

Dear Farmers and Educators,

To sign up for the Farmer Correspondence Program, please fill out this form, send it in to NOFA Vermont (see address below), and the Farm to Community Mentor in your region will contact you to learn more about your interests and how you would like to participate in the program.

Or if you would like to learn more about the program, call program coordinator Scout Proft at 802-362-2290.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone(s): _____

I am a farmer

Type of farm: _____

I am a teacher

Grade level: _____

Sincerely,

Farm to Community Mentors

NOFA Vermont,

PO Box 697

Richmond, VT 05477



How To Contact Us

Bennington and Rutland

Scout Proft—Someday Farm

2087 Dorset Hill Rd, East Dorset, VT 05253

802-362-2290

Windham

Lisa Holderness—Deer Ridge Farm

4057 Hinesburg Rd, Guilford, VT 05301

802-254-3540 deerridgefarm@comcast.net

Windsor

Amy Richardson—Richardson Family Farm

87 Hartland Hill Rd, Woodstock, VT 05091

802-436-7017 farmtoschool@yahoo.com

Lamoille & Orleans

Selina Rooney

222 Tine McKee Rd, Morrisville, VT 05661

802-888-8440 selinarooney@myfairpoint.net

Orange & Washington

Kimberly Hagen—Osprey Hill Farm

28 Norton Rd, N. Middlesex, VT 05682

802-229-4096 khagen@sover.net

Franklin & Grand Isle

Julie Wolcott—Green Wind Farm

1345 Northop Rd, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450

802-933-4592 gwfarm@vtlink.net

Addison & South Chittenden

Suzanne Young—Singing Cedars Farm

30 Black Snake Lane, Orwell, VT 05760

802-948-2062 scotttnsuzanne@moose-mail.com

Chittenden & Statewide Projects

Abbie Nelson—NOFA Vermont

Education Coordinator

PO Box 697, Richmond, VT 05477

802-434-4122 abbie@nofavt.org



Farmer Correspondence Program



A seasonal exchange of stories, concepts, and photos between Vermont farmers and their neighboring school children.



Farm to Community Mentor Program

Building partnerships between farmers, educators, and community members.

About the Program

NOFA Vermont's Farm to Community Mentors expand agricultural awareness by nurturing relationships between communities and their local farms.

The Farmer Correspondence Program matches classrooms with farmers based on interests and grade levels. Farmer pen-pals correspond with students during the winter and spring, educating them about life and work on the farm.






Farm Letter Extracts:

"I have ordered 60 chicks from a hatchery in Pennsylvania. I place them in my brooder which is a large water trough with a heat lamp. I cover the trough with blankets so they stay very warm (80 to 90 degrees) and make sure that they have plenty of water and food. I leave them alone to adjust; they are exhausted and thirsty from their journey!"

"The last lamb born came early in the morning before I got to the barn. Her mother was not accepting, stamping her foot when the baby tried to nurse, and shifting away. So I had to hold mom, put hay in front of her nose, and let baby have a good feed, four times a day..."




"One job specific to this time of year is maple sugaring. Once the nights are cool and the days are warm, we tap the maple trees that grow on our farmland to collect the sap. All trees produce sap, but the maple sap is oh so sweet."

Farmers:

-  You will be paired up with as many as four neighboring classrooms and will correspond with them four times during the school year.
-  You may choose the grade level you would like to write to and the subject matter you would like to write about.
-  You will receive a stipend for your efforts from NOFA Vermont.

P.S. NOFA Vermont Farm to Community Mentors are available as resources to both farmers and teachers to help facilitate curriculums, letter content, fieldtrips, and in-school presentations

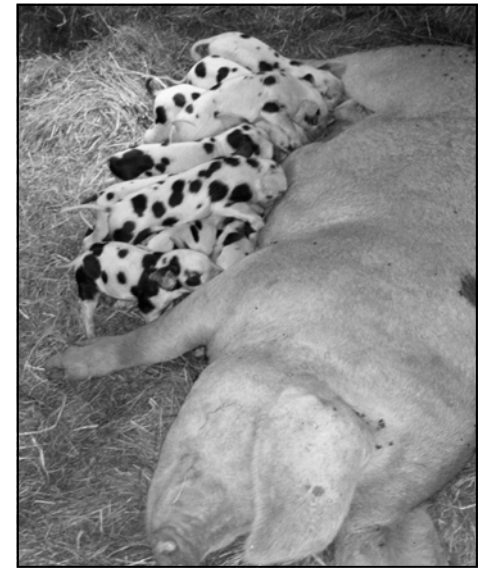
Educators:

-  Your regional Farm to Community Mentor will help you find a farmer who will suit your curricular needs and who will write your classroom four seasonal letters a year.
-  You may use them in your classroom as you see fit and shape your students' responses to their farmer in ways that best suit your educational goals (posters, drawings, letters...).
-  This program is free to schools.

Educator's Responses to the Letters

"This year I shared the farmer's letters with the kindergarten class. We focused on farm animals and growing vegetables....I integrated the letters into my guidance/social skills time."

"A wonderful program! We use it in our math unit and it really helps to reinforce their skills with fractions, multiplication, division... All of our students look forward to each letter. We can't wait to meet "our" farmer!"



Student's Responses to the Letters

"We found out that plants have different kinds of leaves. There are a lot of plants that are grown at your farm that people can eat."

"It is hard to be a farmer. I would like to be a farmer, I think."

"My grandpa is a farmer. My dad is a farmer. My dad says it's important to know how food is grown. I think so too."