



FIELD TRIPS ON THE FARM

WINTER SPRING SUMMER FALL

Welcome to Countryside Farms where sharing the farm experience with children is our specialty! We are pleased to offer our field trip station selections, once again. These stations emphasize agriculture education (how is our food grown, where does it come from), highlighting plant and earth science. We feature a series of hands-on activities that involve six stations, rotating every 20 minutes. Because of time constraints, the teacher or the field trip planner will need to choose 4 out of the 6 stations. Below are the various stations.



1 HAYRIDE/WALNUTS: (year round) we are in the walnut orchard for this station. Depending on what time of year it is, it becomes a guessing game. Are they apples, no they're kiwis or maybe they are walnuts! Once it has been decided they are walnuts the teaching begins. Everyone will be surprised at how walnuts become walnuts. The way we harvested walnuts in the old days is demonstrated along with the modern way. Some of the real machines used in harvesting are on display. The children will have the opportunity to play act the machines actions. This is a hit every time!!

2 FARM YARD/PLAY AREA: (year round) Children will visit our very tame chickens, our pot belly pig, Oreo, our two rabbits, Freckles and Fronze, our pygmy goats, Jillian and her cousin Jackson. The Critter Corral is where they all reside. Jillian and Jackson love to be brushed and held. With their lead ropes, you may take them for a walk around the play yard. While in the Critter Corral, you'll notice the chicken coop. Yes you can go in and meet Peony, Pansy, Petunia, Poppy and Posey. The grand children had to give them all names. Children can take a peek inside the chicken house to see if there really are eggs on the nest. Sometimes they'll find one of our girls sitting on her nest! As for Oreo, well he just ambles along sniffing for food, but sure appreciates a kind brushing. Freckles and Fronze live in their own private rabbit hutches. Their doors are easily opened (no they do not try to run out) and you can reach in for a pet.

The play yard is where the "Fort" is, the climb on, real tractors, the sand box, jump inside, ball boxes and swings. Take a crawl through or hide out in the Tee Pee Tunnel, it's completely covered with honeysuckle vines! In the fall there are haystacks and a simple child size corn maze.



3 PLANTING/SOILS STATION: (year round) what do plants need to grow? Which season do you plant what in? Are there different types of soil? What does ideal soil consist of? What about worms?? There's a lot of touch and feel that happens in this station. Children, also participate by planting their own seeds in their take-home containers. In the spring we plant watermelon seeds, in the summer its pumpkin or flower seeds and in the fall and winter it's sugar snap peas. How owls benefit farming is introduced, with an owl box and owl pellets on display.

4 STRAWBERRIES/CHERRIES/SWEETCORN STATION: (spring and summer only) a yummy station indeed! This is where a few strawberry plants or cherry tree branches are on display. Sweet corn on the Cob for the summer months will be available. How these types of produce are grown and picked is discussed and demonstrated. We gather under the shade of our cherry tree. Children will pick out their strawberries or pluck off the branch, their cherries, to take home. Sweet corn, one ear each goes home with the children

5 PUMPKINS/TORTILLA CORN and SCARECROW BUILDING: (fall time only) a fun and interesting station! How does the pumpkin grow? What is the pumpkin flower all about? How does corn become corn? What's the silk all about? This station takes place in the pumpkin patch and yes, it's all about pumpkins, pumpkins, corn stalks, corn stalks! Once the lesson on pumpkins and corn is complete, a few children are selected to crank the corn Sheller and then the corn grinder. Now we have corn meal. Then its pumpkin picking time! When your favorite pumpkin is found, it is Scare Crow building time! All materials provided.

