

# School Programs and Programs for Educators



**S**helburne Farms' School Programs promote both student learning and professional development. The field trip experience provides hands-on, inquiry-based learning for students, and the opportunity for teachers to assess their students while working beside our educators.

## On-Site Programs

**A**ll of our one-day field trips are offered here at Shelburne Farms on a lottery basis for grades K–8 and their teachers. Shelburne Farms is a nonprofit environmental education organization, 1,400-acre working farm, and National Historic Landmark. Its diverse landscape — including its farmyard, meadows, woodlots, pastures, gardens and lakeshore — creates an inspiring campus for discovery and exploration.

## Outreach Programs

**+ OUTREACH** Indicates that the field trip is offered in your community, as well as at Shelburne Farms.

**S**helburne Farms educators can bring many field trip topics to your schoolyard, local natural area, or community to cultivate your students' sense of place and enhance their appreciation for their human and natural communities. These programs provide hands-on, real-world learning experiences that connect directly to your curriculum.

## Educator Workshops

**+ WORKSHOP** This indicates that an educator workshop related to this field trip topic is being offered. See p.5

**W**e offer teachers one-day workshops that explore specific field trip topics in more depth. These workshops help you build a stronger connection between your curriculum, the standards, and the field trip experience. Teachers not scheduled for a field trip through the lottery are welcome to attend the workshops.

“My students loved it! I just can't say enough about all of the enriching activities that we did on our trip. We had so much fun and we learned so much. You guys rock!”

— Educator



# Field Trips for Grades K–3

**FEE: \$6/STUDENT**  
(scholarships available)  
**TIME: 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM**



“It was a heaven sent four hours of learning. I find it so purposeful, refreshing, and rejuvenating to visit Shelburne Farms. It was simply perfect!”

— Karen Ruggles  
Hiawatha School, Essex Junction

Our program goals are to increase awareness and appreciation of natural and agricultural resources and the working landscape, and ultimately to inspire children to be active stewards of our environment.

## From the Farm to You **SEPTEMBER**

**+WORKSHOP** Discover the importance of farms as our source of food. Students will collaborate to make a pizza from scratch! Grind wheat berries into flour to make dough! Milk a cow and make mozzarella cheese! Visit the garden to harvest fresh vegetables for sauce and toppings!

## Discover Fall in the Forest

**+OUTREACH** **OCTOBER**

Celebrate fall with Shelburne Farms Staff. Increase your students' awareness and appreciation for the wonders of the natural world, in our backyard or yours! Students will gain insight into the value of the forest as a habitat for creatures and a natural resource for humans. Through sensory explorations, students will examine plant life cycles, tree anatomy and basic tree identification skills.

## Farm Life & History **NOVEMBER**

Connect the past with the present while exploring the importance of agriculture in our lives. By doing farm chores, students will use and investigate tools from the past and discover how they have changed over time. Through household chores such as making beeswax candles and spinning wool, students will gain a sense of what life was like on a Vermont farm in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

## Active in Winter

**+OUTREACH** **JANUARY & FEBRUARY**

Cultivate your students' sense of place by investigating your schoolyard or local community for signs of active animals in winter or visit Shelburne Farms' own fields and forests. Students will examine the strategies animals in Vermont use to survive the winter and discover animal adaptations through inquiry-based indoor activities. Children will develop basic track identification skills and enhance their observational skills.

## Sugaring Time **MARCH**

**+WORKSHOP** Investigate the science and experience the wonders of maple sugaring by spending the day in our sugarbush, following the entire sugaring process from tapping to tasting. Students can identify and tap a maple tree, gather sap, visit the sugarhouse, meet our sugar-maker, and experience the history of maple sugaring.

## Join the Flock **APRIL**

Connect children's literature and art with farm life cycles while spending a day on the farm during lambing season. Students will explore a year in the life of a sheep from its birth and care to the harvest of its wool fibers. Students will spend time with the newborn lambs and their moms and work with wool: carding, spinning, and felting.

## Super Soil **APRIL & MAY** **+OUTREACH**

In your schoolyard or at the Farm, connect to the world beneath your feet and discover why soil is the basis of life on earth. Through indoor and outdoor investigations, students will explore soil properties and composition. Meet red wiggler worms, learn how they contribute to soil health, and find out how they can conserve soil by composting their food scraps.

## Milk and More **MAY** **+WORKSHOP**

Explore a Vermont dairy farm! Visit our milking parlor, calving barn, feed alley and manure pit to understand the processes and cycles of cows and dairying. Students will milk a cow and study its life cycle as they interact with calves and heifers. They will explore their connection to the dairy industry as they identify cow products, process cream into butter and view cheesemaking.

## Pond Life Cycles & Adaptations **MAY & JUNE** **+OUTREACH** **+WORKSHOP**

Explore a pond in your town or at the Farm. Students will explore a pond ecosystem to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of spring. They will investigate the life cycles and adaptations of pond insects and amphibians. During the day's indoor component, students will investigate how pond creatures adapt to eating, moving, and surviving in their watery world.