



Florida Farms at Work

Written and Illustrated by Nathan Brown



**A Florida Agriculture
Literacy Day Book**



Florida Agriculture
in the Classroom, Inc.
AGRICULTURE KEEPS FLORIDA GREEN

Florida Agriculture Literacy Day

is an annual event held each spring in which hundreds of agriculture industry representatives read a designated children's book about agriculture in elementary classrooms around the state.

The event is a partnership between Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom

is a non-profit association charged with educating Florida students and teachers about the importance of Florida agriculture. It is funded solely by sales of the agriculture specialty license plate known as the "Ag Tag."

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is able to provide Agriculture Literacy Day books and other related items free of charge because of the funding it receives from the Ag Tag.



Florida Farms at Work

A Florida Agriculture Literacy Day Book

Written and Illustrated
by Nathan Brown

Inspired by two previous books
created by Gary Seamans and Mike Wright



“Educate Students About Florida Agriculture”
(352) 846-1391 • www.agtag.org

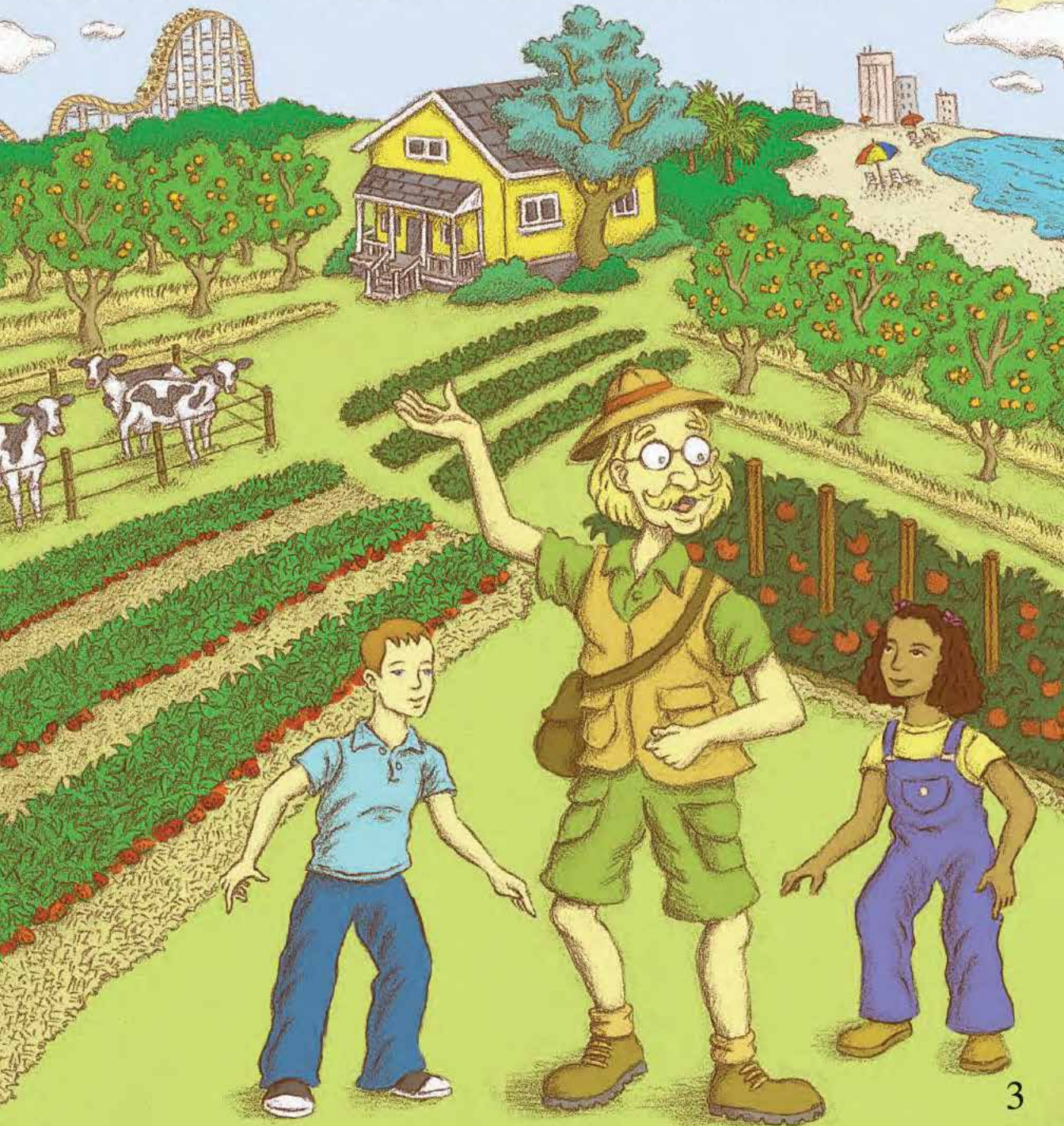


Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
www.Florida-Agriculture.com

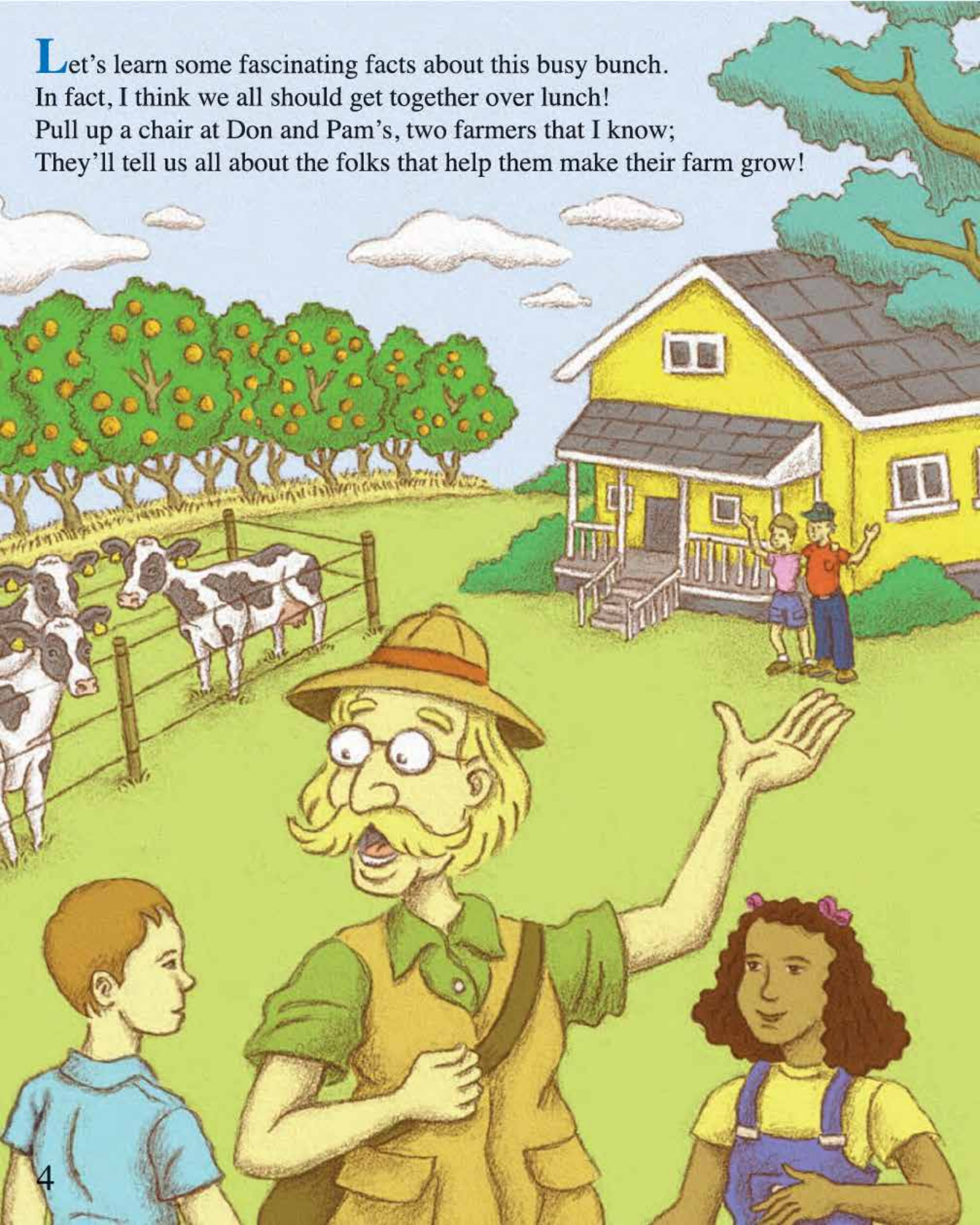
***T**his book is dedicated to everyone
who spends their days helping Florida farms
and to Florida students -
who may join them in the future.*