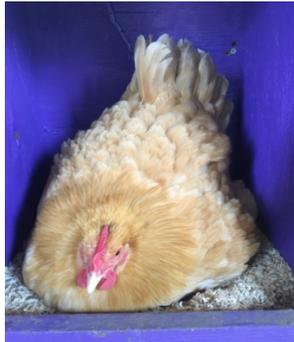


WINTER FIELD TRIPS ON THE FARM

It may be cold outside but our winter activities are so interesting that you will not notice. Besides after all the hot days of summer and fall the change is always welcomed. The trees become dormant and only cool season crops grow in the winter. Our pace slows down. It's all about repairing the farm equipment, cleaning up tractors and having things ready when spring arrives! Our family really enjoys the different smells in the air, especially after a winter rain. So below are some interesting activities to participate in.

A The planting/soils station: Now we will plant transplants (small plant grown in a greenhouse) to take home. The best transplants are, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, snap peas and the list goes on. You will learn the different types of soil, what causes plants to grow and how all plants are good for our environment. (older grades, this topic will go into much detail) (little ones, we will keep it very simple)

B The Shop: Inside our shop you will see what we are repairing, view all the various tools we use and even try your hand at a simple repair! (older students only) (younger, just demonstration)



C FARM YARD WITH PLAY AREA: Rain or shine, spring, summer, fall or winter the critters always need our care, love and attention. In fact they miss the children. When things slow down, it's the grand kids and Jim and I who have to fill in to provide the attention they've become used to. So Oreo, our pot belly pig, Jillian and Jackson, our goats, Freckles and Frankie, our rabbits and all five hens are happy to see anyone in the winter too!

The play yard is the same, with some additions. The fort can become a good place to head for cover when a sudden rain storm shows up. Or you could hide under the fort in the sand box area. But we do have a large overhang area by the shop that is quickly converted into the farm yard. We use our portable corral fencing and the show goes on. We will now have more re-cycled sand sacks to sit and swing in along with a new circle swing. The new fish net walk bridge is something you'll have to try out for sure.

D HAYRIDE/WALNUTS: If the weather hasn't been too stormy or wet the hay ride proceeds around the orchard as always. Teaching about the walnuts takes place just before you climb on board. Now if the field is too wet we try to have the hayride in the parking area. We go round and round, fast and slow, then slow and fast so the ride becomes rather interesting!



GENERAL GUIDELINES

All stations are staffed by adult employees, who enjoy working with children and know their station subjects well. Depending on how many stations are selected with the lunch option (bring lunches, use our picnic area) included, tours usually last 1 ½ to 3 hours. Please be on time. If being late is unavoidable, please call us, so we may plan accordingly. If you are more than 15 minutes late you will lose from one to two stations.

Upon arrival a staff member or I will greet you on the bus or in an assigned area, if arriving by van or cars. **CAR POOLING WOULD BE APPRECIATED. WE HAVE LIMITED PARKING AREAS.** When transportation is by van or cars, please have the children gather together immediately! Do not let them run about! This rule must be followed for the safety of all.

Rain or shine (unless an extreme weather condition exists) field trips will go on as scheduled. Remember this is a working farm, where conditions do affect what and how we do things. Please have name tags for all in attendance. It is much more personal to greet one another by name. **Please have children dress for active, outdoor play.** Again this is a working farm, where walking on soil and rough surfaces is required, **sandals, high heels and flip flops are highly discouraged.**

Field trips can be scheduled any time of the year, whether it is spring, summer, fall or winter. For the fall program, try to schedule a month or more in advance. Fee options are below. All fees are necessary to cover staffing, products, overhead and insurance for everyone that enters the farm. *Please note. We do make fee exceptions, at times, depending on the circumstances. (PLEASE NOTIFY JO ANN OR PATTI, IF A SITUATION SHOULD ARISE)

FEEES: \$10.00 per child and adult (fall time when everyone receives a pumpkin) or \$10.00 per child and \$5.00 per adult (adults, no pumpkin) Otherwise all field trips are \$10.00 per child and \$5.00 per adult. There is no fee for teachers and teachers aides. Teachers receive a large classroom pumpkin free, from the little store area.