Suffolk County Farm

Education through Cultivation

2025-2026

Field Trips and Outreaches

Our youth education programs are based out of the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center in Yaphank. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE) has managed and provided educational programs at the historic farm for nearly three decades. The 220-acre working farm offers fun hands-on education about Long Island's agricultural heritage while showcasing present day agriculture.

CCE's 4-H Youth Development Program is directly connected to the research-based information of Cornell University. Our programs include agriculture, life skills, animal sciences and environmental sciences.

Please visit www.ccesuffolk.org for special event information throughout the year.

Pick Your Own Field Trip Experience!

The Suffolk County Farm and Education Center offers a wide array of hands-on and unique opportunities for your group to get the most out of their visit and to meet your specific educational goals. Pick Your Own Field Trip begins with a 90 minute "Animal Experience" and "Tractor Drawn Wagon Ride", for $16 per student and then choose one more 30-minute option within those 90 minutes for $18 Choose additional 30-minute sessions for an additional $2 per student per session to make it 2 hours. Please email ccefarmgroups@cornell.edu to schedule a field trip. Minimum group is 10 participants.

Large groups are responsible for breaking up themselves into groups of no more than 25 people total

START HERE

Animal Experience: For all ages

Learn about the variety of animals that reside here at the Suffolk County Farm and the special role they play. Students will learn many fun facts about them while getting a real hands-on experience touching and feeding.

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride: For all ages

This is a fun way to experience the breadth of the farm and all of its workings. Passengers will visit some of our livestock while enjoying a ride around the fields viewing the crops we plant and the equipment we use.

Animal Experience and Tractor Drawn Wagon Ride best as a 90 min program for PreK and K, with no additional 30 minute option.

*PUMPKINS: October only, $4 per person

CHOOSE FROM THESE 30-MINUTE OPTIONS

Dairy: Grades 1-6

Learn about the three dairy animals on the farm and how they turn grass into milk. Students will meet the cows, goats and sheep that supply us with all of our favorite dairy products and will discover how milk travels from the farm to the table. They will have a go at milking Buttercup, our pretend model cow.

Fleece & Fiber: Grades K-6

Sheep are just one of the fabulous creatures that provide us with fiber. Students will discover some other sources like llamas, goats and rabbits and spend time manipulating sheep wool. They will get up close with the animals that help keep us warm while learning how wool travels from sheep to sweater.

From Egg to Chick: Grades K-6

(March–June only)

Explore the life cycle of the chicken and learn how the chick embryo develops inside the egg. This engaging session brings science alive for students and includes interaction with chicks or hens.

Backyard Farm: Grades K–8

(April-October only)

Students will rotate through the different stations in the Backyard Farm including raised beds, a compost display, observe pollinators and a chicken coop for an experience that will bring to life the process of sustainable agriculture. Students will be inspired to recreate aspects in their own backyard in order to have a healthier lifestyle and be better stewards of our environment.

Butterfly Discovery: Grades PreK-6*

(Late May – August only)

Students will explore our butterfly house and be surrounded by local species and beneficial plants. They will observe the stages in the life cycle, learn about the anatomy of this insect and understand how butterflies benefit our environment.

**The educational content is similar to Insects: Incredible Creatures*

Insects: Incredible Creatures: Grades K–6*

Students will explore the amazing world of insects including body structure, insect lifestyles, habitats, adaptations and the role insects play as pollinators and recyclers.

**The educational content is similar to Butterfly Discovery*

Chicken Embryology: Teacher Training Workshops

We will come to you on a date of your choice for a group of 10 or more teachers. Workshop topics include setting up and maintaining equipment, methods and tips for hatching, candling eggs, chick care, and embryology. Workshop dates at the Suffolk County Farm to be determined. To register for a workshop, email Kate Perz at kp99@cornell.edu.

Outreach Programs

The Suffolk County Farm and Education Center understands that there is less and less funding available for field trips, so save on the cost of bussing and let us come to you. Unless stated otherwise, the following programs are $275 per 25 students and are one hour in duration. Nassau County locations will be subject to an additional travel fee ($60). A significant break between classes may also incur an additional fee. More than 30 minutes will incur a $55 per half hour charge. Please email ccefarmgroups@cornell.edu to schedule a program.