*Keep growing **BIG** dreams!*

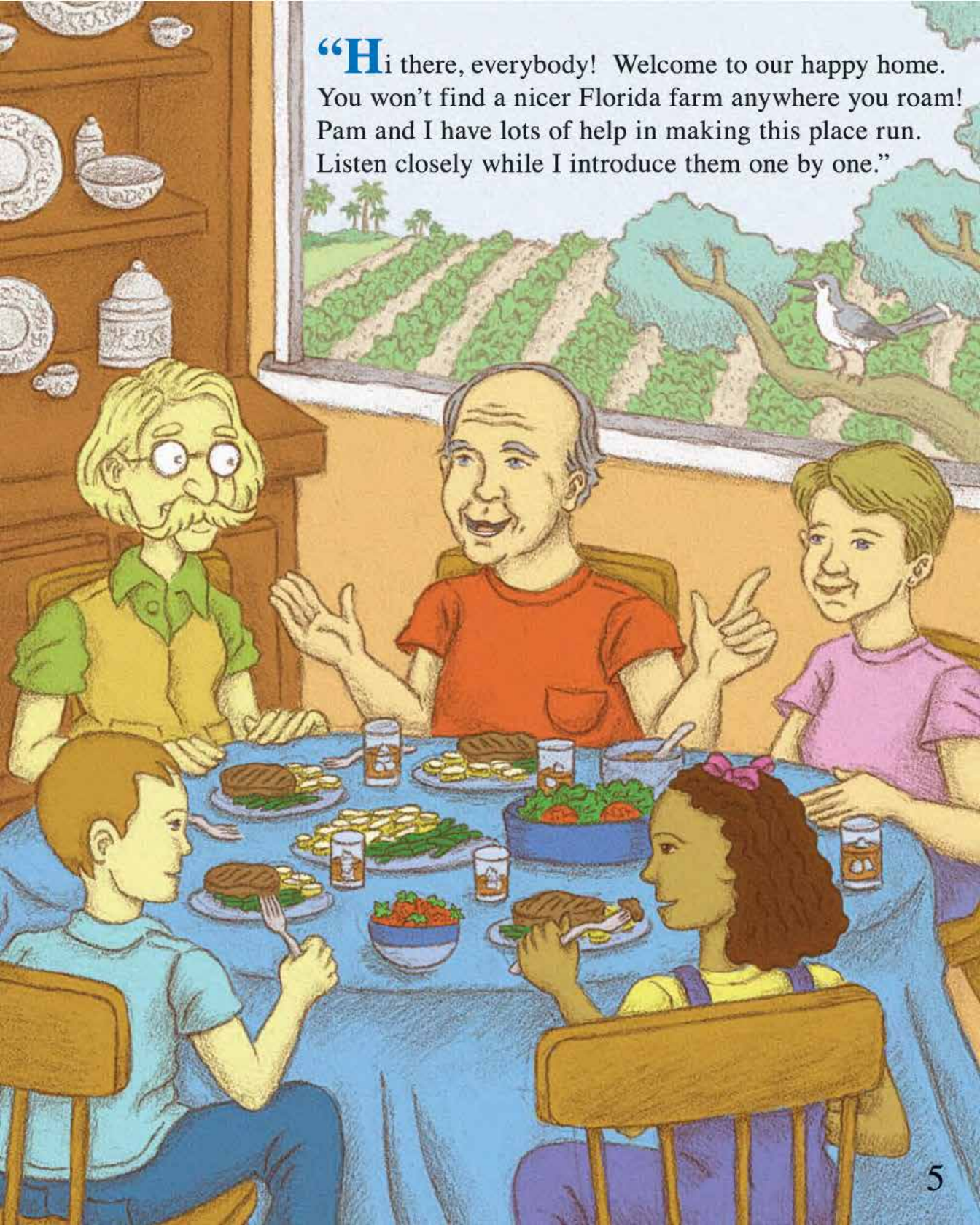
Outside the theme parks with their roller coaster rides,
And in between our coastlines, washed in gently rolling tides,
There's a special group of people that help make Florida great.
They're the farmers and their friends here in the Sunshine State!

