

Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm

Teacher Planning Guide

Welcome

Welcome to **Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm!**

Agriculture is more than growing food—it's science, mathematics, history, economics, environmental stewardship, and problem solving. Our field trips provide students with engaging, hands-on learning experiences that connect classroom concepts with real life on a working family farm.

Every activity is designed to encourage curiosity, critical thinking, and observation while supporting elementary science and social studies objectives in Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky.

Students don't simply observe—they investigate, ask questions, compare, classify, and discover.

We look forward to welcoming your class!

About Friendly Farm

Welcome to Friendly Farm, a family-owned and operated farm nestled in the beautiful mountains of Hancock County, Tennessee. Our farm is a real working farm where students experience agriculture as it happens every day. From caring for livestock to growing crops, every season brings new opportunities to learn about the people, animals, and natural resources that provide the food, fiber, and products we use every day.

Friendly Farm is home to a wide variety of animals, including goats, sheep, cattle, pigs, rabbits, and chickens. Students may also explore our gardens, orchards, pastures, and other areas of the farm while learning how each part plays an important role in a healthy agricultural system. Every visit is different because life on a farm is always changing. Depending on the time of year, students may see newborn animals, planting and harvesting, hay production, gardens in bloom, or fruit ripening in the orchard.

Our mission extends beyond farming—we are passionate about agricultural education. Friendly Farm was created to help children understand where their food comes from, how animals and plants are cared for, and why agriculture is one of the world's most important industries. We believe that meaningful learning happens when students can see, touch, ask questions, and make real-world connections to what they are studying in the classroom.

As both a farmer and a certified teacher, I understand the importance of providing experiences that are not only engaging but also support classroom learning. Every station in our Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm program is intentionally designed to reinforce academic standards while encouraging curiosity, observation, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Our goal is to make science, agriculture, and environmental stewardship come alive through hands-on experiences that students will remember long after they return to school.

Whether students are discovering the differences between herbivores and omnivores, learning about animal life cycles, exploring pollinators, or seeing how farms produce food for families, we hope they leave with a greater appreciation for agriculture and the hardworking people who make it possible. We are honored to partner with educators to provide meaningful, standards-based learning experiences that inspire the next generation of informed consumers, responsible citizens, and perhaps even future farmers.

(Add photos later.)

Program Options

Every class is unique, which is why Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm allows teachers to customize their field trip experience. Select the stations that best support your classroom curriculum, learning objectives, and available time. Each learning station is designed to provide engaging, hands-on experiences while reinforcing science, agriculture, and environmental education standards.

Agriculture Alive

Three-Station Experience

Length: Approximately 90 minutes

Teachers select three learning stations from our available educational offerings. This option provides an excellent introduction to agriculture while allowing students to participate in interactive, standards-based activities.

Admission

- Students: \$10 per person
 - Parents/Chaperones: \$10 per person
 - Siblings: \$10 per person
 - Teachers and School Staff: Free
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Agriculture Alive Plus

Four-Station Experience

Length: Approximately 2 hours

Teachers select four learning stations, allowing students to explore additional agricultural topics through a more in-depth learning experience.

Admission

- Students: \$15 per person
- Parents/Chaperones: \$15 per person
- Siblings: \$15 per person
- Teachers and School Staff: Free

Optional Add-Ons

Picnic Lunch

Extend your visit by enjoying lunch at Friendly Farm.

Classes are welcome to bring sack lunches and enjoy our designated picnic area surrounded by the beauty of the farm. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to relax, discuss what they have learned, and enjoy time outdoors.

Length: Approximately 30 minutes

Farm Exploration Time

After completing the educational portion of the visit, classes may choose to add supervised Farm Exploration Time.

During this time, students may:

- Revisit their favorite animals
- Take photographs
- Ask additional questions
- Observe animals and the farm at their own pace

This relaxed experience encourages curiosity and allows students to make personal connections with the farm beyond the structured lessons.

Length: Approximately 30 minutes

Sample Schedules

90-Minute Agriculture Alive Experience

Activity	Time
Welcome, Orientation & Farm Safety	10 minutes
Learning Station 1	20 minutes

Learning Station 2	20 minutes
Learning Station 3	20 minutes
Wrap-Up, Questions & Reflection	20 minutes

2-Hour Agriculture Alive Plus Experience

Activity	Time
Welcome, Orientation & Farm Safety	10 minutes
Learning Station 1	20 minutes
Learning Station 2	20 minutes
Learning Station 3	20 minutes
Learning Station 4	20 minutes

Closing Activity, Questions & Reflection 10 minutes

Additional time may be added for a picnic lunch and/or Farm Exploration Time to create a half-day educational experience.

