



Merry Lea

Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College

Exploring Merry Lea Sustainable Farm

K - 2nd

Program Description

Merry Lea Sustainable Farm is a unique edible ecosystem where students taste their way to an understanding of humans, farm and habitat connections. Students delve into soil ecosystems, search for pollinators at work and meet our animals living at the farm. Making apple cider provides students a memorable example of how food can be processed before we consume it.

Program Objectives

Students will:

- Discover much of the food we eat is grown on farms and comes from plants and animals
- Explore the different plant parts that make food
- Learn that different places (such as farms, prairies, wetlands, forests) have different plants and animals living in them

Program Outline

*Activities may vary based on group size and length of trip

1. Farm Stations: Students rotate through different stations focused on the importance each place plays on the farm.
 - Animal Barn (pigs, turkeys, chickens, goats)
 - Garden Exploration
 - Farms as an Ecosystem
 - Compost
2. Trail Activities: Students stop and make observations about an ecosystem while on the trail (wetland, forest, prairie).
3. Cider Pressing
4. Group Game

Vocabulary

- Habitat
- Forest
- Wetland
- Prairie
- Farm
- Processed
- Stem
- Root
- Leaf

Quick Facts

Season	Fall: September - November
Grades	K - 2nd
Program Length	4 hours
Maximum # of Students	80 Students

Standards Correlations

K.ESS.4 Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.

K.LS.2 Describe and compare the physical features of common living plants and animals.

1.ESS.2 Observe and compare properties of sand, clay, silt, and organic matter. Look for evidence of sand, clay, silt, and organic matter as components of soil samples.

2.LS.3 Classify living organisms according to variations in specific physical features (i.e. body coverings, appendages) and describe how those features may provide an advantage for survival in different environments.

See Standards Correlations for Exploring Merry Lea Sustainable Farm for more academic connections.