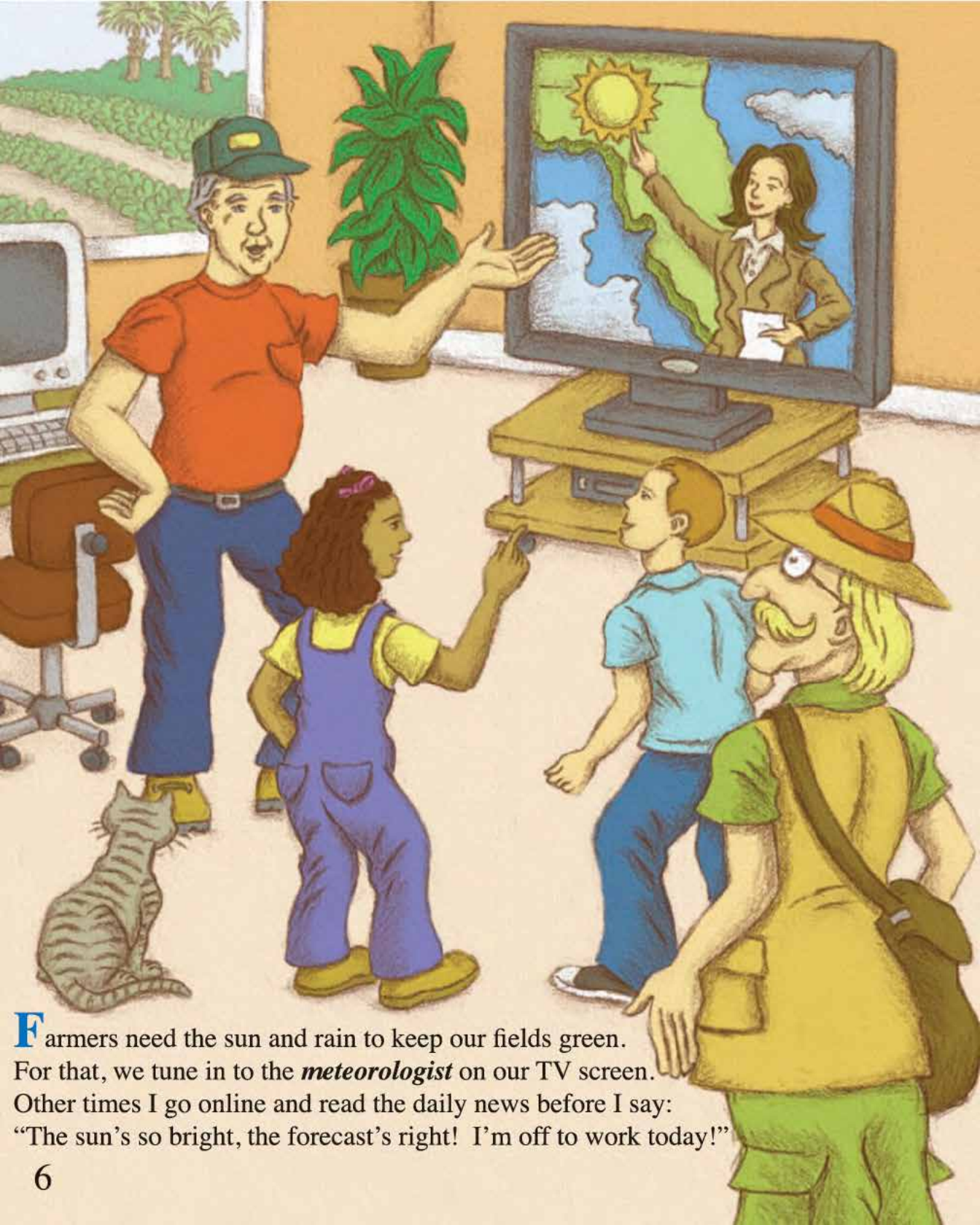


Let's learn some fascinating facts about this busy bunch. In fact, I think we all should get together over lunch! Pull up a chair at Don and Pam's, two farmers that I know; They'll tell us all about the folks that help them make their farm grow!



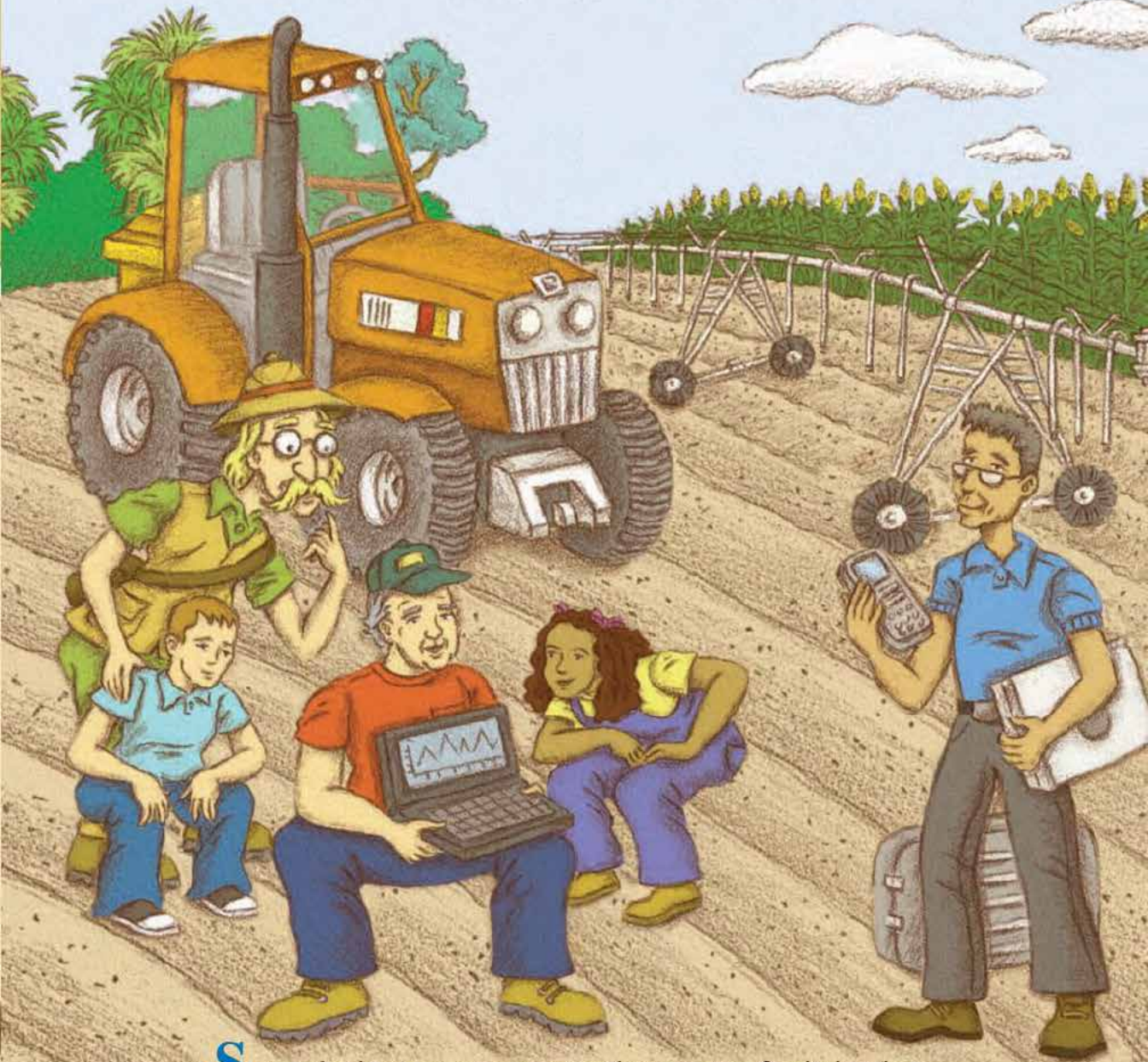
“Hi there, everybody! Welcome to our happy home. You won’t find a nicer Florida farm anywhere you roam! Pam and I have lots of help in making this place run. Listen closely while I introduce them one by one.”





Farmers need the sun and rain to keep our fields green. For that, we tune in to the *meteorologist* on our TV screen. Other times I go online and read the daily news before I say: "The sun's so bright, the forecast's right! I'm off to work today!"

Computer tools do lots of things on Florida farms these days. *Information technicians* help us use them in so many different ways. One tool counts the seeds we plant in every field row. Others track the nutrients we apply to help our plants grow.



