



Illinois Agriculture Charm



Agriculture is an essential part of the history of Illinois. Throughout the years, many innovations have made farming easier and much more productive. Many of these discoveries and innovations were made right here in Illinois. Another important aspect of Illinois history is the selection of the symbols. Many of our state symbols were suggested by school children and represent the richness and vitality of Illinois.

Directions

Use these items to create the Illinois Agriculture Charm. Put a little of each item in a jewelry-size re-sealable bag. Then punch a hole in the top of the bag and use yarn to make it into a necklace.

	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Relation to Agriculture</u>
State Soil	Drummer-Flannagan	The fertile soil that grows our agricultural crops.
State Flower	Purple Violet	A native wildflower that blooms in early spring.
State Grass	Prairie Grass	Its growth help makes Illinois soils more fertile and is why our state is known as the Prairie State.
Top Crops	Corn, Pumpkins and Soybeans	Illinois ranks #1 in pumpkin production and #1 or #2 annually in corn and soybean production.
State Mammal	White Tailed Deer	Whitetail deer graze on native foods and play an important role in the food web of Illinois. Whitetail deer have a preference for farm crops. This does result in the need to balancing deer numbers so as to satisfy both hunter demand, landowner tolerance and deer health.
State Bird	Cardinal	Consumes insects that can be harmful crops.
State Fish	Blue Gill	Raising fish for consumers in an import market in Illinois agriculture.
State Snack	Popcorn	Illinois is the third largest producer of popcorn in the United States. We have 333 popcorn farms that grow about 47,000 acres of popcorn each year.
State Tree	White Oak Tree	A native tree to Illinois.
State President	Land Grant Universities	Universities provide agriculture career training.
State Insect	Monarch Butterfly	Play important role in the pollination of plants.
State Slogan	Land of Lincoln	
State Dance	Square Dance	

Materials to use for the symbols:

Soil	craft sand or real soil sample
Flower	paper flower or silk flower
Grass	grass seed
Crops	corn, pumpkin and soybean seed
Mammal	cotton ball
Bird	red craft feather
Fish	blue fish confetti
Snack	popcorn seed
Slogan	penny
Tree	acorn or silk leaf
President	graduation confetti for land grant colleges
Bird	red feather for Cardinal
Insect	butterfly confetti or paper cut outs of butterflies
Dance	a square piece of cloth in bandana pattern