

"I THOUGHT YOUR FARM WAS SO, SO, SO COOL WITH ALL OF THE ANIMALS AND CROPS YOU GROW. I WOULD LIVE THERE IF I COULD."

- 3RD GRADER, CHICAGO

2012 PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUPS

at Angelic Organics Learning Center

WHOLE FARM TOUR

Our 2-hour tour provides an experiential introduction to the farm, emphasizing how living soils, animals, plants and people interact on an organic farm. Students learn:

- Where food actually comes from, and what a farmer's job entails.
- How our food choices impact the environment and economy, including what is unique about organic and CSA farms.
- Connections between the health of land, food, and our bodies.
- About the farm as a living ecosystem, including diversity, interdependence, adaptations, nutrient cycles, and energy flows on the farm.

DAY PROGRAMS

Standard day programs last for 4-5 hours and include a Whole Farm Tour, a mini-harvest of vegetables (available June to October), a lunch break in our oak savanna, and one of the following projects of the group's choice.

Meet the Animals: adaptations and ecology of farm animals (Year-round)

Trace animal products back to their source, assist in the care of livestock, and study the bodies, roles and behavior of farm animals. *Winter option* focuses on adaptations to cold, special seasonal care, and includes a hike to look for signs of wild animals and compare them with their domestic counterparts.

Meet (and Eat!) Your Vegetables (June to October)

Learn about the botanical and nutritional qualities of vegetables while practicing classification skills and, of course, tasting the bounty of the farm!

Kidwatch: monitor the births and growth of baby goats (late March and early April only)

Learn signs of impending birth (and witness one if you are lucky!) and track the health and growth of our baby kids. Class covers goat anatomy, ecology, behavior, socialization, reproduction, and development. Data will be available to take home for graphing and analysis.

Ecology Detectives: investigate the farm ecosystem (April to October)

Pose questions, then head out on the farm to do simple experiments for a hands-on exploration of farm ecology. We reflect on how farm management influences the whole ecosystem. Options include:

Soil Explorers

Compare soils between an organic and conventional farm, learning about the physical and biological aspects of soils, nutrient cycles, decomposition, and soil management.

Incredible Insects

Catch and observe insects, and observe signs of their role on the farm. Emphasizes the differences between beneficial and harmful insects, and strategies for organic controls.

Web of Life: interdependence, cycles, and energy on the farm

Students track the interactions between parts of the farm, and complete our "Farm Web of Life" to synthesize their learning.

Down and Dirty: build teamwork and learn practical skills (Year-round)

Build problem solving skills, engage in meaningful physical labor, and develop an understanding of farm ecology through hands-on projects. Projects vary with the needs of the farm, and may include animal care, barn work, composting, moving hay, vegetable gardening or field work, ecological restoration, or building projects.

Practical Skills in Sustainable Agriculture (Year-round, depending on topic)

Get hands-on experience to bring skills back to your school or community. Topics include composting, vermiculture (worm composting), organic gardening, animal husbandry, beekeeping, and shelter building for livestock.

Food from Field to Table

Trace the path of foods from living soils to your plate through hands-on farming and cooking, emphasizing nutrition, cooking skills, and a comparison of conventional and sustainable food systems. Additional \$2 fee per person to cover cooking costs for day programs. Our most popular options include:

- Dairy Goats and Milking** (May to mid-October) (no additional charge)
- Stone Soup or Chicken Soup** (November to March); **Wild Greens Soup** (May to August)
- Cheese making** (May through mid-October)
- Pizza** (June through mid-October) (\$4 per person extra, maximum 25 people)
- Pasta** (Year round)
- Home-baked bread** (Year round)
- Home-milked Ice Cream** (June to September)
- Cornbread from the Ground Up** (mid-October to March)
- Pumpkin pie** (September to November)

Recreation, Exploration, and Reflection (Year-round)

Kids love unstructured time outdoors! Leave part of your day open for recreation in the outdoors: explore the oak savanna, play with the animals, journal, or draw. Depending on ground conditions and availability, we may be able to schedule a ride on the hay wagon. Other possibilities include group building games, or a hiking trip to the creek and historical sites on the farm (latter requires 2 hours).

OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS (2-5 days)

Overnight programs engage groups more fully in the life of the farm, experiencing some of the rhythms of a typical work day. Students take part in daily chores, camp in our oak savanna, and join field work crews. Depending on the length of your stay, we'll incorporate your choice of the above day programs.

Groups camp in our Gathering Space, which includes a composting toilet; a campfire ring; and an outdoor shelter with a propane 2-burner stove, and well water. Our indoor workshop space has flatware and plates, a modest supply of cooking utensils, and hot water for washing dishes. Groups typically prepare their own foods, supplemented by seasonally-available produce, eggs, and goat milk from the farm.

PROGRAM COSTS

Program costs are covered by per person fees from visiting groups. Group sizes range from 15-45; smaller groups must pay minimum group payment. Group leaders must confirm size 2 weeks in advance. Inquire about assistance for limited-resource groups.

	<i>Per person cost</i>	<i>Min. group payment</i>
Whole Farm Tour	\$11	\$165
Whole Farm Tour, plus use of picnic area	\$13	\$195
Day Program	\$19	\$285
Day Program plus cooking option	\$21	\$315
2-day Overnight Program	\$70	\$1,050
3-day Overnight Program	\$110	\$1,650
5-day Overnight Program	\$185	\$2,775

ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS

Our programs can help meet state learning goals in science (including life cycles, categorization of living things, comparing form and structure, relationships between organisms and environment, energy cycles, natural resources, seasonal patterns, use of technology, and interactions between humans and ecosystems), as well as healthy eating, teamwork, economics, environmental history, and geography. Please inquire about how to best meet your class goals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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