Some devices measure water that we use for irrigation To help make Florida farms the most efficient in the nation. Another helps drive the tractor down the field rows end to end. When I need to make these work, an *I.T. whiz* is my best friend!

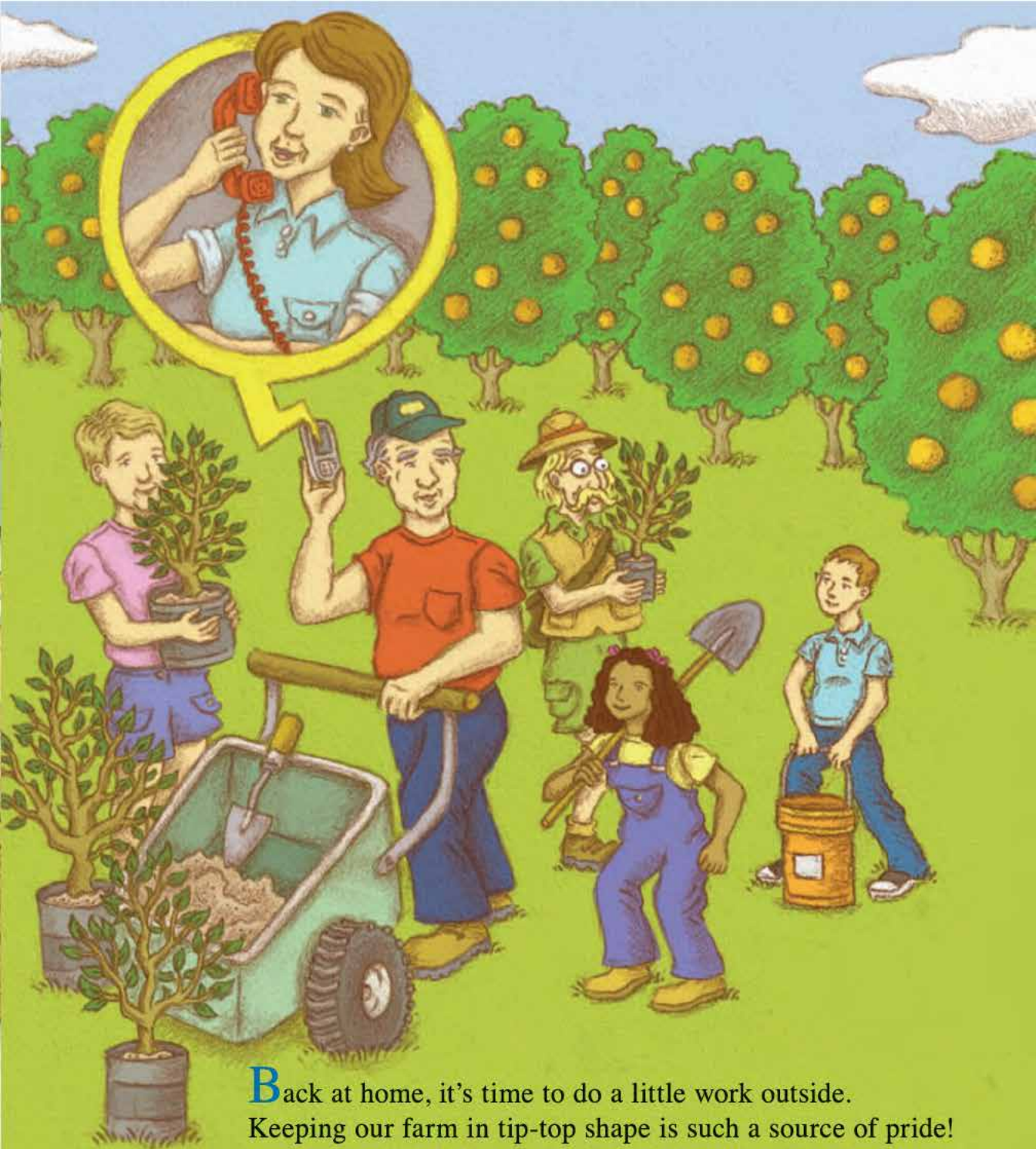
Buzzing bees and butterflies are tiny farmers too.
They fly from flower to flower in the sparkling morning dew.
Entomologists study insects and know their work is really great,
For plants can not make fruits or seeds unless they pollinate!



