



## COUNTRYSIDE FARMS

### “Sharing the Farm Experience with Children”



#### FIELD TRIP SELECTIONS

Welcome to Countryside Farms, where sharing the farm experience with children is our specialty! Again, we are pleased to offer our field trip selections. Field trips emphasize agricultural education, highlighting plant and earth science. Our programs involve a series of hands-on activities that feature a three to four station rotation, of twenty minutes each. The number of stations depends upon the age of the children. The walnut orchard continues to grow and grow! This fall of 2011 will mark our 5th year of harvest!! After or before a field trip appointment, bring your lunches and enjoy one of the grassy picnic areas.

#### FARM STATIONS (on the farm visits)

HAYRIDE TOUR: (all seasons) Children ride out through the walnut orchard, stop to have a demonstration about the “old days” of harvest, and then see the “modern way” to harvest, with three walnut harvesting machines on display. During the fall season, children will glean walnuts from under the trees and take them home. Spring, summer, and fall always find’s the hayride making its rounds in the orchard.

FARM YARD PLAY AREA: (all seasons) Children visit the goats, rabbits and chickens in the barn and pasture area, along with Quackers, the Duck! “Bella” our dwarf - pygmy goat loves to be walked around on a leash. Curly, our Angora goat is just begging for you to feed him, now! Our two newest goats are Salty and Peppers! They hang out in their petting corral and just love being brushed. Then there’s Dewey, the quarter horse, needing some attention, too. The “Fort” with its observation telescope and sandbox below, is in this station. Children can also take a plunge in the “Bean Pond” or sit inside the honey suckle Tee-Pees. Haystacks to climb on in the spring and a hay tunnel and corn maze in the fall!

PLANTING/SOILS STATION: (all seasons) What are the different types of soil? What does ideal soil consist of? The three types of soil will be available to touch and feel, along with our tubs of decomposing matter and living things. What do plants need to grow? Which season should we plant what? Children participate by planting seeds in their own, take-home container. In the spring and summer we plant watermelon seeds for early and late summer harvest. In the fall we plant sugar snap peas for the spring harvest. How owls benefit farming is introduced, with owl boxes and owl pellets on display. Irrigation methods will be discussed and demonstrated.

STRAWBERRIES, CHERRIES and VEGETABLES: (spring and summer season only) A yummy station, indeed! Just seeing the delicious, in-season produce, puts you in the, lets’ go pick it, NOW mood. This station is where seasonal produce is on display. How this produce is grown and picked is discussed and demonstrated. Children will then u-pick whatever is in season. U-pick always takes place in this station. Special u-pick bags are provided.

PUMPKINS and TORTILLA CORN: (fall season only) A fun and interesting station! How does a pumpkin grow? What is that pumpkin flower all about? How does corn become corn? What’s the silk all about? This station is in the FARM GARDEN! Yes, an enclosed garden with lot’s and lot’s of pumpkins, cornstalks, herbs and tomatoes! Once the lesson on pumpkins and corn is complete, children take turns cranking the corn Sheller and grind corn into corn meal. Then, it’s Pumpkin Picking time!!! Everyone will have lots of choices, since each and every day, more pumpkins are added from our, down-the-road, pumpkin field.

#### FARM TO SCHOOL VISITS (Tuesdays thru Fridays, year round, **except the month of October**)

Teachers, educators, directors, unable to bring your students to the farm, let Countryside Farms bring the farm to you!! We’ll bring a three station program. **Station I, Farm Animals!** We’ll bring Salty and Peppers (our Angora/Nubian goat cross) who love to be brushed, along with our rabbits to pet and our small, tame chickens. Straw and alfalfa hay come with our farm pets. Teaching about these farm animals, their care, what products they provide and what they eat, will take place. **Station II, Soils and Seed Planting** Containers with different types of soil, organic and inorganic matter will be displayed. Children will have the opportunity to touch, feel and smell contents. We’ll teach about, what are the different types of soil. Why do we say soil instead of dirt? What does a plant need to grow? Do seasons matter with seeds? Children will plant seeds in their take home container. Owls and owl pellets are displayed and discussed. **Station III, Seasonal Farm Market**, complete with fruit or vegetable to pick and taste. See real strawberry plants and pick a few strawberries to take home. Sweet cherries, a cherry branch will be provided and children can pick one or two cherries from the branch! Walnuts can be picked and cracked. Possible, u-pick of radishes, carrots, tomatoes, dried beans, with the season determining the type of produce available. Each seasonal produce item will have an explanation about its life cycle. All stations include a staff person who teaches his or her station. Stations are usually rotated every 20 minutes. We are able to work with times that are best for you. Cost is usually (to be determined) per child, which includes staff, materials, product, our transportation and liability insurance. **Now bus cost and scheduling is eliminated thus cost is significantly reduced!** No parent permission slips or finger printing is needed. We hope you will consider this option. We certainly look forward to bringing the farm to you!

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES and INFORMATION**

All stations are staffed by adult farm employees, who enjoy working with children and know their station subjects well. Depending on how many stations your class participates in and when lunch is included, tours will take from 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Please be on time. If being late is unavoidable, please call us, so we can plan accordingly. If you are over 15 minutes late, you will lose a station.

Upon arrival a staff member or I will greet you on the bus or in an assigned area, if arriving by car. When transportation is by van or car, please have the children gather together immediately! Do not let them run about! This rule must be followed for the safety of all.

Rain or shine, field trips will go on as scheduled. Remember, this is a working farm, where weather conditions do affect what and how we do things. On rainy days we use our various covered areas and our program moves along. Please have **name tags** for everyone in attendance, it is much more personal to greet one another by name. Remind children to dress for active play. Again, since this is a working farm, where walking on soil and rough surfaces is required, **sandals, high heels and flip flops are discouraged.**

Field trips can be scheduled anytime of the year, whether its springtime, summertime or falltime on the farm. For the fall program, it is highly advised to book two to three months in advance. We fill up early and will not overbook. Fee options are below. All fees are necessary to cover staffing, products, overhead and insurance for every person that enters the farm.

### **FEE OPTION #1**

**The cost is \$7.50 per child and adults (parents, chaperones, aides, etc.), includes all take home plantings, walnuts gleaned, any u-pick produce and pumpkins. No charge for teachers and includes one large classroom pumpkin.**

### **FEE OPTION #2**

**The cost is still \$7.50 per child but the adult fee is \$3.75, no u-pick of produce, take home plantings, gleaned of walnuts and pumpkins.**

### **\*\*SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES\*\***

**Special circumstances pricing may apply for certain situations. Let us know when scheduling, so arrangements can be made.**

As always our family, staff and I look forward to your visits! Everyone will enjoy the farm experience; it is enriching, educational, fun and non-commercial. Again, we look forward to seeing you during the upcoming seasons!

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