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### **What Does Agriculture Mean to Me?**

There he is, that guy I know, he's up early today. He's pouring his coffee into a thermos, for it's going to be a long day. He will be seeding his crop. He will continuously be checking the grain market. He will be fixing the machinery. He will be looking onward, hoping that those clouds up there pour down their refreshing water when they should, and refrain from doing so when the crops couldn't drink another sip. That guy is my father. Since I am a farmer's son, I am affected differently by agriculture.

Farming is a symbol of hope to me. It passes around the food at dinner time, it puts the clothes that I have on my back, it designs and digs, and builds the house that shelters me from cold. Farming, in a sense, raised me to who I am today. Only farmer's sons can say they were nursed by those combines and tractors out in the yard. Since I am a farmer's son, I have a different understanding of how agriculture affects the world.

Agriculture provides jobs for approximately 22 million Americans, according to North Carolina State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences. In this way, agriculture is a huge boost for the economy.

Many people think about agriculture as a big business being run by huge corporations, but for me, I think about it as that guy I know, carrying his thermos out to that tractor right before dawn.