

How are farmers respectful?

A 4th grade student at Carthage Elementary asks, "How are farmers respectful?" Farmers are respectful in many ways. First, farmers are respectful to their animals. Farmers go out of their way to make their animals comfortable, such as providing cows waterbeds to sleep on, letting the animals exhibit their natural behaviors, keeping them safe, and feeding them nutritiously.

Farmers are respectful to the environment. They are caretakers of our land. They nurture the soil with nutrients from their animals manure, reduce soil erosion, conserve land, and create wildlife habitats. Some farmers plant buffers like trees and shrubs along waterways to reduce soil erosion and protect waterways. Farmers can also sequester or capture carbon in the soil through no-tilling practices. By not tilling the soil, carbon is captured and is not able to become a harmful greenhouse gas, CO₂.

Farmers deserve a lot of respect. They are the food providers of the world. In the United States farmers make up only two percent of our population, and feed around 318 million people. Next time you see a farmer, make sure you thank them.

~ Kaitlyn Lawrence, Local Foods Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County