Thank you
Thank you to those who have assisted in creating the Farm Field Trip Toolkit! Authors and editors include Meghan Cotton, Erin Jackson, and Aubree Roth. We greatly appreciate Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project for allowing us to adapt their resources, which are available at www.growing-minds.org.

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About the organization
Gallatin Valley Farm to School’s mission is to connect schools and local producers in the Gallatin Valley, Montana. Through these connections the program will realize many goals, including:

- serving healthy, fresh, made from scratch, local meals in school cafeterias;
- improving student nutrition;
- providing health, nutrition and agriculture education;
- enhancing local economies by supporting local farmers;
- and instilling a sense of community citizenship in students.

For more information
Gallatin Valley Farm to School
P.O. Box 563
Bozeman, MT 59771

lunchbox@gvfarmtoschool.org
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www.gvfarmtoschool.org
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**Planning Your Farm Field Trip**

Adapted from Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project farm field trip guide available at [www.growing-minds.org](http://www.growing-minds.org).

Taking your class on field trips to a farm is a great way to educate students about where their food comes from. Farm field trips allow students to experience local agriculture first-hand, using all their senses. Depending on grade level and topics discussed on the field trip, many education standards can be covered. See below for tips for planning a farm field trip.

**Guided Questions for Planning Your Trip**

Not sure which farm to visit? Here are a few questions to help you choose a farm that fits your classroom and goals. Use the list below to select a few farms to interview and use your responses to the questions below to formulate questions for the farmer.

**Initial Questions and Logistics**

- How many children will be going on the field trip and what activities does the farm offer?
- How many chaperones do you need?
- Is there anything in particular you want the children to see? A certain agricultural practice or a type of farming, animal, or crop?
- What is your budget? How will you fund the field trip?
- How will you integrate the farm trip into your classroom units?

**Travel and Timing**

- How far are you willing to travel to a farm?
- How will you travel (carpool, vans, bus)?
- What are the dates being considered for the trip? What you will be able to do and see on the farm will vary widely depending on the season. It is a good idea to have a few dates in mind before contacting the farmer.
- How long would you like to spend at the farm?

**Special Accommodations**

- Do you have any children in wheelchairs or with other special needs that the farm would need to accommodate?

**Preparation**

- What will you do in the case of inclement weather? It’s a good idea to discuss this with your farmer before the trip.
- Do you have a first aid kit to take with you? Do you have a field trip emergency plan?
- Do you need to get release forms signed?
- Will you take a snack or lunch with you to the farm?
Communicating With Farmers

Once you have selected a farm to visit, it is important to establish good communication with the farmer so that you each know what to expect from the field trip. Have a thorough conversation with the farmer and follow up with an email to make sure communication is clear. Clarify the timeframe and logistics of the trip and how you can work together to create hands-on activities. Have the discussion well in advance of the visit so that both of you have time to prepare. Laying out expectations and clarifying details will make field trips run more smoothly and be more enjoyable for everyone involved. Farmers, like teachers, are busy and often hard to reach by phone. Ask the farmer what the best number to reach them is and when the best times are to call.

It is useful to discuss the following issues with the farmer:

