Futures Farming
Submitted by Jennifer Waters and used in cooperation with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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FUTURES FARMING

Step 1: Do not open your bag of M&M’s® yet. Predict how many of each color of M&M® candy you will get in your bag. You will have approximately 55-60 M&M’s® in the bag.
Blue____  Brown____  Red____  Orange____  Yellow____  Green____

Step 2: Now multiply your predictions by 3 except for the green candies, which you will multiply by 5 because it is a special commodity.

Blue = _____ bushels of corn
Brown = _____ bushels of corn
Red = _____ bushels of corn
Orange = _____ bushels of corn
Yellow = _____ bushels of corn
Green = _____ bushels of corn (multiply by 5)

Step 3: Would you like to sell your corn before you harvest it and get a premium price for your commodity? Let’s say your teacher will pay $2.30 now or $2.00 once you open your bag. Your teacher will also pay $2.40 for green M&M’s® or $2.20 after the bag is opened.

Pre-sold corn: Place the number you wish to sell in the first blank.
Blue ______ x $2.30 = ______
Brown ______ x $2.30 = ______
Red ______ x $2.30 = ______
Orange ______ x $2.30 = ______
Yellow ______ x $2.30 = ______
Green ______ x $2.40 = ______
Total Sold: ______
Total Made: $ ______

Step 4: Open your bag, but don’t eat the candy yet. Count how many actual M&M’s® you have of each color. You may eat the ones you have already sold in Step 3 or put them aside. Record how many M&M’s® you have of each color below, but do not include the ones that were pre-sold and eaten.

Blue: ______
Brown: ______
Red: ______
Orange: ______
Yellow: ______
Green: ______
To be used with: 
Futures Farming

Take the information you obtained in Step 4 and use it below to find out how much money you made on the M&M’s® that were not pre-sold.

Blue: ______ x $2.00 = ______
Brown: ______ x $2.00 = ______
Red: ______ x $2.00 = ______
Orange: ______ x $2.00 = ______
Yellow: ______ x $2.00 = ______
Green: ______ x $2.20 = ______

Total made: $ ______

Add together the totals you made either from selling your corn at $2.30 or $2.00 (or green candies at $2.40 or $2.20).
You may eat the rest of the candy you have left.

Overall total: $ ______

**Step 5:** Did you oversell any corn? (circle one) Yes No
If yes, by how much? ______ x $2.30 = ______
_______ x $2.00 = ______

Subtract your answer from your overall total:
Overall total $ ______ - (total oversold) ______ = $ ______
If no, write how much you made: $ ______

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