Learning Stations

Learning Station: Meet the Animals

Recommended Grade Levels: 3rd–5th Grade

Approximate Time: 20 Minutes

Station Overview

Every animal on the farm has an important job, unique characteristics, and specific needs for survival. During the **Meet the Animals** station, students will discover the similarities and differences between several common farm animals while learning how farmers care for them each day.

Students will meet a variety of livestock, which may include goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, rabbits, cattle, or other animals currently living on the farm. As they visit each species, students will compare diets, life cycles, physical characteristics, adaptations, and the products each animal provides. Throughout the lesson, students are encouraged to ask questions, make observations, and use scientific vocabulary to describe what they see.

This interactive station emphasizes observation, classification, and critical thinking while helping students develop a deeper understanding of agriculture and animal science.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Classify farm animals based on their characteristics and diets.
- Distinguish between herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores.
- Identify basic needs shared by all living animals.
- Compare the life cycles of several farm animals.
- Explain how farmers provide food, water, shelter, and healthcare for livestock.
- Recognize the many ways farm animals contribute to providing food, clothing, and other everyday products.
- Practice scientific observation by comparing similarities and differences among species.

Vocabulary

Students will be introduced to age-appropriate agricultural vocabulary, including:

Animal Classification

- Mammal
- Bird
- Livestock
- Herbivore
- Omnivore
- Carnivore
- Ruminant
- Adaptation
- Habitat
- Domesticated

Animal Families

Goats

- Buck
- Doe
- Kid

Sheep

- Ram
- Ewe
- Lamb

Pigs

- Boar
- Sow
- Piglet

Chickens

- Rooster
- Hen
- Chick

Rabbits

- Buck
- Doe

Hands-On Activities

Depending on the season and animal availability, students may:

- Observe and compare several species of farm animals.
- Safely interact with selected animals under staff supervision.
- Feel sheep's wool and compare it to animal hair or fur.
- Examine eggs and discuss how chicks develop.
- Compare feeds and determine which animals eat each type.
- Identify whether each animal is a herbivore or omnivore.
- Match baby animals with their adult names.
- Discuss how long each species carries or incubates its young and how many offspring are typically born.

Students are encouraged to ask questions throughout the lesson, making every visit unique.

Standards Alignment

This station supports elementary science and agriculture standards in **Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky**, including concepts related to:

- Animal life cycles
- Classification of living organisms
- Animal adaptations
- Basic needs of living things
- Ecosystems and habitats
- Scientific observation and inquiry
- Agriculture and food production
- Vocabulary development

A detailed standards crosswalk is provided in the Teacher Resource Guide.

Extension Activities

Continue the learning back in the classroom with activities such as:

- Create a Venn diagram comparing two farm animals.
- Write an informational paragraph about a favorite farm animal.
- Sort animals into herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores.
- Research another livestock species and present findings to the class.
- Design a healthy habitat for a farm animal using the animal's basic needs.
- Complete a farm animal life cycle diagram.
- Keep a vocabulary journal using new agricultural terms learned during the visit.

By the end of this station, students will have a greater appreciation for the diversity of farm animals and the important role each plays in producing food and other products that people use every day.

Learning Station: From Feed to Food

Recommended Grade Levels: 3rd–5th Grade

Approximate Time: 20 Minutes

Station Overview

Have you ever wondered why cows eat grass while pigs eat grain? Why can't chickens live on hay alone? During the **From Feed to Food** station, students will explore the important connection between what farm animals eat and the nutritious food they produce.

Using real examples of hay, pasture grasses, grains, minerals, and other feeds, students will investigate the nutritional needs of different livestock species and discover that every animal requires a balanced diet to stay healthy. Students will compare the diets of herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores while learning how farmers carefully choose feeds that meet each animal's unique needs.

As students follow the journey from feed to food, they will gain a greater appreciation for the science, planning, and daily care involved in raising healthy animals that provide food for families.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Compare the nutritional needs of different farm animals.
- Explain the differences between herbivores, omnivores, and ruminants.
- Identify common feeds used on a livestock farm.
- Describe how proper nutrition helps animals grow, stay healthy, and produce food.
- Recognize the relationship between healthy animals and healthy food.
- Understand that farmers use science and observation to meet the nutritional needs of their livestock.