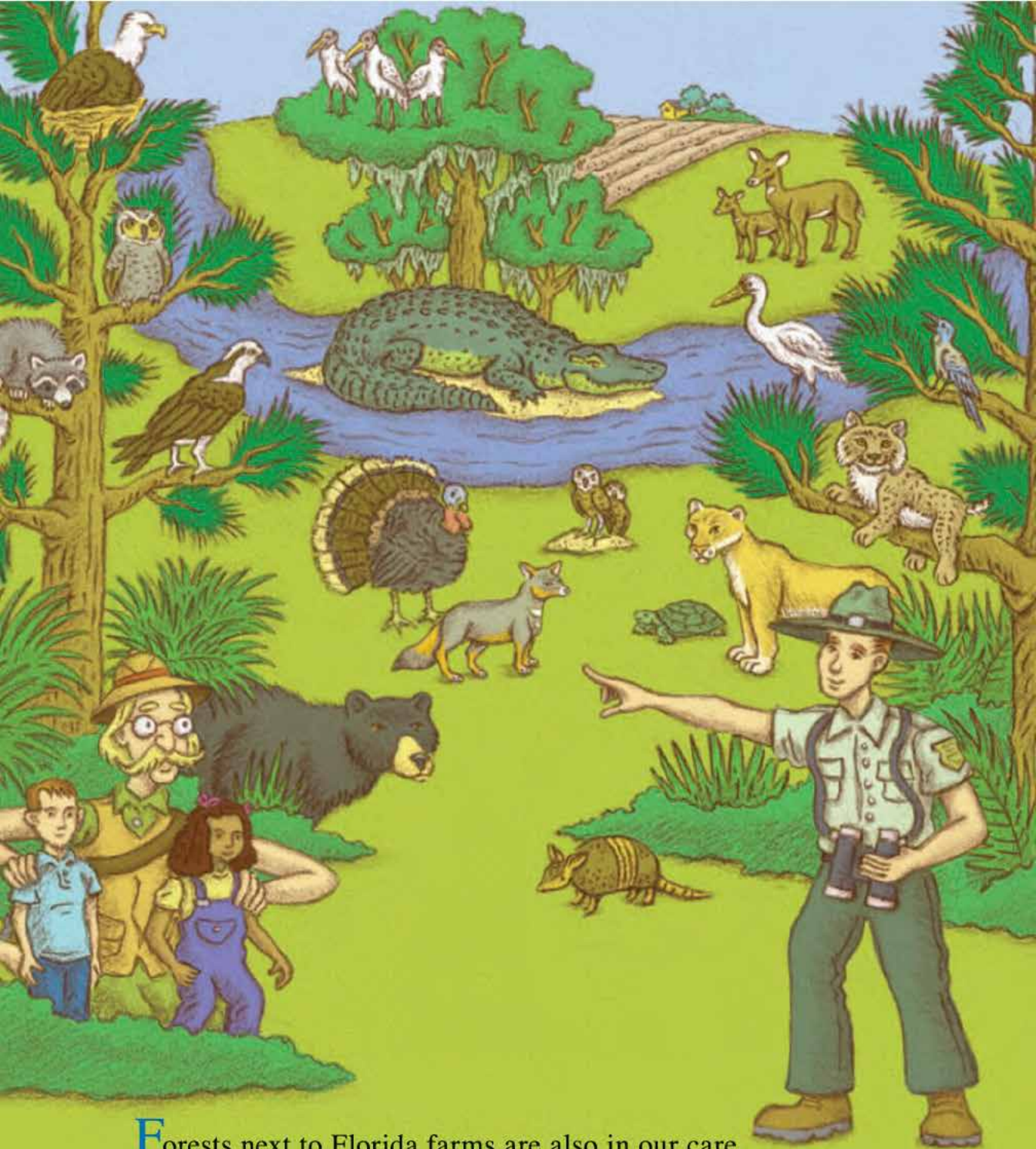


Some bugs in our state are pests brought in from far off places.
They sneak along in shipments and in travelers' suitcases.
To stop them at airports, or the seaports by the bay,
Takes teamwork by the *Beagle Brigade*. . . these noses know the way!





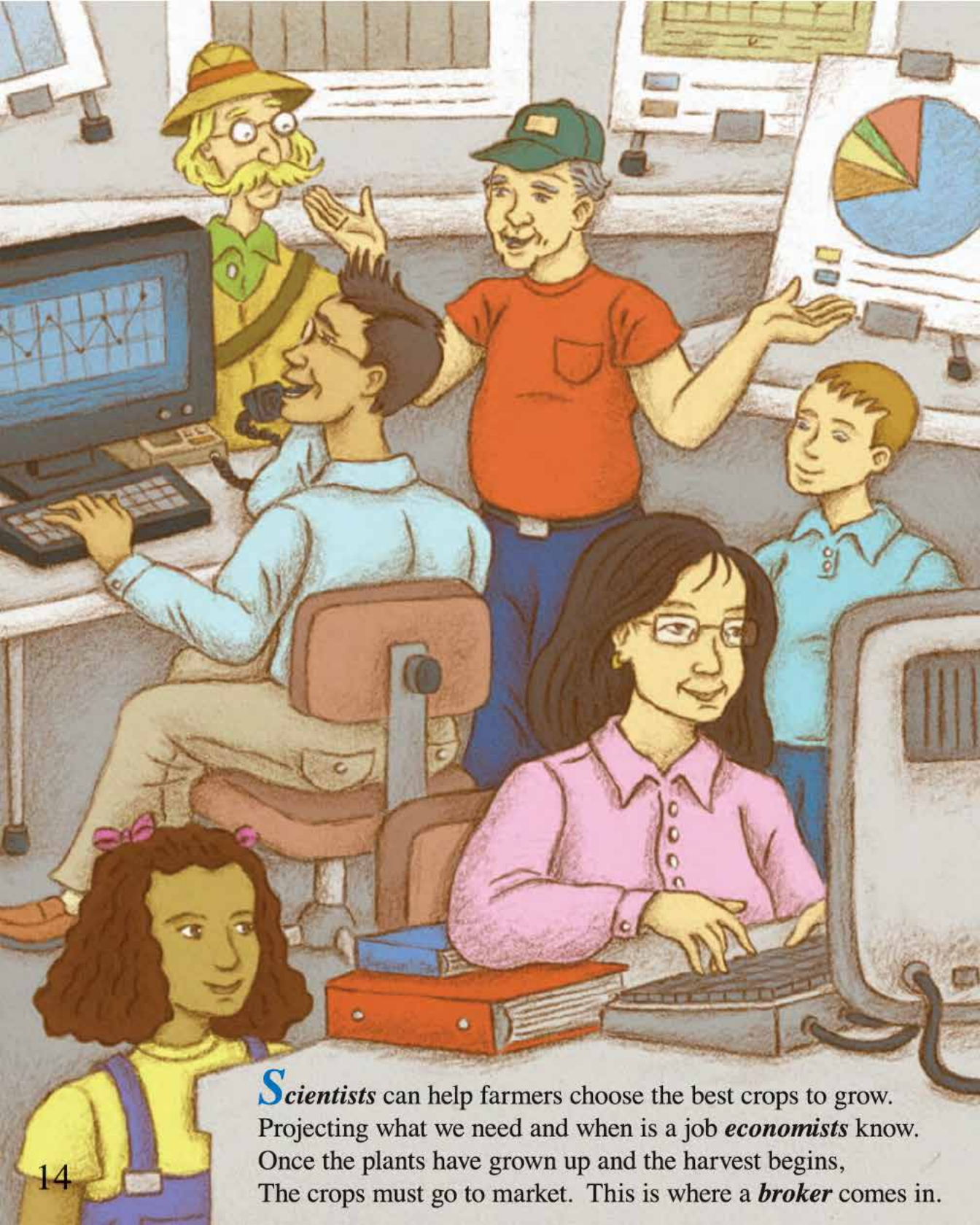
Back at home, it's time to do a little work outside. Keeping our farm in tip-top shape is such a source of pride! *Extension agents* have good advice each time we place a call. They help to keep us "growing green," and seem to know it all!



Forests next to Florida farms are also in our care. The animals and plants that live there aren't found just anywhere! Forest fires must be prevented to keep our farms from danger. To help keep woodlands safe for all, it takes a *forest ranger*.

