a busy time for farmers, and it brings in several holidays that wouldn't happen without farmers! We have several "It starts on the farm" printables to highlight the connection between farms and holidays- [Halloween](#) * [Thanksgiving](#)
- Recipes: [No Bake Recipe Bank](#)- cook with a commodity that is grown in your county or school garden
- [Plant or transplant the following: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, collards, lettuce, mustard, onions, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Plant your second planting of fall crops such as collards, turnips, cabbage, mustard, and kale.](#)
- Lessons: A Search for the Source [K-2](#) and [3-5](#) * My Farm Web [K-2](#) and [3-5](#)
- Georgia's Top Commodities Bingo. Each calling card has a riddle so students can figure out the commodity before being shown the card! [3x3 Card](#) * [4x4 Card](#) * [Calling Cards](#)
- Printables: [Georgia's Top 10 Commodities Illustrated by 2025 Bookmark Contest Winner](#) * commodity [color page](#) and [bookmarks](#)
- Activity: Have students draw or cut out their favorite meal.

Visit gfb.ag/aic for more activities