Vocabulary

Students will be introduced to agricultural and nutrition vocabulary, including:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| • Nutrition | • Corn | • Digestive System |
| • Feed | • Protein | • Nutrients |
| • Forage | • Minerals | • Balanced Diet |
| • Pasture | • Vitamins | • Grazing |
| • Hay | • Ruminant | |
| • Grain | | |

Hands-On Activities

Depending on the season, students may:

- Examine samples of hay, pasture grasses, grains, and livestock feed.
- Match different feeds to the animals that eat them.
- Compare what goats, sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens, and rabbits eat.
- Observe how a cow's digestive system differs from that of a pig or chicken.
- Discuss why farmers adjust diets based on an animal's age, purpose, and stage of growth.
- Follow the journey from pasture and feed to the food products families enjoy every day.

Throughout the lesson, students are encouraged to observe, compare, predict, and ask questions as they discover the science behind feeding livestock.

Standards Alignment

This station supports elementary science and agriculture standards in **Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky**, including concepts related to:

- Animal nutrition
- Structures and functions of living organisms
- Energy flow in living systems
- Human use of natural resources
- Agriculture and food production
- Scientific observation and inquiry

A detailed standards crosswalk is provided in the Teacher Resource Guide.

Extension Activities

Continue the learning in the classroom with activities such as:

- Create a chart comparing what different farm animals eat.
- Sort common feeds into categories such as grasses, grains, minerals, and supplements.

- Design a balanced daily menu for a farm animal and explain why each food is important.
- Compare the diets of humans and farm animals using a Venn diagram.
- Trace the journey of a food product from the farm to the dinner table.
- Research how proper nutrition affects animal health and food production.

By the end of this station, students will understand that raising healthy animals requires knowledge, planning, and daily care. They will leave with a greater appreciation for the important role nutrition plays in producing safe, wholesome food for families and communities.

Learning Station: Farm Products

Recommended Grade Levels: 3rd–5th Grade

Approximate Time: 20 Minutes

Station Overview

Many students recognize that farms produce food, but they are often surprised to discover how many everyday products begin on a farm. During the **Farm Products** station, students will explore the journey from farm to finished product by examining items made from plants and animals raised on working farms.

Students will discover that agriculture provides much more than meat, milk, and eggs. From soap and lotion to wool, leather, and other useful products, farms produce many of the items we use in our daily lives. Through observation, discussion, and hands-on activities, students will learn how raw agricultural materials are transformed into products that improve our lives.

This station encourages students to think critically about the connection between agriculture, manufacturing, natural resources, and the choices consumers make every day.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify a variety of products that originate on farms.
- Match common products to the plants or animals from which they are made.
- Explain how raw agricultural materials are transformed into useful products.

- Recognize that agriculture provides food, clothing, personal care products, and other everyday necessities.
- Develop an appreciation for the many ways farmers contribute to their communities and the economy.

Vocabulary

Students will be introduced to agricultural vocabulary, including:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Agriculture | • Wool |
| • Raw Material | • Leather |
| • Natural Resource | • Tallow |
| • Consumer | • Goat Milk |
| • Producer | • By-product |
| • Livestock | • Renewable Resource |
| • Fiber | • Manufacturing |

Hands-On Activities

Depending on the season and product availability, students may:

- Examine a variety of products made from farm animals and plants.
- Match products to the animals or crops that produce them.
- Feel raw wool and compare it to finished wool products.
- Observe examples of goat milk soap, lotion, beeswax products, leather, and other farm-made items.
- Compare raw agricultural materials with the finished products they become.
- Discuss how farmers use as much of each animal or crop as possible to reduce waste and make the best use of natural resources.

Students will be encouraged to ask questions and make observations as they discover the many ways agriculture touches their everyday lives.

Standards Alignment

This station supports elementary science, social studies, and agriculture standards in **Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky**, including concepts related to:

- Natural resources
- Human use of natural resources
- Agriculture and food systems
- Production and consumption
- Manufacturing processes
- Conservation and responsible resource use
- Scientific observation and inquiry

A detailed standards crosswalk is provided in the Teacher Resource Guide.

Extension Activities

Continue the learning in the classroom with activities such as:

- Create a "Farm to Product" matching game.
- Identify ten products at home that began on a farm.
- Research how one agricultural product is made from start to finish.
- Design a poster showing the journey of a farm product from producer to consumer.
- Compare renewable and nonrenewable resources used in everyday products.
- Write a paragraph explaining why agriculture is important to daily life.

By the end of this station, students will recognize that farms provide much more than food. They will gain a greater appreciation for the many products that begin with agriculture and the important role farmers play in producing the resources people depend on every day.

Learning Station: Life Cycles

Recommended Grade Levels: 3rd–5th Grade

Approximate Time: 20 Minutes

Station Overview

Every living thing begins life, grows, changes, reproduces, and eventually reaches the end of its life cycle. During the **Life Cycles** station, students will explore the fascinating stages of growth and development in common farm animals while discovering that each species has its own unique life cycle.

