***Lesson 18: Exploring Cheese – Teacher’s Guide***

***Estimated Time for Completion – 45 Minutes***

**Student Learning Objectives:**

* As a result of this lesson the student will…
	+ Explore the dairy cheese industry
	+ Identify the factors that contribute to cheese demand
	+ Explore cheese varieties and production.

**Purpose:** In the U.S. it seems that we find cheese on almost everything we eat. We put cheese on burgers, pizza, pasta, vegetables, -- if it can be eaten, somebody has probably tried putting cheese on it. It is important as consumers to know as much as we can about the products we consume. Through this lesson, you will have an opportunity to dig through information about the popular food item “cheese”.

**Directions:** Go to the following website: http://www.agmrc.org. Click on Commodities and

Products, Livestock, Dairy, Cheese. Use the information along with any other needed research to answer the following questions.

1. What three animals produce all traditional cheeses?
* First, select the “Commodities and Products” link.
* Then, select the “Livestock” link.
* Select “Dairy”
* Select “Cheese”
* Look in the “Overview” section to find the desired information.
1. How does U.S. cheese production rank globally?
* First, select the “Commodities and Products” link.
* Then, select the “Livestock” link.
* Select “Dairy”
* Select “Cheese”
* Look in the “Production” section to find the desired information.
1. Briefly describe U.S. per capita cheese consumption.
* First, select the “Commodities and Products” link.
* Then, select the “Livestock” link.
* Select “Dairy”
* Select “Cheese”
* Look in the “Demand” section to find the desired information.
1. What factors have led to increases in U.S. cheese consumption?
* First, select the “Commodities and Products” link.
* Then, select the “Livestock” link.
* Select “Dairy”
* Select “Cheese”
* Look in the “Demand” section to find the desired information.
1. Find a “specialty cheese” and describe what makes it a specialty.
* First, select the “Commodities and Products” link.
* Then, select the “Livestock” link.
* Select “Dairy”
* Select “Cheese”
* Look in the “Value-added Products” section to find the desired information.

**Reinforcement Activity: A cheesy life**

In the table below, list 10 food items you commonly consume that contain cheese, and find 2 cheese items which are less common. Then research each cheese, and determine which type of animal that cheese is made from.

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| **Food Item** | **Animal** |
| **Common** | **Common** |
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| **Uncommon** | **Uncommon** |
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