



# BASEBALL and AGRICULTURE

There is a sport in summer, and baseball is its name,  
Without AGRICULTURE, it wouldn't be the same.

Programs, schedules, tickets- all are products made from trees.  
Possibly using ink from soy, AG always aims to please.

Now let's check equipment that all the players need,  
The bats and balls and caps and mitt, Agriculture takes the lead.

A bat is made of solid wood; ash trees provide the best.  
The diameter and length are set, the batter does the rest.

Good baseballs that are used today use wool to make the core.  
Around the core- rubber or cork- it makes those baseballs soar.

To keep this all together, hide from a cow or horse,  
Two hundred sixteen stitches, AG once again, the source.

A mitt is so important for every position played,  
The best are made of cowhide, different prices can be paid.

And when that mitt needs softening, AG helps us get it done,  
With oil from fish or animal, AG products second to none.

Since baseball's played in summer and the weather's usually hot,  
A cap made out of cotton, cools heads and hits the spot.

Now let's look out at the field- the field of dreams, some say.  
The grass can be a mixture- rye, blue, or fescue- not hay.

Accidents do happen, then we're glad for cattle and corn,  
The gelatin and dextrans adhere and bind what's torn.

A ball park isn't just for games, as food plays a big part,  
Just think of all the products- let's see- where should we start?

Hot dogs are the obvious, pork or beef inside some wheat,  
With relish from cucumbers, and tomato ketchup- what a treat!

Corn products come again to light- corn syrup makes things sweet,  
Our soft drinks and our chewing gum have tastes that can't be beat.

Nachos too, are made from corn, dairy cows give us cheese  
And butter for our popcorn- add some peanuts- sure to please.

Maybe we'll have soft pretzels, a product made from wheat,  
Perhaps we'll try some French fries cooked in oil--just add some heat.

So without agriculture, baseball wouldn't be  
The game that we all treasure as our summer activity.

Thanks AGRICULTURE, you've really passed the test.  
From one coast to the other, your products are the best!

Adapted from a poem  
by Sharon Bayme  
Byron, Illinois

