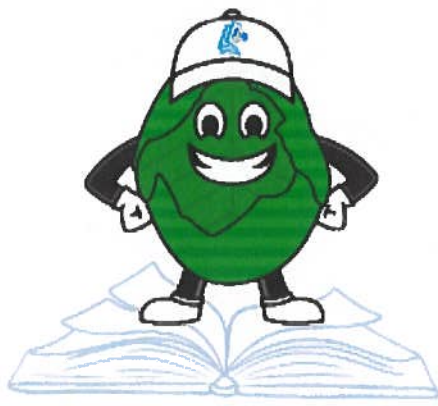




SPROUTS' MONTHLY BOOK



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Ag in the Classroom
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October 2026- Monthly Book

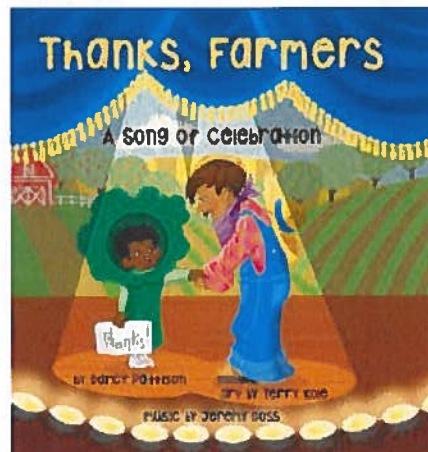
Thanks, Farmers

A Song of Celebration

Written by: Darcy Pattison

Illustrated by: Anna Aronson

Grade Levels Suggested: K-5th



Teachers Guide and Song



Youtube Read Aloud

Visit <https://mimshousebooks.com/products/thanks-farmers> for educators guide.

Three Ways to Use In a Performance:

Option 1 - A Simple Assembly

Introduction:

This guide is designed to support educators and performers in using **THANKS, FARMERS!** to celebrate agriculture and inspire gratitude for the hardworking farmers who provide the food we eat. The following performance options are perfect for classrooms, school assemblies, or small stage presentations. Each option provides a unique way for students to engage with the content, while learning more about farming, community, and appreciation for the earth.

Thanks, Farmer



Musical Accompaniment

A Simple Assembly Performance

In this performance option, students will work together to showcase their understanding of the book's themes of gratitude and agriculture.

- **Opening Song:** Students can sing **THANKS, FARMERS!** (song in the book). This will set the tone for the performance and introduce the theme of gratitude.
- **Student Artwork:** Display artwork created by students that illustrates their understanding of farming, crops, or gratitude. This can include drawings of farm scenes, animals, or thank-you letters written to local farmers.
- **Thank-You Letters:** Students can read aloud the thank-you letters they wrote to farmers. This reinforces the theme of appreciation and highlights the impact farmers have on the community.



Three Ways to Use In a Performance:

Option 2 - A Choreographed Song

Thanks, Farmer



Musical Accompaniment

THANKS, FARMERS! A Choreographed Song Performance

In this performance, students sing while acting out simple, choreographed movements that bring the lyrics to life. Using basic costumes, props, and gestures, students represent the changing seasons, farming tasks, and the gratitude we share for farmers. This engaging and flexible performance allows all students to participate on stage while keeping movements simple and effective. Perfect for school assemblies, classroom presentations, or community events, this tribute celebrates the vital role of farmers in our lives.

Cast Roles

- 2+ Winter Students: Wear scarves/gloves for winter and remove them at spring transition.
- 2+ Spring Students wear green shirts and hold flowers for spring transition.
- 2-4 Farmers: Represent the hardworking farmers by acting out tilling, planting, watering, and harvesting.
- 2+ Sun and Rain: Hold up sun and raindrop signs, swaying to symbolize weather changes.
- 4+ Seeds & Crops: Begin crouched down and slowly rise as the song progresses, representing sprouting plants.
- 4+ Animals: Represent cows, chickens, or other farm animals with simple movements and props.
- 6+ Family Members: Act out gathering, greeting, and celebrating together.