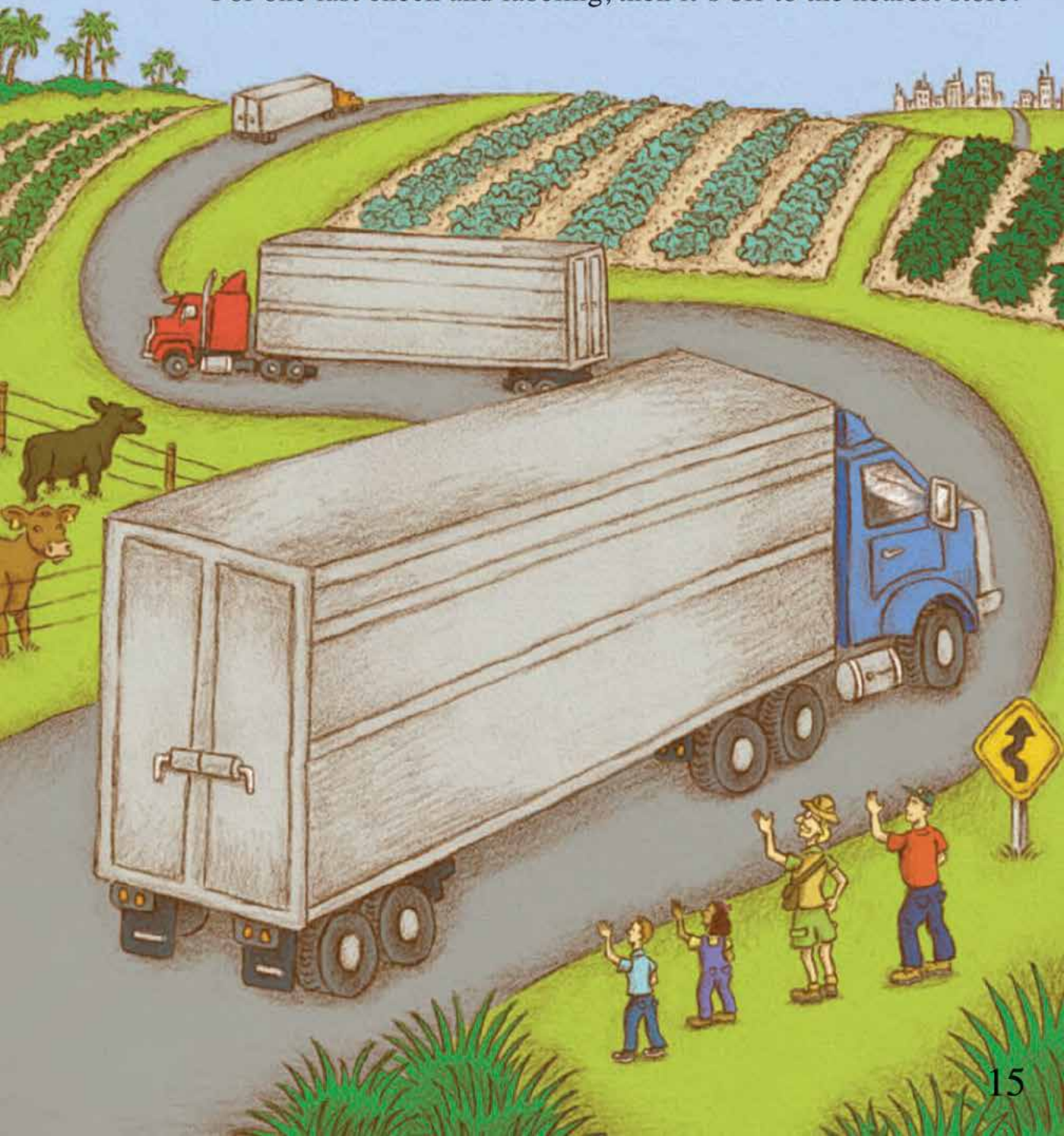
Now that our farm is green and safe, it's time to plant our fields. To grow up, what do young seeds need to get the greatest yields? Plant nutrients, of course! These help make healthy soil food too. A *fertilizer representative* can help find the right one for you.





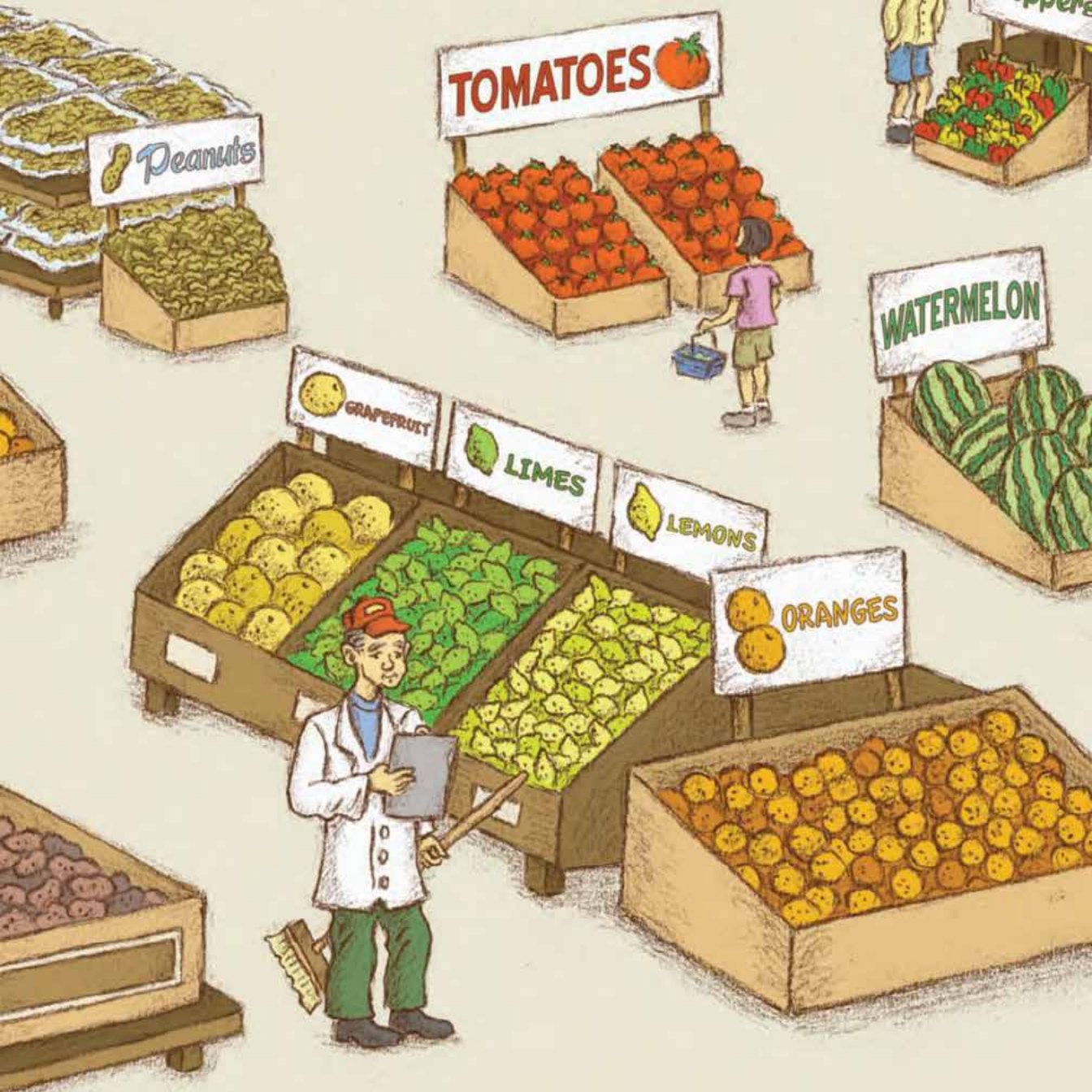
Scientists can help farmers choose the best crops to grow. Projecting what we need and when is a job **economists** know. Once the plants have grown up and the harvest begins, The crops must go to market. This is where a **broker** comes in.

Our products need a ride to town, after they've been sold;
Truck drivers will take them over roadways new and old.
Next stop's with the **processors**, before they ride some more,
For one last check and labeling, then it's off to the nearest store!

