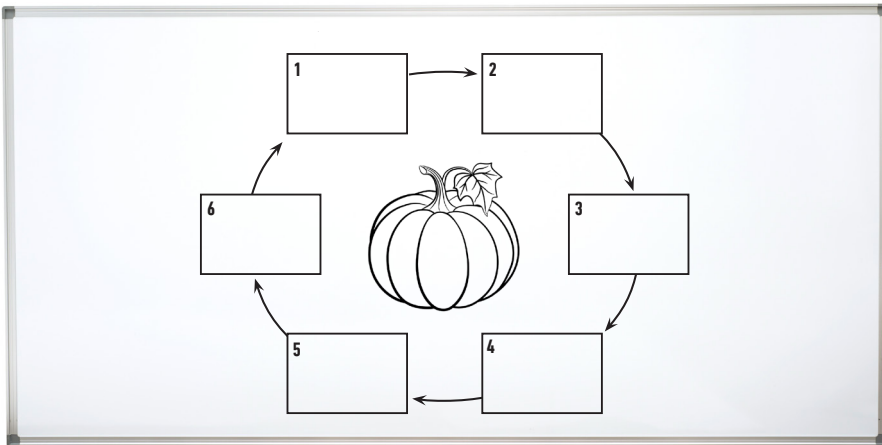


ELF ON THE SHELF

TEACHING AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Cut out the items below to dress your Elf on the Shelf for their Farm Bureau activities



Illinois Ag Mag Pumpkins
An agricultural magazine for kids

#1 in Pumpkins
Illinois farmers grow more pumpkins than anywhere else in the world!
In fact, they grow 10-15% of the pumpkins used for processing. Most of that processing takes place in Morton, Illinois—The Pumpkin Capital of the World.

What are Pumpkins?

Pumpkins are members of the gourd family, which includes cucumbers, watermelons, and squashes. There are over 100 varieties of pumpkins in North America and Mexico. Even though pumpkins originated in the western hemisphere, they are now grown in 38 countries except Antarctica. Pumpkins have been grown in North America for over 10,000 years.

Pumpkins are grown primarily for processing, with a small percentage grown for ornamental uses through jack-o'-lanterns, harvest markets, and table sales.

Most pumpkins are processed into canned pumpkin and canned oil. Processing pumpkins are similar in size and shape to a watermelon with a yellow-orange flesh that is most or neutral pumpkins.

Pumpkins can range in size from small ones that weigh less than 100 pounds, to large pumpkins that weigh over 1,000 pounds. Most of these pumpkins are used for decorative purposes. The pumpkins come in many sizes, but the ones that are used for processing are the most common. Pumpkins in the 10 to 25-pound range are primarily used for jack-o'-lanterns, but they can also be used for processing.

Illinois Pumpkin Production

Year	Yield Measured in Pounds per Acre	Yield Measured in Tons per Acre
2017	27,200	137
2016	27,200	137
2015	27,200	137
2014	27,200	137
2013	27,200	137
2012	27,200	137
2011	27,200	137
2010	27,200	137
2009	27,200	137
2008	27,200	137
2007	27,200	137
2006	27,200	137
2005	27,200	137
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1911	27,200	137
1910	27,200	137
1909	27,200	137
1908	27,200	137
1907	27,200	137
1906	27,200	137
1905	27,200	137
1904	27,200	137
1903	27,200	137
1902	27,200	137
1901	27,200	137
1900	27,200	137

Top 5 Counties for Number of Pumpkin Acres Harvested in 2017

County	Acres Harvested
Stark	856
Peoria	1,281
Tazewell	3,754
Mason	4,308
Macoupin	759

1 acre = 43,560 square feet

Over 85% of the world's canned pumpkin is processed in Morton, Illinois at the Libby's Plant.