Using real animals, photographs, models, and hands-on activities, students will compare how mammals and birds reproduce, care for their young, and develop into adults. They will learn that while every animal has basic needs for food, water, shelter, and care, each species grows at its own pace and follows a unique pattern of development.

Students will also discover the important role farmers play in caring for animals throughout every stage of life—from newborns that require extra attention to mature animals that provide food, fiber, and future generations of livestock.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Describe the stages of a life cycle.
- Compare the life cycles of mammals and birds.
- Identify similarities and differences among the life cycles of several farm animals.
- Explain the difference between live birth and animals that hatch from eggs.
- Understand that young animals inherit characteristics from their parents.
- Recognize the basic needs of animals during each stage of life.
- Explain how farmers care for animals from birth through adulthood.

Vocabulary

Students will be introduced to age-appropriate life science vocabulary, including:

- Life Cycle
- Offspring
- Reproduction
- Mammal
- Bird
- Hatch
- Egg
- Live Birth
- Gestation
- Incubation
- Inherit
- Growth
- Development

Hands-On Activities

Depending on the season and animal availability, students may:

- Observe young and adult animals and compare their physical characteristics.
- Match baby animals with their adult names.
- Arrange life cycle cards in the correct sequence.
- Compare animals that hatch from eggs with those born alive.
- Examine eggs and discuss how chicks develop before hatching.
- Learn how long different farm animals carry or incubate their young and how many offspring they typically have.
- Discuss how farmers prepare for births and care for newborn animals.

Students are encouraged to make observations, compare life cycles, and ask questions throughout the lesson.

Standards Alignment

This station supports elementary science standards in **Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky**, including concepts related to:

- Life cycles of plants and animals
- Growth and development
- Inherited characteristics
- Reproduction
- Animal survival

- Scientific observation and comparison

A detailed standards crosswalk is provided in the Teacher Resource Guide.

Extension Activities

Continue the learning in the classroom with activities such as:

- Create a life cycle diagram for a farm animal.
- Compare the life cycles of a chicken and a goat using a Venn diagram.
- Write a story from the perspective of a newborn farm animal.
- Research how long different farm animals live and create a class chart.
- Match baby animals with their adult names and family vocabulary.
- Design a timeline showing the stages of growth from birth or hatching to adulthood.

By the end of this station, students will understand that every living thing follows a life cycle and that each stage is important for growth, survival, and reproduction. They will also gain an appreciation for the knowledge, planning, and daily care farmers provide to ensure healthy animals throughout every stage of life.

Learning Station: Farmers are Scientists

Recommended Grade Levels: 3rd–5th Grade

Approximate Time: 20 Minutes

Station Overview

What does a scientist look like? Many students picture someone wearing a white lab coat working in a laboratory. During the **Farmers are Scientists** station, students will discover that scientists can also wear blue jeans and muddy boots.

Every day, farmers observe, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, collect information, and test ideas. Whether deciding when to plant seeds, determining if an animal is healthy, identifying insects, or studying the weather, farmers use the same scientific processes taught in the classroom.

Through hands-on investigations, students will become agricultural scientists as they make observations, compare evidence, and use critical thinking skills to better understand the natural world. This station demonstrates that science is not confined to a laboratory—it happens every day on a working farm.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain how farmers use science to make everyday decisions.
- Practice careful observation using their senses and scientific tools.
- Collect and compare evidence from natural materials found on the farm.
- Identify patterns, similarities, and differences in plants, animals, and soils.
- Develop questions, make predictions, and draw conclusions based on observations.
- Understand that scientific inquiry is an important part of agriculture.

Vocabulary

Students will be introduced to scientific and agricultural vocabulary, including:

- Observation
- Investigation
- Evidence
- Prediction
- Hypothesis
- Experiment
- Variable
- Data
- Conclusion
- Inquiry
- Adaptation
- Soil
- Weather
- Environment
- Agriculture

Hands-On Activities

Depending on the season, students may:

- Use magnifying glasses to observe seeds, leaves, feathers, wool, soil, insects, or other natural materials.
- Compare different types of animal hair, feathers, and plant materials.
- Observe soil samples and discuss why healthy soil is important.
- Make predictions before examining objects closely.
- Record observations using scientific vocabulary.
- Discuss how farmers monitor weather, animal behavior, plant growth, and soil conditions to make important decisions.

Students will be encouraged to observe carefully, ask questions, test ideas, and explain their thinking just as scientists do.

Standards Alignment

This station supports elementary science standards in **Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky**, including concepts related to:

- Scientific inquiry
- Observation and data collection
- Patterns in nature
- Plant and animal structures
- Soil and environmental science
- Problem solving and critical thinking

A detailed standards crosswalk is provided in the Teacher Resource Guide.