- **Number of students visiting**: Discuss the number of students the farm can accommodate and if there are any students with special needs or allergies.
- **Age of students**: Tell the farmer the age of the students so that they can prepare appropriate activities. Give the farmer an idea of what the students can handle.
- **Number of adult chaperones and small groups**: How many adults will need to be present? Dividing the students into smaller groups will allow for more hands-on time and make it easier to move around the farm.
- **Role of adult chaperones**: Discuss what the expectations and roles are for the adults and how they can help.
- **Rules on the farm**: Discuss any rules or guidelines of the farm. Share these with all the adults and students prior to the field trip.
- **Travel time and directions**: Discuss the length of the visit and how long travel time will be. Make sure you get clear directions from the farmer to pass along to the drivers.
- **Parking**: Discuss where the bus or cars can turn around and park.
- **Facilities**: Is there a bathroom that groups can use? Is there a clean site for hand washing (mandatory if children are petting animals or eating while on the farm)? Is there a covered space out of the sun and rain?
- **Lunch and snacks**: Clarify what the group’s needs are for lunch and snacks, and schedule breaks accordingly. Ask if the farmer will offer snacks of fresh produce or farm products. If provided by the farm, how much will the snacks cost?
- **Costs**: Farms typically charge per student and/or per adult. Discuss the total costs so that you can arrange for funding for the trip.
- **Planned activities**: What activities does the farmer have planned? Will you be responsible for some, or all, of the activities beyond the tour?
- **Special interests**: Are there specific interests or curricular goals that you have for this trip? Discuss possible themes or activities that could fit these goals.
- **Rain and emergency plan**: Have a plan for rain and emergencies. Make sure there is a first aid kit available.

What to Bring

Ask your students to bring the following:

- Sun hat
- Sunscreen
- Sturdy shoes (no open toes)
- Water bottle
- Wind parka or rain gear (if rain is likely)
- Notebooks, art paper, pens
- A bag lunch (minimal waste please)
- Layers – for both hot and cool weather.

**Teachers should pack:**
- First aid kit – including any medications a student might need (for allergies, for example)
- Sunscreen
- Extra water
- Blankets for picnic

**Lunch, Water, and Snacks**
Encourage reusable containers for the students’ lunches to minimize waste, and bring garbage bags to carry your lunch waste out with you. Ask farmers about bathrooms, hand-washing stations, and where the best place would be for the class to eat. Many farms do not have picnic tables, so be prepared to bring blankets for a picnic. Bring water and make sure to double check with farmers that there will be drinking water available for refills. Ask the farm about the possibility of offering a fresh farm snack for students and make sure to compensate farmers for whatever they provide.

**Name Tags**
Have your students make nametags so that the farmer, farm staff, and chaperones can easily communicate with them. If everyone (students, teachers, parents, farmer, and chaperones) has nametags, the day will go smoother.

**Weather**
Be sure students are prepared for all types of weather. Determine if you will schedule a rain day for the visit or cancel the trip altogether. Make sure to determine who is responsible for making calls on the weather: you or the farmer. Advise students to bring a rain jacket if there is a high probability of precipitation. Students should wear hats and closed toed shoes.

**On-Farm Activities**
Farm field trips are opportunities for unique activities for students. It is important to discuss planned activities with the farmer as well as bring backup activities in case weather or other unexpected events change the plan.

**General Guidelines**
- **Be flexible** – While it is important to have activities planned throughout the trip, you want to allow for flexibility in your schedule – spend more time on activities that the students are enjoying and move on from activities that students aren’t engaged with. Leave time for exploration and play!
- **Hands-on activities** – This is one of the most important aspects of farm field trips. Put
the students to work and let them get dirty! Explain how each farm activity fits into the bigger picture of farm production and operation so that students understand the purpose of their work.

Activity Ideas
- **Journals or notebooks** – Providing journals for each child offers a huge range of options on a field trip, from sketching and observations to data collection or reflection.
- **Children’s literature** – It is worthwhile to haul a few relevant books in your daypack in case you need to fill in ten minutes while waiting for an activity to start. Reading books can even be stretched to an hour with reflection activities. Consider having the farmer read the book(s) to the group.
- **Scavenger hunt or BINGO** – Print copies of the scavenger hunt below and bring brown paper bags for children to use in collecting items. Make a scavenger hunt or farm BINGO specific to the farm you’ll be visiting. What might the students spot on a farm?

