

Project Report

To: Growing Forward 2 Project Evaluation Committee

From: Growers of Organic Food Yukon Association

For: Financial support of the Kids on the Farm program from January 1 to March 15, 2018

Prepared by: Sarah Ouellette, Program Coordinator

Date: March 15, 2018

Introduction

Kids on the Farm program operations continued from January 1 through to March 15, 2018, thanks to funding from Growing Forward 2. The Kids on the Farm program's fiscal year is changing to April 1 to March 31, to match that of Yukon Government. This project funding provided a very important bridge between the 2017 and 2018 farm tours seasons. Critical planning and preparations took place, which means the Kids on the Farm program is ready to facilitate another successful farm tour season for students, teachers and farmers this spring.

Background

The Kids on the Farm (KotF) program has facilitated 134 farm tours and 3 farmer-in-the-classroom visits for nearly 3,000 school students and over 600 chaperones since 2013. This program supports the Local Food Strategy for Yukon by effectively increasing the knowledge, appreciation and awareness of agriculture among Whitehorse students and teachers through experiential learning, all the while supporting school curriculum objectives. At the same time, KotF contributes to the financial stability of Yukon farmers by providing an important opportunity for them to diversify their farm income.

Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY) developed the Kids on the Farm program with funding from the Canada-Yukon Growing Forward 2 Agriculture Education Program since 2013, as well as funding from the Government of Yukon Department of Education since 2016. The Yukon Agricultural Association made a vital and timely financial contribution in the spring of 2017 to help the program meet unprecedented demand for farm tours. GoOFY is a registered not-for-profit organization based in the Yukon, which promotes organic practices and provides support, education and advocacy about organic growing and processing.

PROJECT REPORT

Project Activities

From January 1 to March 15, 2018, Kids on the Farm program activities included the following.

- All Whitehorse-area farmers were invited to participate in the KotF program as hosts through an open solicitation process. Seven farms completed the Farmer Registration Form, which included two new and five returning farms. (A third new farm also registered, but withdrew its application early March.)
- All Yukon farmers interested in learning about the Kids on the Farm program, leading farm tours for students in K-12, and networking with other farmers were invited to attend the Farmer's Meeting.
- Potential funding sources for farm tours in communities outside Whitehorse were researched and identified.
- The Curriculum Connections for students in Kindergarten to Grade 9, as well as the recommended farm tour themes, activities and discussion topics, were all updated to reflect the changes made in the New BC Curriculum.
- The farm tour payment form, as well as the farmer's and teacher's evaluation forms were all updated.
- Communication between the KotF program coordinator, Sarah Ouellette, and Jesse Jewell of the Department of Education was maintained to ensure the KotF program procedures were approved by the Department and agreeable for teachers.
- The Farmer's Handbook, as well as other resources for farmers, were updated, printed and distributed at the Farmer's Meeting or by mail.
- The Farmer's Meeting was held on February 14th (more info below).
- The Teacher's Handbook, staff room poster and mail box memos were updated, printed and distributed to all Whitehorse and area schools on March 12th.

- A letter describing the Kids on the Farm program, as well as a copy of the Teacher’s Handbook, was mailed to each community school, encouraging teachers to consider booking a Kids on the Farm tour if their class is traveling to Whitehorse in the spring or fall.
- The Kids on the Farm website was updated (<http://kidsonthefarm.yukonfood.com>).
- A draft funding application to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program was written.
- This Project Report and the Project Evaluation were completed and submitted.

Farmer’s Meeting Outcomes

The following seven farms are participating in the Kids on the Farm program as hosts this year:

Circle D Ranch	Dusty Trail Yukon	Elemental Farm
Fox Ridge Farm	Lendrum Ross Farm	Poplar Flats Farm
Wheaton River Gardens		

The Farmer’s Meeting was held on February 14th for the 2018 farmer hosts, as well as any interested farmers from outside Whitehorse. Jesse Walchuk (Agriculture Development Officer at the Agriculture Branch), Jennifer Hall (Executive Director of the Yukon Agriculture Association), and Jesse Jewell (Experiential Learning Consultant for the Department of Education) were also present at the meeting.

Six farmers, including one farmer from Haines Junction, participated in the Farmer’s Meeting. Participants became familiar with KotF program procedures, learned how to manage farm risks, what to discuss with teachers, how to lead farm tours that meet curriculum objectives, and shared experiences.