Extension Activities

Continue the learning in the classroom with activities such as:

- Keep a nature observation journal for one week.
- Compare two natural objects using scientific observations rather than opinions.
- Design a simple investigation to answer a question about plants or animals.

- Record daily weather conditions and predict how they might affect a garden or farm.
- Create a "Farmer as Scientist" poster showing the many ways science is used in agriculture.
- Practice writing observations using descriptive scientific vocabulary instead of personal opinions.

By the end of this station, students will recognize that farming is a science-based profession requiring careful observation, critical thinking, problem solving, and lifelong learning. They will leave with a greater appreciation for the knowledge and skills farmers use every day to care for animals, grow crops, and produce food for their communities.

Learning Station: Pollinators & Plants

Recommended Grade Levels: 3rd–5th Grade

Approximate Time: 20 Minutes

Station Overview

Have you ever wondered how flowers become fruits and vegetables? Or why bees and butterflies are so important to the food we eat? During the **Pollinators & Plants** station, students will discover the fascinating relationship between plants and the pollinators that help them grow.

Students will explore the life cycle of flowering plants, identify the important parts of a flower, and learn how bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators help plants reproduce. Through observation and hands-on activities, they will discover that many of the foods we enjoy every day depend on pollinators and healthy ecosystems.

This station also introduces students to the role farmers play in protecting pollinators by planting flowers, providing habitat, and using responsible land stewardship practices. By the end of the lesson, students will understand that healthy farms depend on healthy pollinator populations.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify the basic parts of a flowering plant.
- Explain the role of pollinators in plant reproduction.
- Describe how pollen is transferred from one flower to another.

- Recognize common pollinators found on farms.
- Explain why pollinators are important to agriculture and food production.
- Understand how farmers can help protect pollinators and their habitats.
- Describe the stages of a flowering plant's life cycle.

Vocabulary

Students will be introduced to age-appropriate plant science vocabulary, including:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| • Pollinator | • Roots |
| • Pollination | • Stem |
| • Pollen | • Leaves |
| • Nectar | • Blossom |
| • Flower | • Habitat |
| • Seed | • Ecosystem |
| • Germination | • Biodiversity |
| • Plant Life Cycle | |

Hands-On Activities

Depending on the season, students may:

- Observe flowers, gardens, orchards, or crop fields around the farm.
- Identify the major parts of a flower.
- Search for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators in their natural habitat.
- Examine different seeds and compare their size, shape, and purpose.
- Discuss which fruits and vegetables depend on pollinators.
- Observe how farmers create healthy environments for both crops and pollinators.
- Compare plants that require pollination with those that rely on wind or other methods of reproduction.

Students are encouraged to carefully observe the natural world and recognize the important connections between plants, insects, animals, and people.

Standards Alignment

This station supports elementary science standards in **Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky**, including concepts related to:

- Plant structures and functions
- Plant life cycles
- Pollination and reproduction
- Ecosystems and biodiversity
- Interdependence of living organisms
- Agriculture and environmental stewardship
- Scientific observation and inquiry

A detailed standards crosswalk is provided in the Teacher Resource Guide.

Extension Activities

Continue the learning in the classroom with activities such as:

- Label the parts of a flower.
- Observe flowering plants near your school and record the pollinators you see.
- Plant flower seeds to create a classroom or school pollinator garden.
- Research one pollinator and explain how it helps agriculture.
- Create a diagram showing the journey of pollen from one flower to another.
- Identify foods in your lunch that depend on pollinators.
- Design a pollinator-friendly habitat using native plants.

By the end of this station, students will understand that pollinators are essential partners in agriculture and that healthy plants, healthy ecosystems, and healthy communities all depend on the important work of these remarkable creatures.

Learning Station: Farm Economics

Recommended Grade Levels: 3rd–5th Grade

Approximate Time: 20 Minutes

Station Overview

Every farm is both a home and a business. Farmers must care for their animals and crops while making careful decisions about time, money, and resources. During the **Farm Economics** station, students will discover that raising food involves much more than planting seeds and feeding animals.

Students will explore the many costs involved in operating a farm, including feed, fencing, veterinary care, equipment, fuel, seeds, and labor. They will also learn how farmers earn income by producing food and other agricultural products for their communities. Through interactive activities and real-life examples, students will see how budgeting, planning, and problem-solving help farms remain successful.