**Scavenger Hunt**
Collect only things that you can handle safely.
- A feather
- 3 different kinds of seeds
- Something round
- Something beautiful
- Something that makes a noise
- Something that reminds you of yourself
- Something soft
- Something that does not belong
- Something that smells good
# Farm Field Trip Details Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Items to Bring</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Field Trip Destination</th>
<th>Farm Contact</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Phone</td>
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<th>Special Accommodations</th>
<th># of Chaperones &amp; Names</th>
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<th>Half or Full Day?</th>
<th>Departure Time (from school)</th>
<th>Arrival Time (at farm)</th>
<th>Parking Info</th>
<th>Departure Time (from farm)</th>
<th>Arrival Time (at school)</th>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>Activities/Schedule</th>
<th>Snack/Lunch</th>
<th>Facilities/Restrooms</th>
<th>Weather Considerations/Plan</th>
<th>Rules of the Farm</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
</table>
Farms List

The following Gallatin Valley farmers are happy to host field trips and/or visit your classroom. Please contact them directly to make specific arrangements.

Amaltheia Dairy
Contact: Sue Brown
3380 Penwell Bridge Road
Belgrade, MT 59714
(406) 388-5950
mbamaltheia@aol.com

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: Pre-K-12 (Age 2+)
Size of Group: 25 people
Wheelchair Access: Outside

When to Visit
Best season: May - September
Duration: 1-2 hours

Farm Description
Amaltheia Organic Dairy is a sustainable, organic company that makes organic goat cheeses. They have been making cheese for 12 years and have three American Cheese Society Competition Award-Winning Cheeses. Amaltheia utilizes all of their by-products and now have organic whey-fed pork to sell - as well as organic vegetables and composted manure.

Farm Tour Activities
Goats, cheese making, pigs, herbs, chickens, vegetables

Resources
Parking: Yes
Rain Shelter: No
Snacks: Contact Sue about cheese samples
Classroom Visit: Yes

Broken Ground
Contact: Kareen Erbe
1505 Bridger Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 600-7881
info@brokengroundpermaculture.com

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: 3rd grade and older
Size of Group: <30
Wheelchair Access: Yes

When to Visit
Best season: Spring or summer
Duration: 1-2 hours

Farm Description
Broken Ground has an evolving ¾ acre permaculture demonstration site showing water capture and food production principles for the home scale. This “homestead” space is complete with chicken coops, gardens, fruit trees, berry bushes, and a pond. Broken Ground also leads gardening, composting, and permaculture workshops, one-on-one consultations, and edible garden designs and installations.

Farm Tour Activities
Learn about and observe permaculture principles, visit chickens, and plant, harvest, and sample from gardens and fruit trees (depending on season).

Resources
Parking: Yes
Rain Shelter: No
Snacks: Yes - depending on season
Classroom Visit: Yes – prefer older groups
Cloud Nine
Contact: Allison Rooney
7 Teepee Lane
Wilsall, MT 59086
(406) 578-2144
rooneymontana@imt.net

Farm Description
Cloud Nine Farm is a biodiverse family farm practicing permaculture and growing vegetables, herbs, fruits, seedlings, fruit trees and livestock. They use traditional organic farming methods such as crop rotation and cover-cropping, they feed their animals certified organic grains, and never use harmful chemicals or GMOs. Their produce and goods can be found at Bozeman’s summer and winter farmer’s markets and all year long via Market Day Foods.

Resources
Classroom Visit: Yes (January - March)

Gallatin Gardeners
Contact: Don Mathre
West Garfield off of 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
upldm@montana.edu
info@gallatingardenersclub.com

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: Grade 3-10 (Age 8-15)
Size of Group: 10-15 people
Wheelchair Access: Outside

When to Visit
Best season: June – mid September
Duration: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Farm Description
The Gallatin Gardeners Club has a half acre vegetable garden located on the MSU Horticulture Farm. It is operated by the members of the club. The produce that we

harvest is sold at the Farmers' Market and the proceeds are used to fund projects such as scholarships for MSU Horticulture majors, the Food Bank, local school garden projects, etc.