While five farms outside Whitehorse expressed interest in leading farm tours for school students, most did not participate in the farmer meeting for various reasons, including they were out of the territory or ill. One family with young children cited it was too difficult to travel to Whitehorse for a three hour meeting. The farms that have expressed interest in leading farm tours are located in Haines Junction, Mayo, Pelly Crossing and Dawson City.

Two possible sources of funding for farm tours in communities outside Whitehorse were identified, though they’re not available everywhere. The Department of Education’s Rural Experiential Model (REM) puts on events in select communities a couple times a year, and farm tours could become part of those events. There will be events in Watson Lake in May and in Haines Junction in September this year. Liz Woods at the Department of Education coordinates REM events and she was put in touch with an interested farmer in Haines Junction.

The other possibility is the From the Ground Up (FtGU) program organizes one farm tour in each community that participates in their school fundraiser. Last year, the schools in Haines Junction and Dawson City participated. Farm tours (1 per community) can take place on a farm, regardless of whether or not that farm provides produce for the FtGU program. Kim Hickman at YG Health Promotions will get in touch with the KotF program coordinator in April to get contact information for farmers in communities outside Whitehorse who may be interested in providing farm tours.

While there are insufficient funds to expand the Kids on the Farm program across Yukon, GoOFY is committed to sharing resources and assisting interested farmers, teachers and community groups in starting up similar programs. The materials that were shared at the Farmer’s Meeting were mailed to the farmers outside Whitehorse who expressed interest in the Kids on the Farm program. Those materials included a copy of the:

- Farmer’s Handbook (full of farm tour activity and discussion topic ideas, as well as suggested themes and curriculum connections for students in K-12);
- Farm Tour Payment Form and Farm Tour Evaluation Form;
- Summary of teacher and farmer feedback from 2017 farm tours;
- Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition’s *Our Food in Place* booklet (a great discussion starter, particularly for students in grades 6 and up); and
- Song lyrics for *Dirt Made my Lunch*, *Garden Song* and *Farmer Plants the Seed*.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Growing Forward 2 (GF2) Project Evaluation Committee approved funding for the Kids on the Farm program from January 1 to March 15, 2018 for \$9,883.50. The actual funding required is \$7,939.13. See Figure 1 for the budget with estimated and actual costs.

Total project costs were \$8,814.13, which included administration costs (\$1,461.73), coordinator costs (\$5,425.00), and expenses from the farmer meeting (\$1,052.40). Total project costs also included in kind contributions of volunteer time by GoOFY members (valued at \$875.00), for deliberating program changes, budget considerations, updating the KotF website, and editing program resources and reports.

Actual administration costs were very similar to the amounts in the original budget (101.3%). See Figure 2 for the breakdown of the administration costs. The Farmer Meeting costs were significantly less than estimated (27.0%), due to lower than expected farmer attendance.

The Agriculture Branch gave approval to reallocate funds from the Farmer's Meeting budget line to allow for 25 additional coordinator hours on February 19th. This extra time was needed to update the Curriculum Connections for students in Kindergarten to Grade 9, to reflect the changes made in the New BC Curriculum. The recommended farm tour themes, activities and discussion topics for students in K-12 were also updated in the Farmer's and Teacher's Handbooks. The curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 9 will not change in the foreseeable future. However, the Curriculum Connections for Grades 10 to 12 will need to be updated within the next 2 years, when they change under the New BC Curriculum as well.

Conclusion

Over the past five years, the Kids on the Farm program has proven to be a highly successful program. Feedback from teachers, students and farmers demonstrates that farmers are delivering quality agricultural education that is relevant to the schools' curriculum goals. The KotF program is fulfilling the Education and Awareness strategy of the Local Food Strategy for Yukon. Furthermore, KotF contributes to the financial stability of Yukon farmers by providing an important opportunity for them to share their knowledge, work on-farm, and diversify their farm income.

The Kids on the Farm program gratefully acknowledges the Canada-Yukon Growing Forward 2 Agriculture Education Program for its on-going support. It is hoped that adequate funding will be secured through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, so that the Kids on the Farm program will be able to continue delivering high-quality farm tours that meet Yukon school curriculum goals, Local Food Strategy for Yukon goals, and economically benefiting Yukon farmers.