How to Involve More Students:

- Assign multiple students to the same role (e.g., several farmers, more sun and rain helpers).
- Have designated students lead the audience in the ASL sign for THANK YOU during the final line (this can be taught before the song).



Three Ways to Use In a Performance:

Option 2 - A Choreographed Song

THANKS, FARMERS! SONG WITH CHOREOGRAPHY

Verse 1

🎵 When the winter is fading and the year turns to spring,
(Students wearing winter scarves/gloves remove them, while students in green shirts holding flowers raise them up.)

🎵 Then the farmers' hearts swell full of faith and hope.
(All students place hands over hearts and smile.)

🎵 They trust in the sun to shine and they trust the seeds to sprout,
("Sun" students hold up sun signs, while "seeds" crouch and slowly rise like they're growing.)

🎵 And they trust in the land for all their needs.
(Students representing crops and animals hold up simple food props.)

Chorus

🎵 Thanks to the hands that till the soil, to weed and to water you work, and you toil.
(All students pretend to dig, weed, or water using simple hand motions.)

🎵 'Til thanks, thanks, you reap and share!
(Students pretend to harvest by gathering invisible crops and passing them along.)

🎵 And by giving thanks, our hearts overflow.
(All students make a heart shape with their hands or place hands over hearts.)

Verse 2

🎵 When the sun and the raindrops grow the seeds, grow the crops,
(Sun and rain students hold up signs and sway side to side while "crops" slowly rise.)

🎵 When the season's gone round, full of heart and hand,
(Everyone sways gently in place.)



🎵 We'll fill with gratitude for each farmer we meet,
(Students turn to the nearest "farmer" and shake hands.)

🎵 For the milk and the plants and the food that we eat.
(Students hold up small signs or pretend to carry baskets of food.)

Chorus (Repeat with Actions as Before)

Verse 3

🎵 When the aunts and the uncles bring the cousins each year,
(Students pretend to wave and greet each other happily.)

🎵 When the family draws near, full of life and love,
(All students put arms around shoulders or sway side to side.)

🎵 We'll gather side by side and we'll laugh with everyone,
(Students smile, sway, and pretend to laugh together.)

🎵 And we'll thank all the farmers for what they've done.
(Students use the ASL sign for THANK YOU)

Final Chorus (Repeat with Actions as Before) Then add:

(All turn toward the audience and say loudly: "THANK YOU, FARMERS!" along with the ASL sign for THANK YOU)

How to Perform the ASL Sign for "Thank You"

- Start Position – Place the fingertips of one hand flat against your chin. Your palm should be facing toward you.
- Movement – Move your hand forward and slightly upward, away from your face, as if you are blowing a kiss.
- Expression – A warm, appreciative facial expression enhances the meaning of the sign.



Three Ways to Use In a Performance:

Option 3 - A Narrated Theatrical Performance

THNAKS, FARMERS! THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE



For a larger, more involved performance, students can take on specific roles and bring the book's themes to life in a narrated stage production.

This performance combines narration, student participation, props, and movement to teach the audience about the importance of farmers. It works well for a group of 12–30 students, but roles can be adjusted as needed.

- **Role Assignments:** Assign students to different roles, such as narrators, farmers, animals, crops, etc. Each group of students will contribute to a section of the performance, whether it's reading lines, acting out scenes, or holding up props.
- **Costumes & Signs:** Create simple costumes or signs to represent the different characters and elements of farming. For example, students could wear overalls or animal masks, or carry signs representing different crops or farm tools.
- **Backdrop:** Use a backdrop that sets the scene for the performance, such as a barn, field, or market scene. This could be a simple painted or paper backdrop that provides context for the action.
- **Final Song:** End the performance with the full group singing *Thanks, Farmers* (song in the book). This brings everyone together in a celebratory and appreciative way, reinforcing the theme of gratitude.

