



Merry Lea

Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College

Exploring Merry Lea Teaching Farm K - 2nd

Program Description

Merry Lea Teaching Farm is a unique edible ecosystem where students taste their way to an understanding of humans, farm and habitat connections. Students delve into soil ecosystems, search for pollinators at work and meet our animals living at the farm. Making apple cider provides students a memorable example of how food can be processed before we consume it.

Program Objectives

Students will learn how:

- Food comes from farms
- Farms are ecosystems! (Communities of plants and animals)
- Farms are managed by people, who are also an important part of the farm.

Program Outline

*Activities may vary based on group size and length of trip

1. Farm Stations: Students rotate through different stations focused on the importance each place plays on the farm.
 - Animal Barn
 - Garden Exploration
 - Farms as an Ecosystem
 - Compost
2. Trail Activities: Students stop and make observations about an ecosystem while on the trail (wetland, forest, prairie).
3. Cider Pressing
4. Group Game

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------|
| • Habitat | • Prairie | • Stem |
| • Forest | • Farm | • Root |
| • Wetland | • Processed | • Leaf |

Quick Facts ←

Season Fall: September - November

Grades K - 2nd

Program 4 hours

Maximum # of Students 80 Students

Standards Correlation

ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting an Engineering Problem: Asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems. (K-2-ETS1-1) (secondary to K-ESS3-2)

LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms: All animals need food in order to live and grow. They obtain their food from plants or from other animals. Plants need water and light to live and grow. (K-LS1-1)

ESS3.A: Natural Resources: Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do. (K-ESS3-1)

LS1.A: Structure and Function: All organisms have external parts. Different animals use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water and air. Plants also have different parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits) that help them survive and grow. (1-LS1-1)

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms: Adult plants and animals can have young. In many kinds of animals, parents and the offspring themselves engage in behaviors that help the offspring to survive. (1-LS1-2)

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Plants depend on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around. (2-LS2-2)

LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans: There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Plants depend on water and light to grow. (2-LS2-1)