Figure 1: Kids on the Farm Program Budget - January 1 to March 15, 2018

Description	Estimated Costs	Actual Costs
ADMINISTRATION COSTS		
Office supplies; printing/copying; stamps, etc.	\$ 200.00	\$ 205.35
Adobe subscriptions (Acrobat Pro, InDesign)	\$ 150.00	\$ 87.98
Printing teachers'/farmers' handbooks, promotional materials	\$ 300.00	\$ 375.90
Fuel: 100KM @ 60.5¢/KM for distribution of program materials	\$ 60.50	\$ 60.50
GoOFY oversight and administration	\$ 732.00	\$ 732.00
Total	\$ 1,442.50	\$ 1,461.73
COORDINATOR COSTS		
Jan/Feb/Mar: 120 hours @ \$35/hr - Revised to 145 hours @ \$35/hr (permission from Agriculture Branch granted February 19) - Yukon Education funding application; Farmer Registration forms and info; updated New BC Curriculum Connections; updated Farmer Handbooks; researched potential funding sources for farm tours in communities; facilitated Farmer Meeting; updated and printer Teacher Handbooks and posters; distributed promotional materials to all Whitehorse area schools; mailed Teacher Handbook to all community schools; mailed Farmer Handbook and other resources to interested farmers in communities; submitted project report with budget. (Actual: 145 hours)	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 5,075.00
March - Report writing and draft CAP funding application: 10 hours @ \$35/hr (Actual: 10 hours)	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Total	\$ 4,550.00	\$ 5,425.00
FARMER MEETING		
Farmer attendance: estimate 11 @ 3h x \$35 each; actual was 6 @ 3h x \$35	\$ 1,155.00	\$ 630.00
Fuel reimbursement for farmers traveling from the communities: estimate 3200 km @ 60.5¢/KM; actual was 330 km @ 60.5¢/KM	\$ 1,936.00	\$ 199.65
Per diem for farmers from communities: estimate 8 days @ \$75/day; actual was 1 day @ \$75/day	\$ 600.00	\$ 75.00
Catering	\$ 200.00	\$ 147.75
Total	\$ 3,891.00	\$ 1,052.40
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS - IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Volunteer time from GoOFY members, farmers, educators and others involved in similar projects: estimate 25 hours @ \$35/hr	\$ 875.00	\$ 875.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 10,758.50	\$ 8,814.13
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED	\$ 9,883.50	\$ 7,939.13

Figure 2: Kids on the Farm Program Administration Costs, January 1 - March 15, 2018

Description	Estimated Costs	Actual Costs
ADMINISTRATION COSTS		
Office supplies; printing/copying; stamps, etc.	\$ 200.00	
Adobe subscriptions (Acrobat Pro, InDesign)	\$ 150.00	
Printing teachers'/farmers' handbooks, promotional materials	\$ 300.00	
Fuel: 100KM @ 60.5¢/KM for distribution of program materials, farm risk assessments, etc.	\$ 60.50	
GoOFY oversight and administration	\$ 732.00	
Total	\$ 1,442.50	
OFFICE SUPPLIES		
Jan 24 - Staples: Printer ink, paper ream, post it notes, white out, note book		\$ 79.47
Feb 8 - Staples: Rubber bands, printer ink		\$ 45.12
Feb 12 - Great Canadian Dollar Store: Bags, yarn		\$ 5.25
Feb 14 - Staples: Pens		\$ 9.02
Feb 14 - Staples: Photocopies		\$ 11.34
Feb 19 - Staples: Envelopes		\$ 11.05
March 7 - Staples: Mail box memos		\$ 44.10
March 12 - Canada Post: Mailed handbooks to community schools/farmers		\$ 39.01
Subtotal		\$ 205.35
ADOBE SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Jan 10 - Adobe Acrobat Pro DC		\$ 33.78
Jan 31 - Adobe InDesign		\$ 26.57
Feb 28 - Adobe InDesign		\$ 27.63
Subtotal		\$ 87.98
PRINTING COSTS		
Feb 14 - Arctic Star: Farmer Handbooks		\$ 99.75
March 12 - Arctic Star: Posters and Teacher Handbooks		\$ 276.15
Subtotal		\$ 375.90
FUEL: 100KM @ 60.5¢/KM for distribution of program materials to schools		\$ 60.50
GoOFY oversight and administration		\$ 732.00
TOTAL		\$ 1,461.73