**Introduction**

In this game, you will take on the role of a farm machinery manager. Your goal is to make strategic decisions about equipment purchases while working within a set budget and managing a specific amount of farmland. You will need to evaluate costs, prioritize needs, and determine if your selections allow you to complete necessary fieldwork efficiently. After making your purchases, you will use an online tool to assess whether your farm can successfully operate with the machinery you chose. This activity will help you understand the challenges of farm management, including budgeting, equipment selection, and operational efficiency.

**Materials**

**Per student**

* Computer
* Calculator
* Farm machinery management game – student worksheet
* Pencil

**Procedure**

**Part 1**

1. Budget: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Group strategy:
   1. What factors will you consider when purchasing equipment?
   2. How will you prioritize your budget?

**Part 2: Auction Tracking**

1. Fill out the table below

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Auction Round | Equipment type | Equipment purchased | Cost | Remaining budget |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |

1. What were the biggest challenges in making purchasing decisions?
2. Did you need to adjust your strategy at any point? Why or why not?

**Part 3: Evaluating your choices**

1. Crop reporting district selected: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Total acres managed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. Acres of Corn:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Acres of Soybeans:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Fill out the table below

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Task | Total Field Days Needed |
| Tillage |  |
| Planting |  |
| Harvest |  |
| Total |  |

1. Projected ending date for tillage, planting and weed control:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Projected ending date for harvesting:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion**

1. Will your farm be able to complete all necessary fieldwork on time? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. If no, what do you think the limiting factor is?

1. If you played the game again, would you make the same decisions? Why or why not?
2. How does this activity relate to real-world farm management?