

Kids on the Farm Program Information for Farmers and Community Leaders in and near Yukon Communities

All farmers, community gardeners, educators and leaders 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 similar programs may be established in Yukon communities.

The Farmers' Meeting will be on Thursday, March 7th, 1-4pm at the Alpine Bakery in Whitehorse.

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. Meeting participants will also share ideas and experiences leading fun, educational and memorable farm tours for school students.

Community groups will have the autonomy to develop new farm tour programs that work best for their communities' needs, assets and unique situations. The Kids on the Farm program will gladly share resources, experiences and advice with interested community groups.

The registration deadline to participate in the Farmers' Meeting is Thursday, February 28th.

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.

The Kids on the Farm program 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.

Since 2013, the Kids on the Farm program has facilitated 168 farm tours and 3 farmer-in-the-classroom visits for 3,523 school students and 785 chaperones. Cumulatively, farmers have earned over \$73,000 for their participation in this program. Feedback from farmers, teachers and students continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

Why participate?

Offering farm tours builds relationships within the community. You get the opportunity to teach students where their food comes from and how they can produce food themselves at home or at school; promote agriculture as a career choice; and generally share the joy you get from your relationship to the land and its products.

Kids on the Farm program tour leaders also receive remuneration for their time preparing for, leading and cleaning up after tours. More specifically, up to two farmers are 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.

How do farmers know what activities to offer?

The [Farmer's Handbook](#) includes information on how to plan a farm tour and lists many age-appropriate farm activities that fit into the BC/Yukon curriculum guide. Everyone who attends the Farmers' Meeting will receive a copy of the Farmer's Handbook.

Travel costs to the Farmers' Meeting

Participating community farmers, gardeners, educators and leaders 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). Participants will also receive a per diem of \$75 for travel time and participation in the meeting. For example, farmers from Haines Junction are entitled to 1 day; farmers from Mayo, Pelly Crossing or Watson Lake are entitled to 2 days; farmers from Dawson City are entitled to 3 days. Farmers in the Whitehorse area will be pleased to billet meeting participants from Yukon communities. Furthermore, one member of each participating farm or community organization will receive a \$35/hour honorarium for their involvement in the Farmers' Meeting.

When do Kids on the Farm tours take place?

The Kids on the Farm program 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 their availability to lead tours and can decline any farm tour request.

What are farmers saying about the Kids on the Farm program?

Here are some responses from the farmers' 2018 Farm Tour Evaluation Forms:

"We are completely satisfied with the program. It is working well for the farmer."

"Everything about the tour was fantastic in our minds. The kids were super attentive, interested, still childlike in their interest in the babies, and the weather was cooperative."

"Busy class, but well tuned in. The teacher had done preparation work about how to behave on a farm and be around animals and it showed."

"It was cool to see the young kids interact with the animals and talk about wool sweaters, where eggs come from, udders of milk cows, picking carrots from the garden, etc."

"This was our first high school tour and we had such a blast! It was so nice to be able to have mature conversations about our farm passions and our experiences with farming over the past decade."

"I like the program - we get lots of great feedback and it's fun to see the kids."

Who has made the Kids on the Farm program possible?

The Growers of Organic Food Yukon developed the Kids on the Farm program with generous funding from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program and the Government of Yukon Department of Education, as well as Growing Forward 2 and the Yukon Agricultural Association.

Want more information?

Check out the [Kids on the Farm website](#) and read last year's farmer profiles on pages 8 to 14 of the [Teacher's Handbook](#). If you have any questions, contact the program coordinator, Sarah Ouellette at 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 Thursday, February 28th. Scroll down to find the Registration Form.

Kids on the Farm - Farmers' Meeting Registration Form 2019

The registration deadline is Thursday, February 28th. This registration form is for individuals in and near Yukon communities to attend the Farmers' Meeting on Thursday, March 7th. Email completed forms to kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com or drop off in envelope outside the Yukon Agricultural Association office at #203-302 Steele Street in Whitehorse (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

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

Contact Information

Name: _____

Farm or Organization Name: _____

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