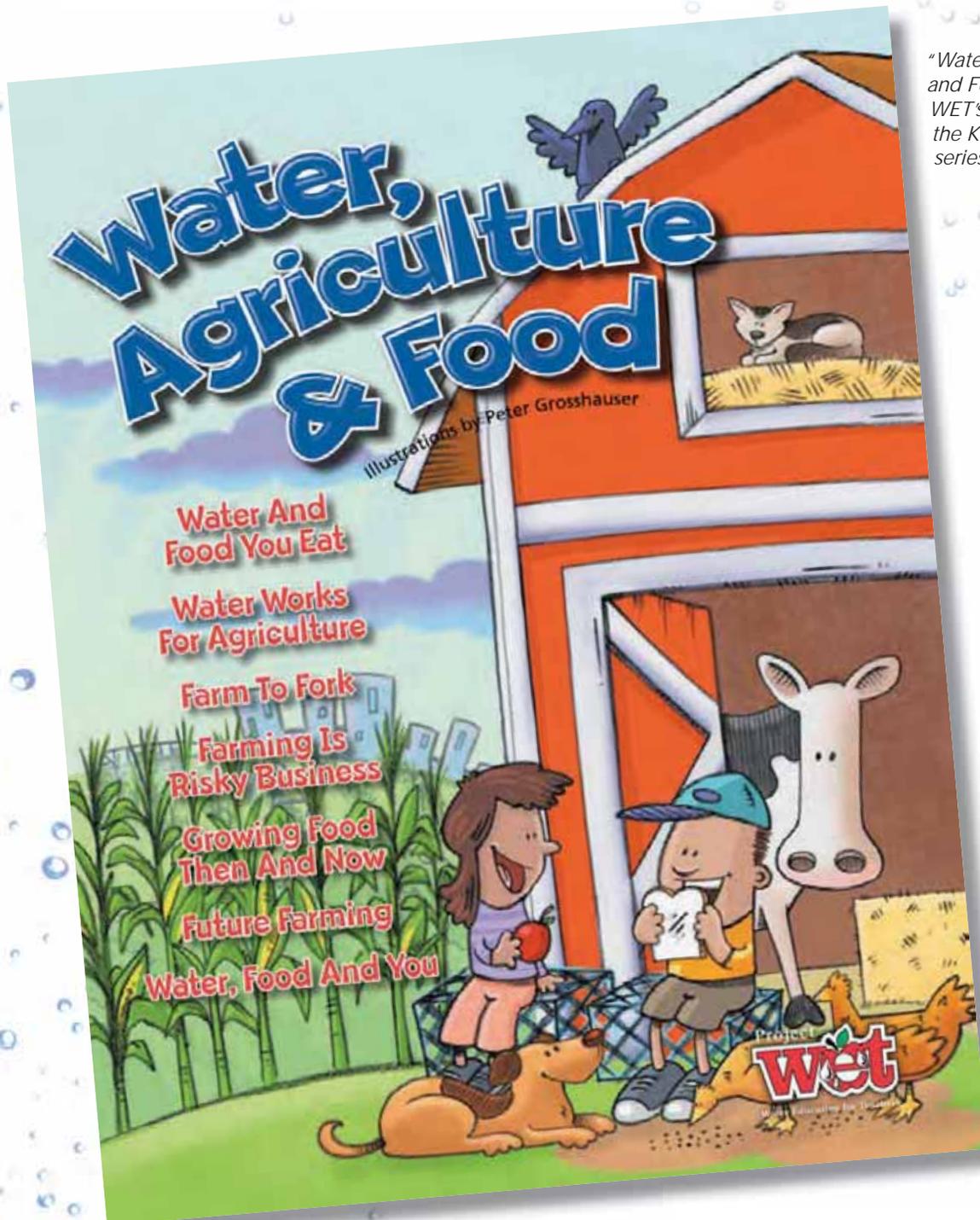


# New Resource Helps Young People Understand "Water, Agriculture and Food"

All art taken from the "Water, Agriculture and Food" children's booklet,  
illustrated by Peter Grosshauser and published by the Project WET Foundation.