Farm Tour Activities
Vegetable production

Resources
Parking: Limited to 6-12 cars
Rain Shelter: Yes
Snacks: No
Classroom Visit: No

Gallatin Grown
Contact: John and Conni Mahoney
5464 Amsterdam Rd
Manhattan, MT 59741
(406) 581-1628
info@gallatingrown.com

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: All ages
Size of Group: <25
Wheelchair Access: Yes

When to Visit
Best season: May - October
Duration: 1-2 hours

Farm Description
Gallatin Grown is an eight-acre vegetable farm that uses sustainable, healthy farm techniques in order to conserve their valuable land. John and Conni run a U-Pick of carrots, beets, onions, tomatoes, pumpkin, squash, and other seasonal fruits and vegetables. They also sell to institutions such as schools and hospitals and raise sheep and goats for meat. They strive to make eating local, tasty veggies as easy as possible and hope to provide for their neighbors for many generations to come.
Farm Tour Activities
Planting vegetables in the spring, harvesting in summer and fall, observing how different plants grow, sheep and goat visits

Resources
Parking: Yes
Rain Shelter: Yes
Snacks: Yes depending on season
Classroom Visit: Yes

Gallatin Valley Botanical
Contact: Matt & Jacy Rothschilder
250 Chester Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 599-2361
jacy@gallatinvalleybotanical.com

Farm Description
Gallatin Valley Botanical is a 12-acre, certified organic, diversified vegetable farm that has been growing fresh, healthy, beautiful food for the community since 2003. They grow up to 150 varieties of produce that they market to a 120-person CSA, 12 local restaurants, the Community Food Co-op, and two summer and one winter farmers markets in Bozeman. They work with nature to maintain soil fertility and balance insect pest problems using crop rotation, beneficial insect attracting plantings, composted manure, and cover crops.

Farm Tour Activities
Introduction to season extension methods with cold frames, visit goats and chickens, observe and harvest diversified crops

Resources
Parking: Yes
Rain Shelter: Yes
Snacks: Yes depending on season
Classroom Visit: Yes

Hyalite Farm
Contact: Laura Roe
4550 Johnson Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 581-6037
ljrdvm@mac.com

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: Grade 4-5 (Ages 8-12)
Size of Group: 25-30 people
Wheelchair Access: No

When to Visit
Best season: May/June, October/November
Duration: 1- 2 hours

Farm Description
Laura Roe of Hyalite Farm is a holistic veterinarian. She raises Icelandic sheep for meat and wool, Nigerian dwarf goats for milk, and bees for honey and wax. She also makes soap, wool products, honey, and beeswax slaves.

Farm Tour Activities
Animal visits, soap making, introduction to bees and related products, introduction to sheep and wool

Resources
Parking: Yes
Rain Shelter: Yes
Snacks: Contact Laura about cheese tasting
Classroom Visit: No

Rocky Creek Farm
Contact: Pete Faye
34297 Frontage Road
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 585-0225
orchardman32@yahoo.com
Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: Grade K-12 (Age 5+)
Size of Group: Up to 40 people
Wheelchair Access: Yes

When to Visit
Best season: May-September
Duration: 1-4 hours

Farm Description
Rocky Creek Farm is a 50 acre U-Pick farm where we offer u-pick strawberries, raspberries, apples, a pumpkin patch, and a cider mill. The farm is an agritourism operation entering their 33rd year of operation. Each year, Rocky Creek Farm has two schools come out and “work” on the farm. Pete provides a lesson plan for those sessions which involve hands-on activities which are fun for the students and very helpful to the farm. Their motto, “Please Trespass”, invites all groups out to tour and participate on the farm!

Farm Tour Activities
Strawberry, raspberry, and apple culture. Pigs, chickens, and goats. Cider making, hayrides, pumpkin culture, composting, pest and weed control.