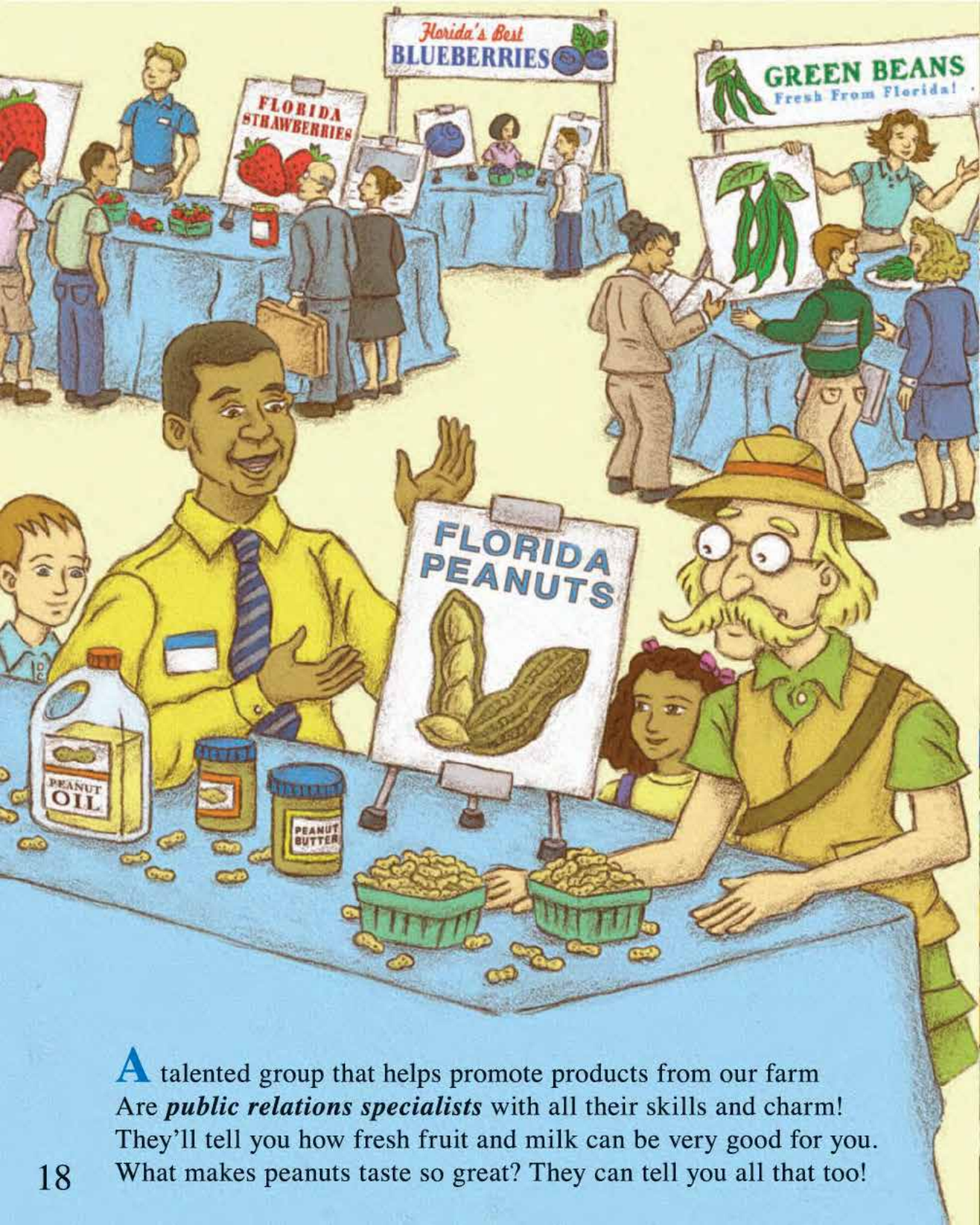


Shopping at Florida grocery stores is an extra special treat! Their fresh and tasty merchandise simply can't be beat.

Retail grocers stock their shelves with foods from across our state, Be sure to clip a coupon and you'll get a sweet rebate!







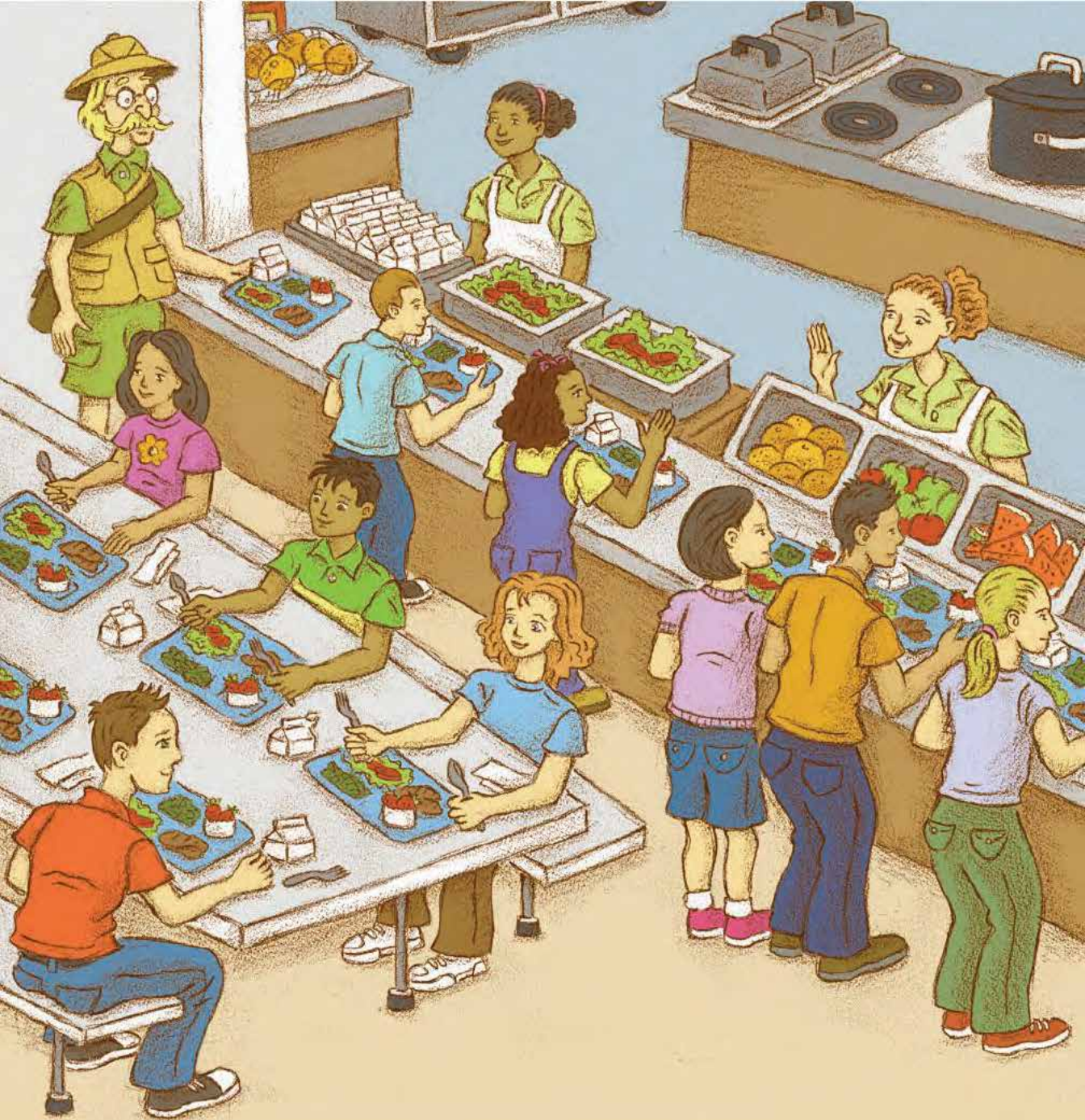
A talented group that helps promote products from our farm
Are *public relations specialists* with all their skills and charm!
They'll tell you how fresh fruit and milk can be very good for you.
What makes peanuts taste so great? They can tell you all that too!