This station introduces students to basic economic concepts in a way that is meaningful, engaging, and connected to everyday life. By understanding the decisions farmers make, students gain a greater appreciation for the work and responsibility involved in producing the food they enjoy every day.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain that farms are businesses as well as places where food is produced.
- Identify common expenses involved in operating a farm.
- Recognize that farmers must make responsible financial decisions.
- Understand the difference between goods, services, expenses, and income.
- Describe how farms contribute to local communities and the economy.
- Appreciate the importance of planning, budgeting, and stewardship in agriculture.

Vocabulary

Students will be introduced to age-appropriate economic vocabulary, including:

- Economy
- Business
- Goods
- Services
- Producer
- Consumer
- Income
- Expense
- Budget
- Profit
- Loss
- Investment
- Resources
- Supply
- Demand

Hands-On Activities

Depending on the season, students may:

- Match common farm expenses with the animals or crops they support.
- Compare examples of products farmers sell throughout the year.
- Discuss the many jobs involved in operating a successful farm.
- Examine how weather, seasons, and changing conditions can affect a farm.
- Work together to solve simple farm decision-making challenges.
- Explore how farms provide food, jobs, and products that benefit their communities.

Students are encouraged to think critically about how decisions made on the farm affect both the farm family and the people who depend on the food they produce.

Standards Alignment

This station supports elementary science, social studies, and financial literacy standards in **Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky**, including concepts related to:

- Production and consumption
- Goods and services
- Economic decision-making
- Agriculture and community resources

- Responsible use of natural and financial resources
- Problem solving and critical thinking

A detailed standards crosswalk is provided in the Teacher Resource Guide.

Extension Activities

Continue the learning in the classroom with activities such as:

- Create a simple farm budget using common farm expenses and products.
- Sort examples of goods and services provided by farms.
- Research how weather can affect farmers and food production.
- Design a business plan for a small farm stand.
- Write a reflection describing why planning is important for a successful farm.
- Interview a local business owner or farmer about the decisions they make each day.

By the end of this station, students will understand that successful farming requires careful planning, responsible decision-making, and wise use of resources. They will recognize that every product they purchase represents the hard work, knowledge, and dedication of the people who produce it.

Learning Station: Farm Careers

Recommended Grade Levels: 3rd–5th Grade

Approximate Time: 20 Minutes

Station Overview

When most people think of agriculture, they picture a farmer driving a tractor. In reality, agriculture offers hundreds of exciting careers that combine science, technology, engineering, business, education, environmental stewardship, and animal care. During the **Farm Careers** station, students will discover the many people who work together to produce the food, fiber, and natural resources our communities depend on every day.

Students will explore a variety of careers found both on and beyond the farm while learning that every occupation plays an important role in our food system. Whether caring for animals, designing farm equipment, studying soil, transporting food, or teaching future farmers, agricultural professionals use creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills to improve the lives of others.

This station encourages students to see agriculture as an exciting field full of opportunities while helping them connect the skills they are learning in school to real careers in the future.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify a variety of careers within the agricultural industry.
- Explain how different careers work together to provide food and other agricultural products.
- Recognize that agriculture includes careers in science, technology, engineering, business, education, and skilled trades.
- Describe the education, skills, and teamwork needed for different agricultural careers.
- Understand the importance of agriculture to local communities and the global economy.
- Begin connecting their own interests and strengths to possible careers in agriculture.

Vocabulary

Students will be introduced to career and agriculture vocabulary, including:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • Agriculture | • Conservation |
| • Career | • Forester |
| • Veterinarian | • Entrepreneur |
| • Agronomist | • Sustainability |
| • Horticulture | • Processing |
| • Livestock | • Distribution |
| • Engineer | • Marketing |
| • Nutritionist | |

Hands-On Activities

Depending on the season and available resources, students may:

- Explore photographs and tools used by different agricultural professionals.
- Match careers with the jobs they perform.
- Discuss how science, math, reading, and technology are used in agricultural careers.
- Identify the many people involved in producing food from the farm to the grocery store.
- Learn about careers that support farms, including veterinarians, agricultural teachers, mechanics, equipment operators, truck drivers, meat processors, food safety inspectors, extension agents, and environmental scientists.
- Reflect on which agricultural careers best match their own interests and talents.

Students are encouraged to ask questions and consider how the knowledge and skills they are learning today can prepare them for future opportunities.

Standards Alignment

This station supports elementary science, social studies, career awareness, and college and career readiness standards in **Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky**, including concepts related to:

- Career exploration
- Community roles and responsibilities
- Agriculture and natural resources
- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
- Problem solving and communication
- Workforce readiness

A detailed standards crosswalk is provided in the Teacher Resource Guide.