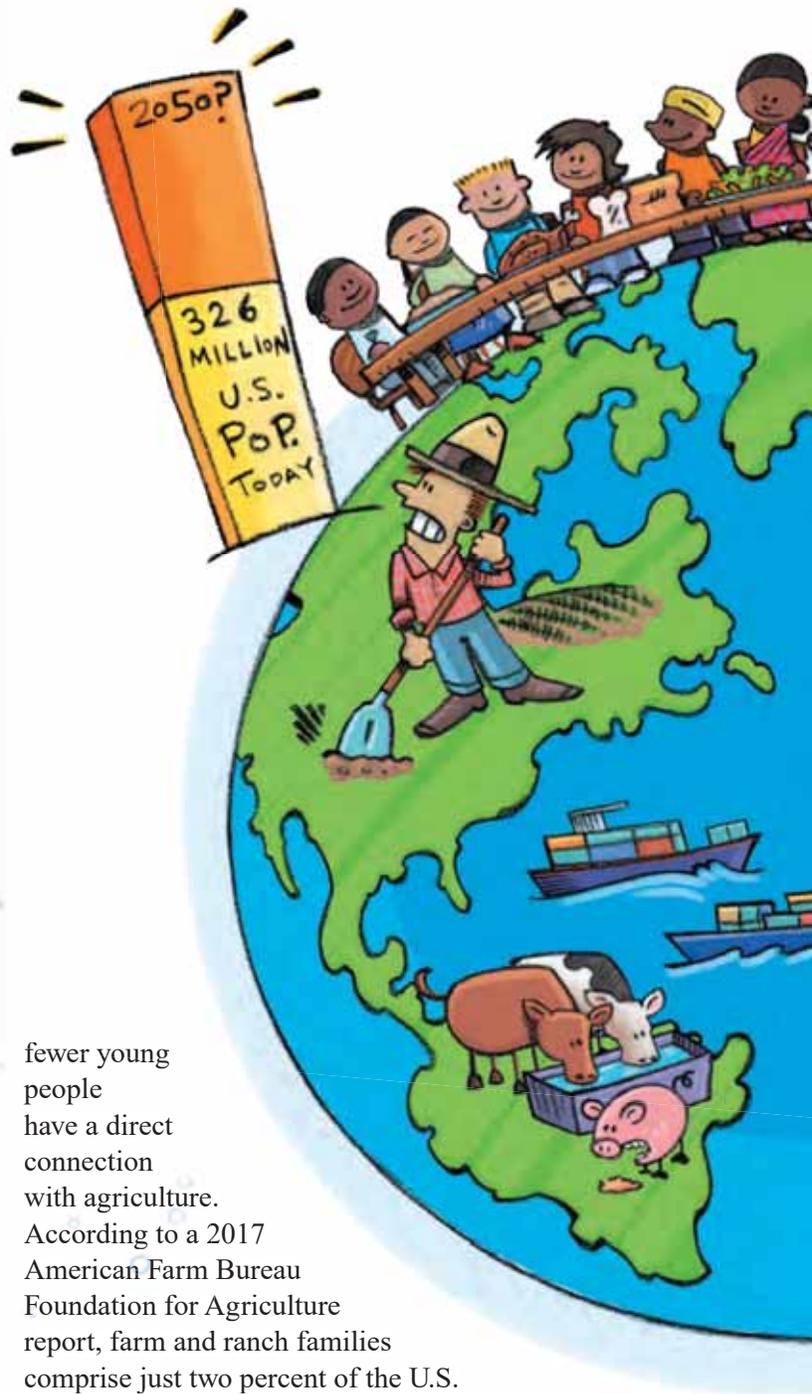


"Water, Agriculture and Food" is Project WET's 61st title in the Kids In Discovery series (KIDs).

A new children's activity booklet with North Dakota roots is teaching young people nationwide about the link between the food we eat and the water we share to meet the needs of a growing population. "Water, Agriculture and Food" was published in April, thanks in part to Doris Griffin, a Benson County commissioner. Doris donated seed funding for the booklet's development in honor of her late husband, Stanley "Stan" Griffin. A North Dakota farmer, rancher and teacher, Stan had a keen interest in teaching young people about water and agriculture. (For more about the Griffins, see the April 2017 issue of *North Dakota Water*.)

