APPENDIX 1

Extension

Teachers, you may encourage further exploration of this subject by assigning these investigations to your students.

1. Based on the current commodity prices, how much money would you make if you sold your entire crop of soybeans and corn?

2. a. Use the Grain Hauling Cost Calculator at **economics.ag.utk.edu/ghcc.html** to determine the costs of hauling your grain by truck.
   - Choose the commodity you are hauling from the drop down menu.
   - Enter the distance in miles (one way to the closest waterway using your school address as your farm address).
   - Enter your total number of bushels, the price of diesel fuel/gal and
   - Enter the estimated miles per gallon a semi truck would get.

   b. Determine the distance from your farm (school address) to the closest rail line. Calculate the cost as above. The grain must be sent by truck that far, then loaded onto a train to the closest waterway. Use this calculation to determine rail costs for hauling your grain: Rail car that holds 3600 bushels = $333 per 50 miles traveled.

3. Investigate the other costs of trucking vs. railroad car by visiting this website: **http://business.tenntom.org/why-use-the-waterway/shipping-comparisons/**. Look at Safety, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Quality.

4. Determine the most environmental/economical way to move your commodities from your farm in Ohio to the closest waterway (Lake Erie or the Ohio River). Do you make any money after you factor in the economic costs of transporting your crop? How might you reduce the impact of hauling grain?