

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: _____

I am a farmer

Type of farm: _____

I am a teacher

Grade level: _____



**Northeast Organic Farming
Association of Vermont
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Contact Us

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The Farmer Correspondence Program at NOFA Vermont



**A seasonal exchange between
Vermont farmers and their
neighboring schoolchildren.**

**Northeast Organic Farming
Association of Vermont
www.nofavt.org**

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.

How it Works:

- **Farmers** are paired with up to four classrooms and correspond with them four times during the school year. You may choose the grade level you would like to write to and the topics you'd like to write about. You will receive a stipend for your efforts from NOFA Vermont.
- **Educators** will be matched with a local farmer and receive four letters during the year. You may use the letters as you see fit to suit your educational goals. You can also shape your students' responses to help achieve those goals, using drawings, letters, or other tools. This program is free to schools.



Farm Letter Excerpts:

"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..."

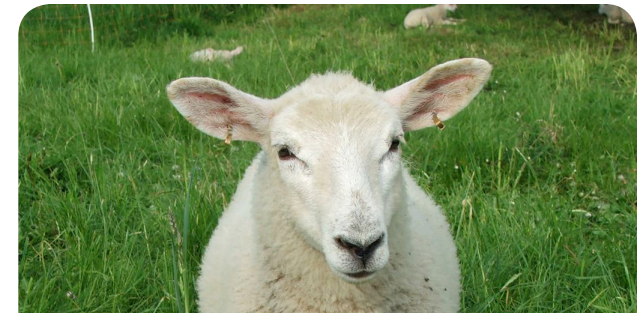
"One job specific to this time of year is maple sugaring. Once the nights are cool and the days are warm, we tap the maple trees that grow on our farmland to collect the sap. All trees produce sap, but the maple sap is oh so sweet."



Educators' Responses

"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!"



NOFA Vermont is member-based nonprofit organization working to grow local farms, healthy food, and strong communities in Vermont. Our members are farmers, gardeners, educators and food lovers of all sorts – everyone who wants to help us create a future full of organic food and local farms.

Students' Responses

"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.**"