

## **Kids on the Farm Program Information for Farmers in and near Yukon Communities**

If you think you'd enjoy showing students what you do on your farm, are interested in increasing your farm name and brand recognition in your community, or are looking for a way to boost your farm income, then a program similar to Kids on the Farm might be for you!

All farmers in and near Yukon communities are invited to the up-coming Farmers' Meeting to learn more about the Kids on the Farm program and find out how a similar program may be established in your own community.

**The Farmers' Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 14th, 1:30-4:30pm at the Whitehorse Public Library.**

We'll review Kids on the Farm program procedures (booking, payment and evaluations), talk about farm safety, and discuss how similar programs could be established in Yukon communities. This will be a great opportunity for all participating farmers to network and share ideas and experiences leading fun, educational and memorable farm tours for school students.

**The registration deadline to participate in the Farmers' Meeting is Wednesday, February 7th.** Scroll down to find the registration form.

### **What is Kids on the Farm?**

The Kids on the Farm (KotF) program connects teachers with participating farmers in the Whitehorse area and facilitates school tours of those farms. The program supports the Local Food Strategy for Yukon by effectively increasing the knowledge, appreciation and awareness of agriculture among Yukon students and teachers through experiential learning, all the while supporting school curriculum objectives. At the same time, KotF contributes to the financial stability of farmers by providing an important opportunity for them to diversify their farm income.

Kids on the Farm provides resources to help farmers lead high-quality tours and demonstrates how farm tours fit into the BC/Yukon curriculum guide. The program also provides subsidies to participating school groups to help cover transportation costs, remuneration to farmers to compensate them for their time preparing for, leading and cleaning up after farm tours, and funds for a program coordinator.

The Kids on the Farm program is growing! Since 2013, the Kids on the Farm program has facilitated 134 farm tours and 3 farmer-in-the-classroom visits for nearly 3,000 school students and over 600 chaperones. Cumulatively, farmers have earned over \$63,000 for their participation in this program. Feedback from farmers, teachers and students continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

### **Why participate?**

Offering farm tours increases your farm and brand recognition and builds relationships within your community. You get the opportunity to teach students where their food comes from, how they can produce food at home or at school, and promote agriculture as a career choice. If a similar program gets established in your community, you could also receive remuneration for your time preparing for, leading and cleaning up after tours. For example, the Kids on the Farm program compensates up to two farmers at a rate of \$50/hour for the duration of each tour, plus an equal number of hours (up to a maximum of 3 hours) for tour preparations and clean-up.

### **How do farmers know what activities to offer?**

Participating farmers receive a [Farmer's Handbook](#) that includes information on how to plan a farm tour and lists many age-appropriate farm activities that fit into the BC/Yukon curriculum guide. Information in the handbook is reviewed at the annual Farmers' Meeting.

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### **Travel costs to the Farmers' Meeting**

Participating community farmers will be reimbursed for their travel costs at a rate of 60.5¢/km (based on the Yukon Government Department of Finance allowance for private vehicles).

Farmers will also receive a per diem of \$75/day for travel time and participation in the meeting. For example, farmers from Haines Junction would be entitled to 1 day; farmers from Mayo, Pelly Crossing or Watson Lake would be entitled to 2 days; farmers from Dawson City would be entitled to 3 days. Farmers in the Whitehorse area will be pleased to billet farmers from Yukon communities.

Furthermore, one member of each participating farm will receive a \$35/hour honorarium for their involvement in the Farmers' Meeting.

### **When do Kids on the Farm tours take place?**

The farm tour season runs from May 1 to September 30, not including the schools' summer holidays. Tours can range from 1 to 5 hours, and the average tour duration is 3.5 hours. Participating farmers can specify which months and days of the week they're willing to host tours. Farmers can also decline any farm tour request.

### **What are farmers saying about Kids on the Farm?**

Here are some responses from the farmers' 2017 Farm Tour Evaluation Forms:

"Kids well prepared, enough helpers, very keen kids! ... Very glad to have some cash flow coming in!"

"Administration was smooth and easy."

"We love teaching the kids and watching them enjoy themselves on the farm."

"It was a really enthusiastic group. ... a few students came down and visited us at the Fireweed Community Market the next day."

"The teacher had done a lot of prep work with the kids, so good questions, good participation. Good tour, fun and easy."

### **Who has made Kids on the Farm possible?**

Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY) developed the Kids on the Farm program with generous funding from the Canada-Yukon Growing Forward 2 Agriculture Education Program, the Government of Yukon Department of Education and the Yukon Agricultural Association.

### **Want more information?**

Read last year's farmer profiles on pages 6 to 13 of the [Teacher's Handbook](#). If you have any questions, contact the program coordinator, Sarah Ouellette at [kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com](mailto:kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com) (preferred) or leave a message at 867-689-5866 (it may take several days for Sarah to get back to you by phone).

**The registration deadline is Wednesday, February 7th.** Scroll down to find the registration form.

## Kids on the Farm - Farmers' Meeting Registration Form 2018

The registration deadline is Wednesday, February 7th. This registration form is for farmers in and near Yukon communities to attend the Farmers' Meeting. Email completed forms to [kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com](mailto:kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com) or drop off at the Yukon Agricultural Association office at #203-302 Steele Street in Whitehorse. The office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

If you have any questions or need assistance completing your application form, contact the program coordinator, Sarah Ouellette, at [kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com](mailto:kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com) (preferred) or leave a message at 867-689-5866 (it may take several days for Sarah to return your call).

### Farmer Contact Information

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farmer(s)'s Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques from Kids on the Farm should be addressed to: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your experience with farm tours for school students?

2. What do you hope to get out of the Farmers' Meeting?

3. Are you interested in being billeted in a farmer's home near Whitehorse before and/or after our meeting?                      Yes                      No