The Griffins are not the only North Dakota connection for "Water, Agriculture and Food." The Project WET Foundation, the nonprofit water education organization that published the booklet, got its start in the Peace Garden State. Project WET was founded at the North Dakota State Water Commission in the mid-1980s. Support from Commission employees, state water leaders and educators helped craft teaching methods and materials that have stood the test of time. Through extensive partnerships and successful fundraising efforts, Project WET has grown from its North Dakota origins to become a global leader in water resources education, working in more than 70 countries.

"Water, Agriculture and Food" is the 61st title in Project WET's Kids In Discovery series (KIDs) of children's activity booklets and covers a subject of critical national importance at a time when fewer and



fewer young people have a direct connection with agriculture. According to a 2017 American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture report, farm and ranch families comprise just two percent of the U.S. population.

"Agriculture provides everything we eat and many items that we wear and use every day," said Project WET Foundation President and CEO Dennis Nelson, a North Dakota native with deep family roots in water, farming, ranching and agri-business. "Even so, very few urban kids actually understand the contribution that farmers and ranchers make to society, and fewer still grasp the



**Above:** Some farmers are now raising crickets for people to eat! Cricket flour is nutritious and versatile, and cricket farming requires smaller amounts of land and water.

**Below:** A person's "water footprint" includes not only the water that they use directly but also the water that agricultural producers use to grow the food they eat.



Below: By 2050, agricultural producers will have to grow 70 percent more food than what is currently produced.



relationship between food and water. 'Water, Agriculture and Food' will help young people make these connections."

A 16-page resource that kids can use on their own or with guidance from a teacher or parent, "Water, Agriculture and Food" features seven interactive two-page spreads with games, exercises, experiments and assessments. Readers of "Water, Agriculture and Food" will learn about food from farm to fork, including the role of risk, land and water stewardship, dryland and irrigated agriculture, and the history of how food is grown, as well as the role of technology and

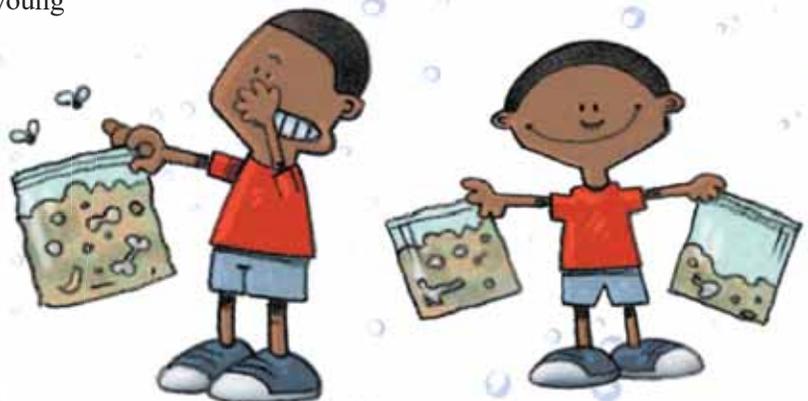
innovation in agriculture today and in the future.

Young people will learn where some of their favorite foods come from, including how water is used to bring it to them. The concept of food and water footprints is covered, with an emphasis on both the water that everyone uses directly for actions such as drinking, bathing and cooking and the water that farmers and ranchers use to grow and produce the things that we eat and drink every day.

Food waste, a topic that has been making headlines in recent months, is also covered. Experts estimate 30 percent or more of all food purchased is discarded. When food is wasted, the water that was used to grow it is wasted, too. While some waste is beyond consumers' control—as when crops are lost during harvest, transport, processing, storage or sale—the book offers ways young people can take simple actions to keep food out of landfills.

"Given estimates that by 2050 agricultural producers will have to grow 70 percent more food than what is currently produced to feed the world's growing population, helping young people understand water management and agriculture is crucial to meeting future demand and to understanding food security," Nelson explains. "Even if kids don't choose a career related to agriculture, they need to understand the food system and how it is linked to water to address these future challenges as both consumers and decision-makers. We hope 'Water, Agriculture and Food' will help them do that."

"Water, Agriculture and Food" is available for purchase in print or as a digital download at <http://store.projectwet.org> or by calling 866-337-5486.



Above: Kids can take action to reduce food waste—discarded food accounts for 30 percent or more of all food purchased.

