



Jobs on a Farm

When students finish working through this section:

1. They will have an understanding of the type of job opportunities found on a REAL TREE operation.
2. They will recognize that a single job may require many different skills.

This section looks at many the many responsibilities and jobs found on a REAL TREE operation. Farm owners must be knowledgeable about lots of things ... growing things, marketing things, selling things, and hiring people. They must become accountants, mechanics, biologists, botanists, entomologists, human resource experts, futurists, entertainers, photographers, computer experts, cooks, and a whole lot more!

Because each operation is unique, some of the jobs included in this section may not be found on all operations. Some may have tasks that are not included here. What's interesting about the business of farming is that the same person may be responsible for doing several of the jobs on this list. There is never a dull moment. There is always something new to do ... and learn!

Possible Discussion Points/Activities:

- Consider using this section as a lead in to the skills needed in various professions. In a brief discussion, ask students to identify concepts in the classroom will extend into the world of work (i.e. computation in math is necessary for basic accounting). To extend the discussion, ask students what nonacademic skills need to be developed for success. Post the lists they create and tie the contents in wherever possible.
- Ask some local businesses to donate a copy of their application for employment. Discuss the importance of completing job applications completely and honestly (with clear penmanship and correct spelling). Then, ask students to pick an application and complete it. If time allows, this could be extended into resume writing and interviewing.
- Invite a local Real Tree professional to visit the classroom or take a visit to a local operation. Prepare students for the trip by asking them to compose questions about the necessary skills and employment opportunities on their operation. Upon return to the classroom (or after the presentation), ask students to think about other jobs/skills that might be required on these operations in the future. For a list of local Real Tree professionals, visit <http://www.realchristmastrees.org/>.
- Ask students to print and complete the *Think Tank* assignment. This can be done as a whole class, in small groups, or as an individual activity. Discuss and share!



Think Tank Information

1. Of the jobs listed above, which would you most like to try for a day? Why?
Answers will vary.
2. Which Real Tree jobs deal with cultivating trees?
Clean Up, Cone Removal, Fertilizing, Harvesting, Pruning and Shearing, Transplanting, Weeding and Insect Control

Allow other additions with correct justification.
3. Which Real Tree jobs require working with customers?
Baling, Customer Service, Delivery, Education, Sales and Marketing, Tree Marking/Tagging, Wreath Making

Allow other additions with correct justification.
4. Why is learning an important part of being a Real Tree grower or employee?
Answers will vary.