Extension Activities

Continue the learning in the classroom with activities such as:

- Research an agricultural career and create a presentation for the class.
- Interview someone who works in agriculture or a related industry.
- Create a poster highlighting an agricultural profession and the skills it requires.

- Write about an agricultural career that interests you and explain why.
- Explore how classroom subjects such as science, math, reading, and technology are used in different agricultural careers.
- Design your dream farm and identify the different professionals who would help make it successful.

By the end of this station, students will understand that agriculture is much more than farming. They will recognize that producing food and caring for natural resources requires the talents of many people working together and that agriculture offers exciting career opportunities for students with a wide variety of interests and abilities.

(More stations coming soon.)

Before Your Visit

To help you make the most of your visit, Friendly Farm provides a collection of classroom resources designed to prepare students before they arrive. These materials introduce key concepts and vocabulary, build excitement for the experience, and help students make meaningful connections between what they learn in the classroom and what they will discover on the farm.

Teachers will receive the following resources after booking their field trip:

Vocabulary List

Introduce students to important agricultural and scientific terms before your visit. Becoming familiar with key vocabulary allows students to participate more confidently in discussions and activities throughout the day.

Classroom Discussion Questions

Spark curiosity and encourage critical thinking with age-appropriate discussion questions. These prompts help students begin thinking about agriculture, food production, animal care, and the important role farms play in our daily lives.

Suggested Reading

A collection of recommended books and classroom resources is provided to support learning before your visit. These selections reinforce agricultural concepts while helping students build background knowledge through engaging stories and informational texts.

Agriculture Alive Passport

Each student will receive an Agriculture Alive Passport to use during their field trip. Throughout the visit, students will complete activities, answer questions, record observations, and collect stamps at each learning station. The passport serves as both an interactive learning tool and a keepsake that encourages students to reflect on their experience long after they return to the classroom.

Parent Information & Permission Form

A customizable parent letter and permission form is included to help communicate important information about the field trip. The letter outlines the educational purpose of the visit, arrival information, recommended clothing, lunch details (if applicable), and other helpful reminders to ensure students are prepared for a safe and enjoyable day on the farm.

Standards Alignment Guide

Teachers receive a detailed standards alignment guide showing how each learning station supports academic standards for Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky. This guide makes it easy to select the stations that best complement your current curriculum while demonstrating the educational value of the field trip to administrators and families.

Our goal is to make planning your field trip as simple as possible. These resources are designed to reduce preparation time while maximizing student learning before, during, and after their visit. By arriving with background knowledge and curiosity, students are ready to fully engage in the hands-on experiences that make Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm a memorable and meaningful educational adventure.

After Your Visit

Learning doesn't end when the bus leaves the farm. The experiences students have during Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm provide an excellent foundation for continued classroom learning. Our post-visit resources are designed to reinforce key concepts, encourage reflection, and help students connect their field trip experiences with the science, agriculture, and environmental topics they study throughout the school year.

Teachers will receive a variety of optional follow-up activities that can be completed individually, in small groups, or as a class.

Reflection Writing

Students reflect on their field trip experience by writing about what they observed, discovered, and enjoyed most during their visit. Reflection prompts encourage students to make personal connections while strengthening writing, communication, and critical thinking skills.

Farm Vocabulary Review

Students revisit the agricultural vocabulary introduced before and during the field trip through engaging review activities. These exercises reinforce new terminology and help students confidently use scientific and agricultural language in meaningful ways.

Observation Activity

Students continue practicing the scientific observation skills they developed on the farm. Using objects found at school, at home, or outdoors, they record detailed observations, compare similarities and differences, ask questions, and draw conclusions based on evidence. This activity reinforces the idea that science is all around us and encourages students to continue exploring the natural world.

Optional Classroom Projects

Teachers may choose from a variety of extension projects that connect agriculture with science, mathematics, language arts, social studies, art, and STEM learning. Activities are designed to accommodate different learning styles and classroom schedules while reinforcing concepts introduced during the field trip.

Suggested projects may include:

- Researching a favorite farm animal or agricultural career.
- Creating a life cycle poster or diagram.
- Designing a pollinator-friendly garden.
- Building a "Farm to Family" product flow chart.
- Writing a persuasive essay about the importance of agriculture.
- Creating a classroom presentation about what students learned during their visit.

Our goal is to extend the learning beyond a single day on the farm. These follow-up activities help students review important concepts, strengthen classroom connections,

and continue developing an appreciation for agriculture and the people who work every day to provide food, fiber, and natural resources for our communities.

Standards Alignment

Every learning station in Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm has been intentionally designed to support classroom instruction while providing meaningful, hands-on experiences that bring academic concepts to life. Rather than serving as a break from learning, our field trips extend the classroom by reinforcing concepts students are already studying through real-world applications on a working farm.