Listen to a **registered dietician** when your family plans a meal. They'll help you choose healthy foods. Just think how good you'll feel! "Eat the right amounts from the Five Food Groups every day. Veggies, fruits, grains, meat and dairy; MyPyramid shows the way.



Now you know what foods to choose when shopping for a deal,
And look for Florida foods the next time you're out for a healthy meal.
A *chef* knows how to make you a delectable creation -
Prepared with foods from our home state; the yummiest in the nation!





Another place to get a healthy meal is at your school. Breakfast or lunch? What could be more cool? At your next meal be sure to thank the *cafeteria staff* and say: “Everything tastes great and helps me make it through the day!”

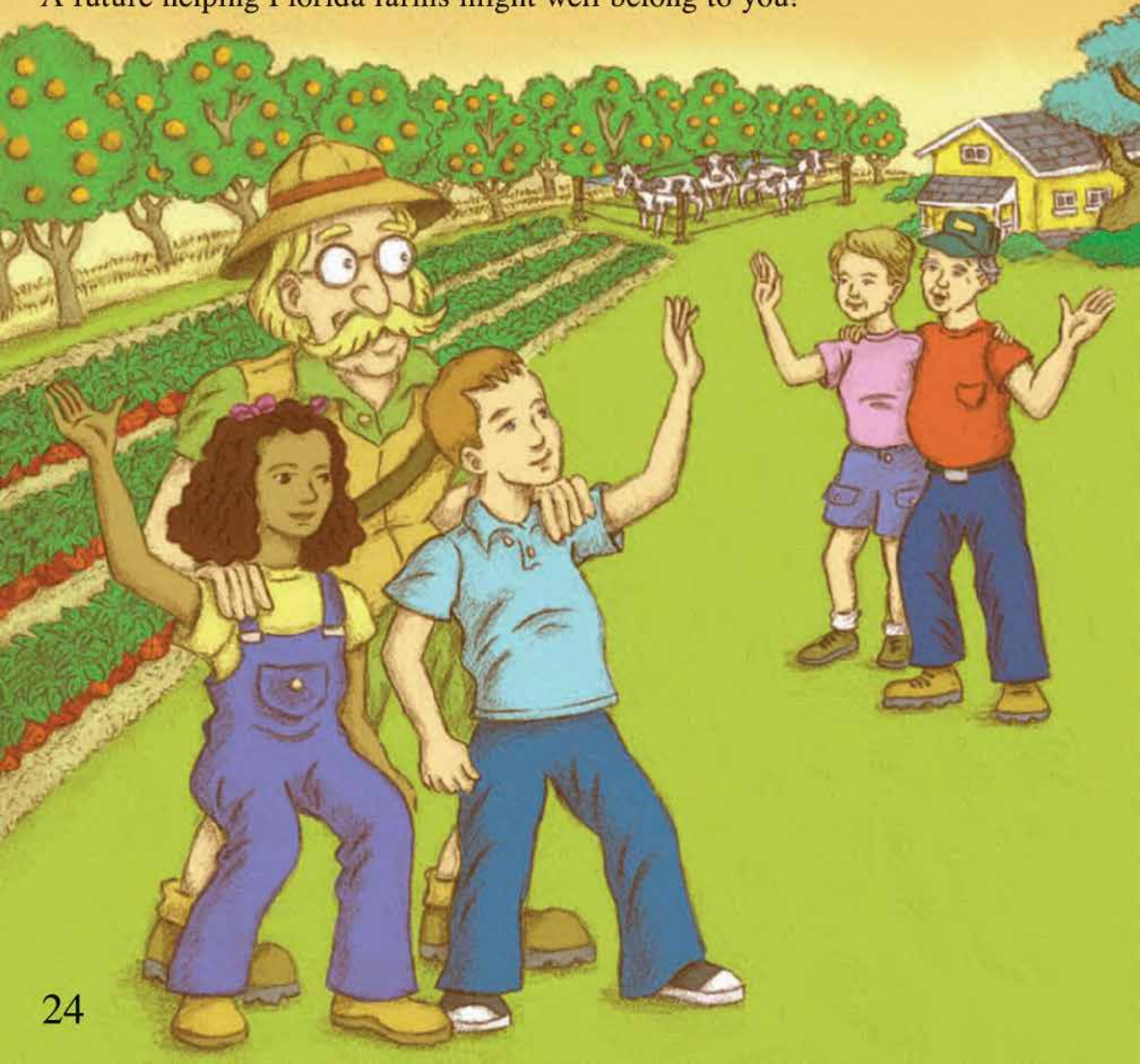
Once lunch is done, head back to class and your *teacher* waiting there. “Next up, a visit to the school garden for some lessons and fresh air. Our Florida crops are thriving, nearly everything’s in bloom. There’s nothing like our little farm outside our own classroom!”





Back at Don and Pam's, our time to visit is through.
It's time to clear the table because there are more chores outside to do.
The strawberries need weeding. The cattle should be fed.
As you leave, please remember all that we have said.

Florida farms have lots of help to keep them running well.
Hard work and dedication are important, as you can tell.
Helping provide the nation with food and fiber is some of the best work you can do.
A future helping Florida farms might well belong to you!



Job Descriptions:

Meteorologist: Person who forecasts and reports weather conditions.

Information Technician: Professional who maintains and assists others in the use of advanced computer technology and electronic devices.

Entomologist: Scientist who specializes in the biological study of insects.

Beagle Brigade: Team of beagles and their human handlers who inspect luggage at U.S. ports of entry and sniff out agricultural products.

Extension Agent: Person who collects, analyzes, and evaluates agricultural data to assist farmers in effective management of their land and resources.

Forest Ranger: Officer in charge of protecting and managing public forests.

Fertilizer Representative: Sales professional who specializes in offering and educating customers in the use of plant nutrient products for agriculture.

Scientist: Person who observes, identifies, describes and theoretically explains natural and physical occurrences.

Economist: Specialist in social science dealing with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Broker: Person who acts as an agent for others to negotiate contracts, purchases or sales in return for a fee or commission.

Retail Grocer: Person who sells food items and various household supplies.

Public Relations Specialist: Communications specialist who educates potential customers about the benefits of a product or service.

Registered Dietitian: Expert in nutrition studies related to personal health.

Chef: Head cook of a large kitchen staff.

School Cafeteria Staff: People who prepare meals for students in schools.

Teacher: Person who educates students in one or more areas of study.

**“A future helping Florida farms
might well belong to you!”**

**Meet the people who go to work each day
to help Florida farmers provide food and
fiber to people nearby and far away.**



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