

## Oral History of Illinois Agriculture



### Specialty Crops Map

Adapted from Lessons  
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For **Grade Level:** 6  
**Subject(s):** Social  
Studies - Geography,  
Language Arts -  
Research

**Goal:** to create  
a county map of Illinois  
showing at least 5  
specialty crops, and  
create a group map  
poster promoting the  
diversity of crops and  
livestock grown in  
Illinois.

#### Special points of in- terest:

- Introduction
- Learn from Oral His-  
tories
- Create a Digital Map
- Create a Digital  
Poster
- Learning Standards
- Specialty Crops

## Illinois State Museum



[Http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/](http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/)

## More than Corn, Soybeans, Beef and Pork

### Learn from Oral Histories

**Activity 1:** Go to the  
ISM Oral history of  
Illinois Agriculture  
website <http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us>  
and locate the Clip  
Search (facet)  
section. Locate and  
listen to clips  
concerning alternative  
crops and animals  
produced in  
Illinois. You can also  
type in keywords of a  
crop, such as  
'pumpkins.' Note  
where each crop is/was  
grown (county of

residence for  
interviewee).

**Activity 2:** Students  
will check out the  
Specialty Growers  
Association website -  
<http://www.specialtygrowers.org>  
and find out more  
about alternative crops  
and animals. Note the  
names of the counties  
in which each crop is  
grown.



## Create a Digital County Crop Map

Create a digital county  
map of Illinois  
showing location of  
alternative crops and  
animals produced in  
Illinois. Open the  
provided map image  
file in Photoshop or

Gimp. Choose a color  
for each crop. Fill the  
county or counties  
where each crop is  
grown commercially  
with that color (setting  
the transparency below  
50% so the county

name shows through.  
Have at least five  
alternative crops and or  
animals listed in a  
color-coded key in the  
yellow box on the map.  
(map example on p. 2)

### Digital Map, cont.

This map is provided as a .jpg image among the plants lesson page attachments. Download it and open it in an image-editing program. Record in colors your findings for specialty crops in Illinois counties. If you live outside of Illinois, find a digital map of your state on the Internet that you can use.

## Digital Poster

**Activity 4:** Use Publisher or similar software to create a digital group poster incorporating all the crops and locations on the county outline map of Illinois. It can also include the promotion of Illinois-grown crops and animals as images and text around the map.

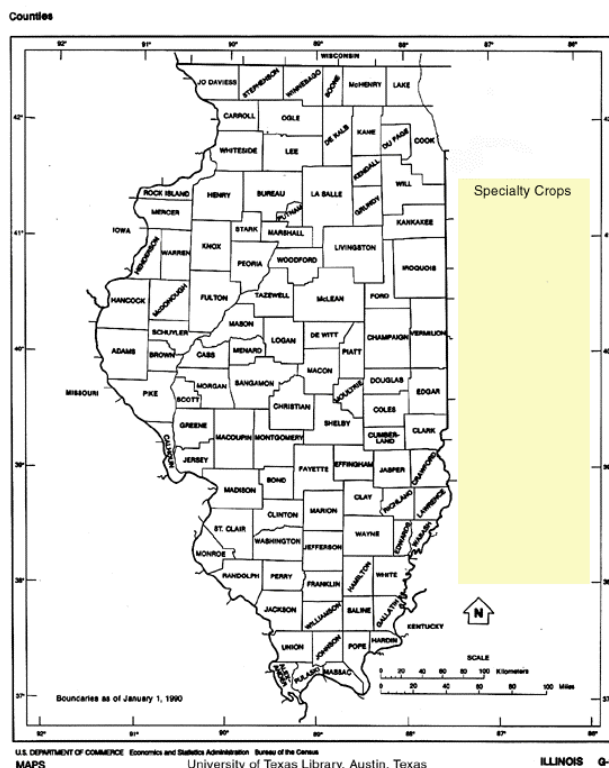
Students will need to gather images of the crops and animals (from the Illinois State Museum Oral History Site's Gallery

<http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/gallery>

or elsewhere (use public domain or with permission

Use a photographic manipulation program such as Photoshop or Gimp to format images, increasing the canvas size of the digital map image provided. Print on ledger-size paper if available or make a pdf to display digitally or online.

This activity will take time for individuals in an



assigned group or pairs who can monitor each other in sessions on the computer. Logistics may be different for each class or individual. )



## Illinois Learning Standards

### Social Studies: Geography:

**17.A.2b** Use maps and other geographic representations and instruments to gather information about people, places and environments.

**17.C.2b** Describe the relationships among location of resources, population distribution and economic activities (e.g., transportation, trade, communications).

### Language Arts: Research:

**5.A.2b** Organize and integrate information from a variety of sources (e.g., books, interviews, library reference materials, web-sites, CD/ROMs).

**5.B.2a** Determine the accuracy, currency and reliability of materials from various sources

**5.B.2b** Cite sources used.

## Assessment

Each student will be graded on:

1) the number of successful results they reviewed on the OHIA database - One point for each result

2) the number of specialty crops they found and documented on the map - One point for each crop

3) the clarity and accuracy of the map and its legend

- a. - 4 points if map is all accurate and easy to read
- b. - 3 points if map is accurate and adequate to read

c. - 2 points if map has an error or is difficult to decipher

d. - 1 point if maps has multiple errors and is hard to read

4) the clarity, accuracy of the poster map

- a. - 4 points if poster information is composed clearly and accurately around the center map, not crowded nor skimpy
- b. - 3 points if poster information is composed mostly clearly and with no more than one error, and is not crowded nor

skimpy

c. - 2 points if there is more than one error OR the design is cluttered, crowded, or skimpy

d. -1 point if there are multiple errors AND the design is crowded or skimpy

## Specialty Crops

If you go to a farmer's market in your town, you can find sellers of specialty crops.

In Springfield, Ellis Van der Pool sells honey that his bees produce.

There are farmers who produce wild game such as elk, deer, bison, and pheasant.

The orchards and vineyards of Illinois produce apples, peaches, and grapes.

At the orchards and wineries, there are related products for sale, such as wine, cider, and fruit pies.

Use the Specialty Growers Association Web site to find places

where you can buy those unique fruits, vegetables, herbs, and meats that you learned about.