Large groups are responsible for breaking up themselves into groups of no more than 25 people total.

Meet the Farm Animals: Grades Pre K-6

Our farm animals provide a unique way for students to learn about agriculture while enjoying hands-on interaction. Students will learn care, uses, and what makes each animal one of a kind. Animals include: goats, chickens, ducks, and a rabbit; for an additional fee: llamas $100, piglets (when available) $50. **$550 for 2 hours and maximum of 125 students; $75 for each additional ½ hour increment.**

From Egg to Chick: Grades K-6

(March–June only)

Explore the life cycle of the chicken and learn how the chick embryo develops inside the egg. This engaging session bring science alive for students and includes interaction with chicks or hens.

Classroom Chicken Egg Incubation: For all ages

Explore the life cycle of the chicken by hatching eggs in your own classroom. The Suffolk County Farm is a source of fertile chicken eggs and supplies to make this experience come to life for your students. Register for one of our Chicken Embryology Teacher Training Workshops and find the order form on our website: http://ccesuffolk.org/suffolk-county-farm/chick-incubation-for-the-classroom.

Go Wild About Llamas: Grades 1-6

Llamas, a member of the camelid family, offer a unique glimpse into South American culture and the animal world. Students will learn more about this gentle, intelligent and extremely useful animal, like what jobs they have and what you call a baby llama. Includes a visit with two llamas. **$300**

Pet Pals: Grades K-5

Explore the many small pets you can have in your home or classroom, such as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils and mice. Every animal has different needs and characteristics and we will investigate all aspects of pets, from what they like to eat to where they like to live. Included is a visit from some of our "pet pals" for a fun hands-on experience.

Winter Wildlife: Grades K-6

Students will learn about winter wildlife and discover that nature is not entirely asleep. They will learn about migration, hibernation, and adaptation through interactive games and activities. Includes animals.

Nature at Night: Grades K-6

Students will participate in hands-on activities to discover some mysterious creatures that come out at night. They will learn how creatures like bats, owls and even bugs benefit our environment while we are asleep! Students will also learn some benefits and difficulties of both nocturnal and diurnal animals. Our resident nocturnal friends will accompany the educator in the classroom to allow students an interaction "up close and personal."

Butterflies: Grades K-6

(Late May-September only)

Students will be introduced to local butterfly species and habitats. They will observe the stages in the butterfly life cycle and learn about the anatomy of this insect at each

All of our programs meet NYS Learning Standards and may be funded through BOCES Arts-in-Education.

Persons needing special accommodations should contact ccefarmgroups@cornell.edu at least two weeks prior to scheduled workshop.

stage. A visit with some butterfly friends will enable students to observe native species of butterflies.

Insects: Incredible Creatures: Grades K-6

Students will explore the amazing world of insects including body structure, insect lifestyles, habitats, adaptations and the role insects play as pollinators and decomposers.

Plants Life Cycle: Grades K-6

Explore the importance of green plants in our everyday life. Students will work as botanists to observe the plant life cycle, and learn about all parts of the plant - even the edible plants we eat all the time! Students will plant their very own seed while learning what plants need to survive. Students will also learn how worms help turn plants back into soil and discuss composting as a recycling technique.

Ice Cream Making: Grades K-6

(April–August only)

Ice cream is more than a sweet indulgence – it has nutritional value and an interesting history. During this workshop, students will learn to make ice cream the old fashioned way – by hand cranking! They will also sample the fruits of their labor. **$315**

Getting Ready to Babysit: Grades 6-8

This course is designed to help teens develop the skills necessary for the responsibility of being a sitter—child safety, developmental stages of children and how to plan activities that are age appropriate. Hands-on activities and course certification are included. **$360 for a group of 15 students, $15 for each additional youth. 3 hours**

Butter: Grades 1-4

Bring the 1800s into your classroom with our butter making program! During this 45 minute program, the participants will learn about life on the farm in the 1800s and help out with an important farm chore. An educator will bring cream and a hand-crank butter churn for the participants to churn butter the old fashion way and get to sample the finished product!

45min, up to 25 participants - $275

Tin Smithing: Grades 1-4

Bring the 1800s into your classroom with our tin smithing program! During this 45 minute program, the participants will learn about life on the farm in the 1800s and help out with an important farm chore. An educator will bring sheets of metal, hammers, & nails for the participants to learn to make a luminary the old fashion way and get to keep their finished product!