Core Roles & Actions:

- **Narrators (2 students):** Read the main script and guide the performance.
- **Crops (4 students):** Hold props or signs representing corn, wheat, vegetables, and fruit. They each step forward and say their lines.
- **Farm Animals (4 students):** Wear masks or hold signs for cows, chickens, pigs, and sheep. Each steps forward to introduce their animal's contribution.
- **Farm Tools (4 students):** Hold props or signs for a watering can, shovel/hoe, plow, and tractor. Each explains their tool's use.
- **Hardworking Farmers (4+ students):** Act out farming tasks like digging, watering, planting, feeding animals, or carrying baskets. They wipe sweat from their brows to show effort.
- **Final Thanks (All students):** Step forward holding their props and signs, joining in unison to say, "THANKS, FARMERS!" before singing the song with simple choreography.



Three Ways to Use *THANKS, FARMERS!* In a Performance: Option 3

How to Involve More Students:

Season & Weather Roles:

- Winter (1–2 students): Wear scarves or mittens and remove them when the season changes.
- Spring (1–2 students): Wear flower crowns or hold flower props to signal the arrival of spring.
- Sun (1–2 students): Hold a bright sun sign and "shine" over the crops.
- Rain (1–2 students): Use blue streamers or raindrop props to gently wave over the growing plants.

Nature & Farm Life Roles:

- Seeds (2–4 students): Start small and slowly rise as they "grow" into crops.
- Trees (1–2 students): Stand tall and hold apple or nut props, representing fruit-bearing trees.
- Farm Helpers (2+ students): Act as farmers' assistants, miming actions like carrying baskets, tending animals, or checking crops.

Assign multiple students to each role to ensure everyone participates.

Use additional farm-related props (e.g., hay bales, barns, more food items) to allow extra students to participate.

Have students lead the audience in the ASL sign for THANK YOU during the final line.

Scene Setup:

A simple farm backdrop with signs, crops, animals, and farming tools.

Each student in the class holds a sign or prop representing something related to farming.

Costumes can be as simple as paper animal masks, farm hats, or aprons for those portraying animals, crops, or farmers.



THANKS, FARMERS!

NARRATED FULL PERFORMANCE SCRIPT

Introduction:

Narrator 1:

"Farmers grow crops, raise animals, and take care of the land. Without farmers, we wouldn't have the food we need."

Narrator 2:

"Farming is an important job. Let's learn how farmers help us!"

Scene 1: The Crops

Narrator 1:

"Crops are plants that farmers grow. Some crops are used as food. We sometimes eat them just as they are, and other times we use them to make other foods like bread and cereal, and even snacks!"

Student 1 (dressed as corn, holding a corn sign or corn prop):

"Corn! Farmers grow corn that can be cooked and eaten or made into things like tortillas, cornflakes, and..."

Student 2 (dressed as corn, holding a popcorn sign, jumping up and down): "POP, POP, POCORN!"

Student 3 (holding a wheat sign or bundle of wheat):

"Wheat. Farmers grow wheat to make bread, pasta, and... Hmmmm. There was something else but I forget what."

Student 4 (dressed as a cereal box) "Cereal-ously? Cereal! How could you forget me?"

Student 5 & 6 (5 dressed as any vegetable of choice, 6 dressed as a carrot):

"Vegetables keep us healthy." says student 5. Then carrot says, "Right! Like carrots are good for our eyes."

Students 6 & 7 dressed as orange, grapes:

"Fruit! Oranges and grapes are delicious to eat!"

Student 8 dressed as an apple holding a pie sign:

"And you can make apple pie for a special yummy treat!"





Costume Ideas for Crop Students:

Corn: Yellow shirt and green pants with leaf-shaped cutouts or a corn costume made from yellow fabric.

Wheat: Brown or tan shirt with paper or synthetic wheat stalks attached.

Carrot/Vegetable: Green shirt with orange pants or a vegetable hat (carrot top, for example).

Fruit: Fruit-themed hats or shirts (apple, grapes made from green or purple balloons, orange) and fabric leaves.

Scene 2: The Animals

Narrator 2:

"Farm animals help in many ways. They give us milk, eggs, wool, and meat.
Let's meet some farm animals!"

