

Prayer for Youth in Agriculture

Offered by a veteran rancher at a Cowboy Christmas Service...

We pray today especially for our youth in agriculture...

To be raised and nurtured in our country life in this beautiful part of our world with animals, plants, trees, wind, weather, joys and adversities intertwined. You become in tune with our natural world at the same time as developing a solid work ethic. Treasure the land.

The aging of our farming and ranching community plus the downturn in agricultural returns are real challenges to you, our youth. There is a need to seek ways to slow the consumption of our earth's precious resources to ensure the planet's wealth and beauty remain for future generations. But you can add fresh perspectives and offer fresh ideas and a greater willingness to adopt and adapt new ideas, new concepts, new technology.

We pray for the parents of our youth – the parent who needed his child to drive the tractor to make a trail in the snow so feed could be taken to the animals, the parent who teaches her child family and civic responsibility, the parents who spend countless hours volunteering whether for 4-H, sports, rodeos, or community affairs, all in the nurturing of agricultural citizens.

We pray that we may see our youth not only as followers, but as leaders. Allow our young people to reach their dreams, help them to find the courage to believe in themselves and to believe they can make a difference. Support our youth whether they are in school, in college, in university, on the farm, on the ranch, in businesses connected to growing and nurturing or in making music to enrich our spirits. See that their minds and hearts are open to all possibilities.

Help all of us to live our lives in ways that fill others around us with hope and joy. Open our hearts, our minds, our lives and keep us spiritually grounded. We so pray. Amen