

## **Kids on the Farm Program Information for Whitehorse and Area Farmers**

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 the community, or are looking for a way to boost your farm income, then the Kids on the Farm program might be for you! Read on for more info.

**The registration deadline 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 and facilitates school tours of local farms. 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.

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 the 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. You also receive remuneration for your time preparing for, leading and cleaning up after tours. More specifically, up to two farmers will be paid \$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.

### **Farmers' Meeting**

We will have a Farmer's Meeting on **Wednesday, February 14th, 1:30-4:30pm** at the Whitehorse Public Library. We'll review the program procedures (booking, payment and evaluations), discuss farm safety, and share ideas and experiences to help each other gain the confidence to lead fun, educational and memorable farm tours. Participants will be provided with a [Farmer's Handbook](#) that includes information on how to plan your farm tour and lists many age-appropriate farm activities that fit into the BC/Yukon curriculum guide.

**Participants are strongly urged to attend the Farmers' Meeting**, so please save the date. Each participating farm will receive a \$35/hour honorarium for attendance at this 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. You can specify which months and days of the week you're willing to host tours, and you can also decline any farm tour request.

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**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."

**Clarification: Registration does not guarantee farm tours**

Please note that your registration does not guarantee you will be asked to host any farm tours. Each teacher chooses which farm to visit with his/her class based on the farm profiles in the Teacher's Handbook. Information provided on the registration form is used to create each farm profile. If you need assistance completing the registration form, please contact the program coordinator.

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

Growers of Organic Food Yukon 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 - Farmer Registration Form 2018

The registration deadline is Wednesday, February 7th. This form is for farmers located in the Whitehorse area. 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 registration 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### A) Long Answer Questions

Please keep answers to each of the following questions under 100 words. At the same time, make them long enough to be meaningful, so that teachers get an idea of what you have to offer on your farm. Refer to the **2017 Teacher's Handbook** and read the profiles of other farms (pages 6 to 13) to get an idea of what to include. Don't hesitate to contact the program coordinator at [kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com](mailto:kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com) if you need some assistance.

1. **About your Farm:** What is your farm all about? What do you do? How did you get started? What's special about your farm? Provide a brief physical description of your farm. How big is it? Are there different areas with different uses? What animals do you have? What grows in your garden? Etc.

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**2. Crops & Livestock:** Please elaborate on what you already wrote in question 1. Describe the crops grown and the livestock raised on your farm. Do you have gardens, greenhouses and/or field crops? Specifically, what do you grow and what animals do you raise? When are the babies born? Who do you sell your farm products to? What's on your farm in May/June and in September?

**3. Growing Practices:** Briefly describe the growing practices used on your farm. Do you use crop rotations? Do you use compost, fertilizers or other soil amendments? How do you irrigate your crops? What do you feed your livestock?

**4. Directions:** Provide clear, detailed directions to your farm.

**5. Farm Tour Specialization:** Identify an experience, discussion topic or unique feature of your farm tours that sets you apart from other farms. This may help teachers decide where to bring their students. Examples include: farm tours in French; tours for grades 6/7 (or any specific grade levels); microorganisms; animal husbandry and genetics; anatomy and butchering; food security; etc.

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### B) Short Answer Questions

1. When are you able to provide farm tours and for how long? Check all that apply.

Spring (May-June)

Fall (September)

Half day tours (1-3 hours)

Full day tours (3-5 hours)

Any weekday

Some weekdays (please specify below)

Weekdays available for farm tours: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which grade levels are you most comfortable hosting on your farm? Check all that apply.

Kindergarten to Grade 3 (up to 22 students): Farm tours should include the exploration of life cycles on the farm using the five senses.

Grades 4 to 7 (up to 25 students): Farm tours should include the diversity of plant, animal and soil life on the farm. Alternatively (or additionally), tours could include fibre-producing animals and local fibre arts.

Grades 8 and 9 (up to 30 students): Depending on the grade level and the class's area of focus, tours could include topics such as photosynthesis, microorganisms, the cause and effect of personal food choices, and/or nutrient cycles.

Grades 10 to 12 (up to 30 students): Depending on the grade level and the class's area of focus, tours could include topics such as animal husbandry and genetics, local food production, farm ecology, food security, entrepreneurship, and/or resource management.

3. Sometimes two classes will pair up to go on a farm tour together. Up to how many students would you feel comfortable hosting on your farm?

25

30

40

>40

4. Are you able to provide farm tours in French?

Yes

No

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5. Check all that apply to the facilities available to tour groups at your farm. If desired, provide additional information.

Outhouse(s)

Indoor washroom facilities

Covered outdoor eating area

Indoor eating area

Space for easy school bus turnaround

Small bus turnaround or driveway loading

Comments (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

### C) Photos

Send 4 to 6 high-resolution photographs of your farm via email. If you'd rather provide real photographs, a CD or a USB stick, clearly label them and drop them off at the Yukon Agricultural Association office. Your photos will be copied, then returned to you.

### D) Billeting Farmers

Farmers in and near Yukon communities are invited to participate in the Farmers' Meeting. This will be a great opportunity for all participating farmers to network and share ideas and experiences leading farm tours for school students. At the same time, farmers in Yukon communities will learn more about the Kids on the Farm program and how a similar program may be established in their own communities.

Are you interested in billeting a farmer traveling to Whitehorse to participate in the Farmers' Meeting?      Yes      No