45min, up to 25 participants - $275

Sewing: Grades 1-4

Bring the 1800s into your classroom with our sewing program! During this 45 minute program, the participants will learn about life on the farm in the 1800s and help out with an important farm chore. An educator will bring fabric swatches, needles, & thread for the participants to learn to sew the old fashion way and get to keep their finished product!

45min, up to 25 participants - $275

Great Gobblers: Grades K-6

(November only)

Get a special guest visit from the star of the month! Choose between: Class program (one class) with activity & turkey visit OR 45 minutes of guest appearance time with a live turkey in your school. **$300**

**All programs are subject to change due to extreme weather conditions/elevated heat index. The safety of our animals and staff are priority. If extreme weather is forecast-ed, we will notify you and reschedule programming.*

Preschool Programming

ProgrammingThe following programs are geared especially for the early childhood audience and offer an introduction to many themes. These 45-minute ses-sions include a story, a craft, and hands-on interaction with the subject matter. They highlight listening comprehension skills and allow the children to use their 5 senses to get the most out of their experience. Each program costs $275 per 25 students (except where noted). Nassau County locations will be subject to an additional travel fee (additional $60). A significant break between classes may also incur an additional fee. More than 30 minutes will incur a $55 per half hour charge. Please email ccefarmgroups@cornell.edu to schedule a program. Choose fromthe following themes:

Beautiful Butterflies: butterflies may visit! *(Late May-August only)*
Birds of a Feather: compares and contrasts farm birds and includes a duck and chicken visit!
Dairy Delights: focuses on dairy and includes ice-cream or butter making *(animal not included)*.
Goin' Buggy: includes insect visit!
Goin' Quackers: includes duck visit!
Gregarious Goats: ($300) includes goat visit!
Hop to It: includes rabbit visit!
Shearly Delightful Sheep: ($300) focuses on sheep wool and yarn, includes sheep visit.
Turkey Time (November only): ($300) Get a special guest visit from the star of the month! Choose between: Class program (one class) with craft, story & turkey visit OR 45 minutes of guest appearance time with a live turkey in your school.

Historic Winter Programs

Come to the farm this winter for a truly unique historic experience. Through hands-on activities and role-playing, students will have the opportunity to fully engage in farm life as it was in the 1870's. Choose one of the following options according to grade level. Each program is 2.5 hours and costs $20 per student. Only 2 classes can be accommodated each day. Please email ccefarmgroups@cornell.edu to schedule a program.

Holiday Yesterday's Child: grades 3-5 *(November –December only)*
Students will learn about caring for animals when they visit the barn and learn to groom a pony, as well as meet our resident sheep, chickens, and rabbits. They will learn to milk our life size model cow and will hand churn butter the old fashioned way. Students will be immersed in the era through role-playing in the general store and will also hand dip candles to take home. They will become apprentices to the tin-smith and will create their very own punched tin luminary.

Winter Yesterday's Child: grades 1-2 *(January – March only)*
Students will learn about caring for animals when they visit the barn and learn to groom a pony, as well as meet our resident sheep, chickens, and rabbits. They will learn to milk our life size model cow and will hand churn butter the old fashioned way. Students will be immersed in the era through role-playing in the general store and they will learn the handicraft of sewing. A visit to our one-room schoolhouse will give them a glimpse at what school was like in the 1800's.

Payment Policy

Payment is expected on or before the day of the trip. We accept VISA, MasterCard, money orders or checks made payable to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. Sorry, we cannot accept cash for payment. Program fees provide for necessary school staff and two free chaperones per class. **No more than two chaperones per class are allowed.**

Cancellation Policy

Programs can be cancelled up to ten days prior to the date without penalty. There may be a $75 per class cancellation fee for programs cancelled with less than ten days notice and not rescheduled.

All programs are offered rain or shine, and most aspects occur outdoors. Cancellations are at the discretion of The Suffolk County Farm. If you choose not to attend the trip due to inclement weather, call us by 8:30am the day of your trip to cancel. Refunds are not offered, but you can reschedule within the school year (although most dates are booked out 3 months in advance).