



# LINKS TO AGRICULTURE



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## The Magical Bean



Soybeans can be found all over the world! Soybeans originated in Eastern Asia. Typically, each soybean pod contains 2 or 3 beans. Soybeans don't grow very tall. In fact, you are most likely taller than a soybean plant!

The United States grows more soybeans than any other country in the world. As a result, the United States exports soybeans to many different countries. In Japan, soybeans are used to make soy sauce. Soy sauce is a common ingredient in most Japanese food. If you are making soy sauce using the traditional method, it can be a very long process. Sometimes it can take up to a year to make one batch of soy sauce. In Taiwan, soybeans are used to make a different, more smelly kind of food...stinky tofu! People that are from Taiwan call stinky tofu *choudoufu*. The taste of stinky tofu is similar to swiss cheese.











Soybeans can be used for products other than food too. Egypt uses soybeans from the United States to make fish food. Aquaculture, or fish farming, is a large industry in Egypt. The country is the second largest producer of tilapia, a fish you can find in your grocery store. In addition, Argentina, a country in South America, turns soybeans from the United States into biodiesel. Biodiesel is a fuel than can be used to power vehicles and is renewable resource.

## Where in the World?



The United States grows many soybeans. To the right are images of the countries the United States sells their soybeans too. Use a map and the word bank to match the country to its name.

### Top 10 Countries for United States Soybean Exports Soybeans

			
#1 _____	#2 _____	#3 _____	
			
#4 _____	#5 _____	#6 _____	
			
#7 _____	#8 _____	#9 _____	#10 _____

Argentina	China	Egypt	European Union
Indonesia	Japan	Mexico	Taiwan
Thailand	South Korea		



## Career Corner

**Biodiesel Plant Operator**– Biodiesel Plant Operators turn soybeans into fuel for in cars and trucks. They must have good people skills because they are responsible for the entire plant. Since most facilities use computer systems, a plant operator must also be able to use a computer, a variety of apps, and spreadsheets .

### How Plant Operators Benefit Agriculture:

- Purchase soybeans from farmers
- Make a renewable resource

### Plant Operators Study:

- Technology
- Chemistry



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## Farm Facts

- Chinese farmers were growing soybeans 5,000 years ago.
- China buys more soybeans from the United States than any other country.
- More soybeans are grown in the United States than anywhere else in the world.
- Soybeans are an excellent source of fiber.



## Soy Pudding Recipe

### Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla

- 3 T cornstarch
- 2 cups of soymilk

### Directions:

1. Gather the ingredients.
2. In a saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and salt. Stir constantly to avoid lumps.
3. Cook over low heat until the mixture thickens.
4. Remove the pan from the heat and add the vanilla.
5. Let cool for 10 minutes, stirring now and then.
6. Chill for 2-3 hours or until firm.
7. Enjoy your dessert made with ingredients from the farm!



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