

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 Thursday, February 28th. Scroll down to find the Registration Form.

What is the Kids on the Farm program?

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.

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 increases your farm and brand recognition and 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. You also receive remuneration for your 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.

Farmers' Meeting

We will have a Farmer's Meeting on **Thursday, March 7th, 1-4pm** at Alpine Bakery (upstairs meeting room). 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 have control of your schedule and can decline any farm tour request.

What are farmers saying about Kids on the Farm?

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."

New for 2019: Online Booking

In an effort to simplify the farm tour booking process, the Kids on the Farm program plans to introduce online booking this spring. Farmers will have access to the booking site so that they can indicate their availability for leading farm tours. Not available on certain days or at certain times? No problem, just block off the days or times you're unavailable. You will receive support to learn how to navigate the booking site.

While the Kids on the Farm program will make a concerted effort to facilitate tour bookings to all participating farms, 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 will be used to create each farm profile, and the Kids on the Farm Committee and Coordinator will revise the farm profiles in an effort to make all participating farms appealing to teachers. If you need assistance completing the registration form, please contact the program coordinator.

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 - Farmer Registration Form 2019

The registration deadline is Thursday, February 28th. This form is for farmers located in the Whitehorse area. Email completed forms to kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com or drop off in the 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 registration 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).

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 [2018 Teacher's Handbook](#) and read the profiles of other farms (pages 8 to 14) to get an idea of what to include. Don't hesitate to contact the program coordinator at kidsonthefarmyukon@gmail.com if you need some assistance.

1. **About your Farm:** Describe your farm. What do you do and how did you get started? What's special about your farm? Provide a physical description. How big is it? Are there different areas with different uses? Briefly, what animals do you have and what crops do you grow?

Kids on the Farm - Farmer Registration Form 2018

2. Crops & Livestock: Elaborate on what you already wrote in question 1. 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: Describe the growing practices used on your farm. Do you use crop rotation? 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. Why should students visit your farm? What do you consider as the 3 best features of your farm? ie. What's special, different, interesting, important, fun and/or attractive about your farm?

Kids on the Farm - Farmer Registration Form 2018

B. Short Answer Questions

1. Are you able to provide farm tours in French? Yes No
2. 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): _____

3. Billeting Farmers and Community Leaders

Farmers and community leaders across the Yukon are invited to participate in the Farmers' Meeting to learn more about the Kids on the Farm program and how a similar program may be established in their own communities. This will be a great networking opportunity and a chance to share ideas and experiences leading farm tours for Yukon school students.

Are you interested in billeting a farmer or community leader traveling to Whitehorse to participate in the Farmers' Meeting for one or two nights?

Yes

No

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 in the envelope outside the Yukon Agricultural Association office. Your photos will be copied, then returned to you.