



# Let It Grow!

## Agriculture



### Boy Scout Nova Award Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the Boy Scout Nova Awards Guidebook.  
 This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your counselor.  
 You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.  
 You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed,  
 and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.  
 If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show",  
 "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

**Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in the Boy Scout Nova Awards Guidebook (Pub. 34033 – SKU 614936).  
 The requirements were issued in 2017 • This workbook was updated in June 2018.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>



Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
 Send comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **Nova Award** to: [Program.Content@Scouting.Org](mailto:Program.Content@Scouting.Org)

**This module is designed to help you explore where your food comes from and how agriculture affects your life each day. Agriculture includes growing crops and raising animals to provide food and other products.**

1. Choose A or B or C and complete ALL the requirements.

A. Watch about three hours total of shows or documentaries related to agriculture or farming. Then do the following:

What was watched?	Date	Start Time	Duration

Some examples include—but are not limited to—shows found on PBS (“America’s Heartland,” “America Revealed,” “NOVA”), Discovery Channel, Science Channel, National Geographic Channel, History Channel, TED Talks (online videos), or “Good Eats” on the Food Network. You may choose to watch a live performance or movie at a planetarium or science museum instead of watching a media production. You may watch online productions with your counselor’s approval and under your parent’s supervision; appropriate websites include [www.americasheartland.org](http://www.americasheartland.org) and [www.neok12.com/Agriculture.htm](http://www.neok12.com/Agriculture.htm)

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Then do the following:

1. Make a list of at least five questions or ideas from the show(s) you watched.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

1.	
2.	

- B. Read (about three hours total) about anything related to agriculture or farming.

Books on these topics may be found at your local library. Examples of magazines include—but are not limited to—Odyssey, Kids Discover, National Geographic Kids, Highlights, and Owl.

What was read?	Date	Start Time	Duration

Then do the following:

1. Make a list of at least five questions or ideas from each article.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

1.	
2.	

C Do a combination of reading and watching (about three hours total).

What was watched or read?	Date	Start Time	Duration

Then do the following:

1. Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from each article or show.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Complete ONE merit badge from the following list. (Choose one that you have not already used toward another Nova award.)

- |   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Science               | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mammal Study                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Mechanics               | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening    | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Science               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil and Water Conservation |

After completion, discuss with your counselor how the merit badge you earned uses agriculture.

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3. Act like a farmer! Think about crops or animals that are found on a farm, and think about the different kinds of farms. Then choose TWO from A or B or C.

A. With your counselor, choose two of the following topics related to food production or processing, and investigate them. Discuss your findings with your counselor.

1. Where did the food you ate for dinner last night come from?


Pick one food item and learn more about each of its ingredients.


Where were those ingredients grown, and how did the food item get to your table?


2. What kind of equipment is used on a farm?


3. How were food plants invented?


Where do most food plants come from?


- 4. How and why are scientists working to develop plants that don't need as much water?


- 5. If a big disaster wiped out a lot of food plants, how would we get more of them?


How do seed banks work?


- B. Define and learn about two of the following, and discuss with your counselor.

- 1. Farming practice categories (conventional, sustainable, till, low-till, and no-till)


- 2. Conventional, organic, and biotech farming (compare and contrast)


- 3. Effects of weather on farming


- 4. Converting biomass into energy


- 5. STEM careers in agriculture (food science, plant science, farming, agricultural engineering)




4. Visit a farm, botanical garden, grocery store, or any other location where farm produce can be found.  
If a visit is not possible, you can do a virtual tour online with your parent's permission and counselor's approval.

Location visited:

- A. During your visit, talk with someone in charge about how the plants are grown or animals are raised, and how the food is processed.


- B. Discuss with your counselor the food science involved at the place you visited.


5. Discuss with your counselor how farming affects your everyday life.


When working on Nova and Supernova awards, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-nova.pdf>. You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.