Each station includes a detailed standards alignment guide that identifies the academic objectives addressed during the lesson. Teachers can confidently select the stations that best support their curriculum, knowing that the activities align with state educational expectations and promote inquiry-based learning.

Our curriculum aligns with the following state standards:

- Tennessee Academic Standards
- Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)
- Kentucky Academic Standards

The Teacher Resource Guide includes a comprehensive standards crosswalk for every learning station, making it easy to identify which standards are addressed before scheduling your visit. Standards are organized by grade level and subject area to simplify lesson planning and documentation for administrators.

Because many academic concepts overlap across grade levels and states, each station may support multiple standards in science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, environmental education, agricultural literacy, and career exploration.

Our goal is to provide educators with a field trip experience that is both engaging and academically meaningful. By combining standards-based instruction with authentic, hands-on learning, Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm helps students develop curiosity, critical thinking skills, scientific understanding, and a lifelong appreciation for agriculture.

You can find all the objectives listed in the appendix.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should students wear?

Friendly Farm is a real working farm, so we recommend that students dress for the weather and outdoor conditions. Closed-toe shoes are required. Boots or sturdy athletic shoes are encouraged, as students may be walking on gravel, grass, dirt, or uneven ground. Sunscreen, hats, and light jackets may also be appropriate depending on the season.

Can students feed the animals?

Yes! Many of our learning stations include opportunities for students to safely feed or interact with selected animals under the supervision of Friendly Farm staff. For the safety of both students and animals, only feed provided by the farm may be given to the animals.

Can we bring lunch?

Absolutely! Classes are welcome to bring sack lunches and enjoy our picnic area by selecting the optional Picnic Lunch add-on. Please let us know when scheduling your visit so we can include time in your itinerary.

Is the farm handicap accessible?

We strive to make our educational programs accessible to all students. Much of the farm is accessible; however, because we are a working farm, some areas include gravel paths, grass, uneven terrain, and natural surfaces. If you have students with mobility or other accessibility needs, please contact us before your visit so we can work with you to provide the best possible experience.

Can siblings attend?

Yes. Siblings are welcome when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Siblings participate in the same educational activities as the class and are admitted at the standard field trip admission price.

Can homeschool groups schedule visits?

Yes! We welcome homeschool families, co-ops, scouting organizations, 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, church groups, and other educational organizations. Private group visits may be scheduled based on availability. While we try to work with any size group, a minimum number of paying participants is required.

How large can our group be?

We can accommodate both small and large groups. To ensure the best learning experience, larger classes may be divided into smaller groups that rotate through the learning stations. Please contact us if your group exceeds 60 participants so we can discuss scheduling and staffing needs.

What happens if it rains?

Field trips are held rain or shine whenever it is safe to do so. Many activities can continue with minor adjustments, so students should dress appropriately for the weather. In the event of severe weather or unsafe conditions, we will work with your school to reschedule your visit at no additional charge.

Still Have Questions?

We're happy to help! If you have additional questions about scheduling, accessibility, curriculum connections, or planning your visit, please contact us. We look forward to welcoming your students to Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm for a memorable day of hands-on learning and discovery.

Booking Information

Thank you for your interest in Agriculture Alive at Friendly Farm! We are excited to share the wonder of agriculture with your students through engaging, hands-on learning experiences. To provide the best educational experience, field trips are scheduled by reservation only.

To reserve your visit, please complete the booking information on our website or below and return it by email to friendlyfarm63@gmail.com or fill out the form on our website friendlyfarm4fun.com mail to 1104 Rebel hollow Rd, Tazewell, TN 37879 or Reservations are confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact Information

Friendly Farm

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Preferred Field Trip Dates

Please list your preferred dates in order of preference.

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

Preferred Arrival Time: _____

Estimated Departure Time: _____

School Information

School Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade Level(s): _____

Number of Students: _____

Number of Teachers/Staff: _____

Number of Parents/Chaperones: _____

Will your group be bringing lunch? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to add Farm Exploration Time? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Learning Stations

Please select your preferred stations.

☐ Meet the Animals

☐ From Feed to Food

☐ Farm Products

☐ Life Cycles

☐ Farmers are Scientists

☐ Pollinators & Plants

☐ Farm Economics

☐ Farm Careers

Once we receive your reservation request, we will contact you to confirm your date, answer any questions, and provide your Teacher Planning Packet, including pre-visit resources, standards alignment, classroom activities, and your Agriculture Alive Passport materials.

We look forward to welcoming your class to Friendly Farm for a day of discovery, exploration, and hands-on agricultural learning!