Student 9 (dressed as cow, holding a pretend ice cream):

"Cows give us milk for our cereal, coffee, and butter and ice cream!"

Student 10 (dressed as chicken, drops plastic eggs onto the stage every few steps):

"Chickens lay eggs."

Student 11 (dressed as pig):

"Pigs provide pork, sausage, and bacon!"

Student 12 (dressed as a sheep, carrying a small blanket):

"Sheep give us wool to make sweaters and blankets."



Costume Ideas for Animal Students:

Cow: Black-and-white spotted shirt or a simple cow costume made from white shirt and jogging pants with paper or fabric spots.

Chicken: Yellow shirt with feathers attached, or a chicken mask.

Pig: Pink shirt or a simple pig mask with snout.

Sheep: White shirt with cotton ball clusters attached to look like wool, or a sheep headband.

Simple animal masks can be made with paper plates attached to popsicle sticks

Scene 3: The Tools

Narrator 1:

"Farmers use many tools to help them with their work. Let's see some tools they use!"

Student 13 (holding a watering can):

"Plants need water to grow. Farmers use watering cans to water their plants."

Student 14 (holding a toy shovel):

"Shovels and hoes help farmers dig and plant seeds."

Student 15 (wearing/carrying a cardboard plow):

"Plows help farmers break up the soil and prepare it for planting."

Student 16 (holding/wearing a tractor prop):

"Tractors help farmers plow fields, plant seeds, and harvest crops."

Costume Ideas for Tool Students:

Watering Can: Blue or green shirt with a cardboard cutout of a watering can or an empty one possibly filled with blue streamers.

Shovel/Hoe: Use plastic toy garden tools.

Plow: Wear a simple gray/brown shirt & carry a cardboard plow made from a box.

Tractor: Craft a cardboard box tractor prop for the student to wear or hold.



Scene 4: The Hard Work

Scene 4: The Hard Work

Narrator 2:

"Farming isn't easy. Farmers work long hours in all kinds of weather. They wake up early to feed the animals and work in the fields. Let's see how hard they work!"

(Students dressed as farmers mime working on the farm, wiping sweat from their brows, carrying tools, planting crops, or feeding animals.)

Narrator 1:

"Farmers work in the rain, sun, and snow, but they always keep going."

All Students (mimicking hard work):

(Students can pretend to dig, water plants, or feed animals as Narrators speak)

Scene 5: The Thank You

Narrator 2:

"Wow! Farmers sure do a lot of work! It's about time to say thank you to them!"

(All students step form a chorus group on stage (risers if possible), holding their signs and props. Together, they face the audience.)

All Students (in unison):

"THANKS, FARMERS!"

🎵Cast sings the song **THANKS, FARMERS!** from the book, You may choose to use the choreography from Option 2 or not.

Narrator 1:

"We appreciate all the hard work that farmers do every day. Without them, we wouldn't have the food we eat or the clothes we wear."

Song: "THANKS, FARMERS!"

(At this point, all students gather together in the center and sing the Thanks, Farmer song. Encourage simple choreography)



CLOSING WORDS:

Narrator 1:

"We all need farmers to help feed us, clothe us, and take care of our land."

Narrator 2:

"Thank you, farmers, for everything you do! Let's give them a hand!"

All Students (in unison):

"THANKS, FARMERS!"

Additional Notes and Suggestions:

Grouping:

You can divide the students into groups based on the types of crops, animals, and tools. Each group gets a role to practice and perform.

Costumes for All: If you're working with younger students, you can use simple props or costumes, like paper masks, aprons, or hats, and make things from basic supplies.

Conclusion:

You can involve all students by assigning "extra" roles without lines. Add more fruits, veggies, animals, tools, farmers and weather elements so each student has a role. By assigning a role to each student, every child gets to participate in a meaningful way. Whether they represent crops, animals, tools, or the hardworking farmers themselves, each student contributes to the performance. This structure makes the story of farming come alive, and every student gets the chance to learn and perform.



References:

<https://mimshousebooks.com/products/thanks-farmers>

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