Resources
Parking: Yes
Rain Shelter: Yes
Snacks: Contact Pete about fruit samples.
Classroom Visit: Yes

Running Strike
Contact: Dylan Strike and Rory Running
5180 Stucky Road
Bozeman, MT
(406) 581-5483
runningstrikefarms@gmail.com

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: All ages
Size of Group: <30
Wheelchair Access: Yes

When to Visit
Best season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Duration: 1-2 hours

Farm Description
Running Strike Farms is a five-acre diversified farm that is committed to providing high quality, sustainably grown vegetables, herbs, flowers, honey, and art to the community. They grow over 100 different varieties of vegetables that can be found through their CSA programs, at two summer and one winter farmer’s markets, at Market Day Foods, and at the Community Food Co-op.

Farm Tour Activities
Local food educational activities; harvesting, planting, and tasting vegetables; observing pollinators; learning about honey production

Resources
Parking: Yes – limited
Rain Shelter: Yes
Snacks: Yes – depending on the season
Classroom Visit: Yes

Three Hearts Farm
Contact: Dean Williamson
2111 Love Lane
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 451-2184
dwilliamsonmt@gmail.com

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: All ages
Size of Group: All sizes
Wheelchair Access: No

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: All ages
Size of Group: <30
Wheelchair Access: Yes

When to Visit
Best season: Spring, Summer, Fall
Duration: 1-2 hours

Farm Description
Running Strike Farms is a five-acre diversified farm that is committed to providing high quality, sustainably grown vegetables, herbs, flowers, honey, and art to the community. They grow over 100 different varieties of vegetables that can be found through their CSA programs, at two summer and one winter farmer’s markets, at Market Day Foods, and at the Community Food Co-op.

Farm Tour Activities
Local food educational activities; harvesting, planting, and tasting vegetables; observing pollinators; learning about honey production

Resources
Parking: Yes – limited
Rain Shelter: Yes
Snacks: Yes – depending on the season
Classroom Visit: Yes

Three Hearts Farm
Contact: Dean Williamson
2111 Love Lane
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 451-2184
dwilliamsonmt@gmail.com

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: All ages
Size of Group: All sizes
Wheelchair Access: No
When to Visit
Best season: May – October
Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Farm Description
Three Hearts Farm is a seven-acre diversified vegetable farm that follows stringent organic growing practices. They adhere to strict principles of sustainability (healthy soil, healthy business, healthy community) and sell products to groceries, restaurants, and the food co-op, through a CSA, and at farmers markets. Three Hearts Farm also processes a food for restaurants and institutions.

Farm Tour Activities
Sheep, chickens, bees and vegetable crops, including several hoop houses

Resources
Parking: Yes
Rain Shelter: Yes, in barn and greenhouses
Snacks: No
Classroom Visit: Yes

Townes Harvest Garden
Contact: Charles Holt
West Garfield off of 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 994-7738
charles.holt@montana.edu

Who Can Visit
Grade Levels/Ages: Grade 3-12 (Age 8+)
Size of Group: All sizes
Wheelchair Access: Yes, to the main areas.

When to Visit
Best season: September
Duration: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Farm Description
The Towne's Harvest Garden is a project of the MSU Friends of Local Foods Student Organization. Friends of Local Foods was formed in the fall of 2006 to bring a diverse group of students and faculty together to raise awareness about local foods and encourage sustainable lifestyles on campus and in the community. Towne's Harvest Garden is a 3-acre diversified vegetable plot located at the MSU Horticulture Farm.

Farm Tour Activities
Certified organic and certified sustainable diverse crops in field and cold frames, free range chickens, sheep grazing cover crops, processing and storage and distribution barn

Resources
Parking: Yes
Rain Shelter: Yes
Snacks: No
Classroom Visit: Possibly
References

Needing more guidance? Feel free to contact any of our local field trip references. They would be more than happy to give you any advice and tips on your upcoming trip.

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(406) 219-1010

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bobbi@LearningByNature.org
(406) 599-1770

Leslie Dominick
Hawthorne School Green Team
Leslie.Dominick@gmail.com
(406) 209-1347