



4-H Education Center at
AUER FARM

BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Learning Science at the Farm

For more than three decades, young people have discovered a special relationship with the earth through visiting Auer Farm.

There is inspiration everywhere: walking the woodlands and fields, investigating trees, plants, and flowers, or discovering the natural habitats of birds and animals. Students leave the Farm with new curiosity and a love of inquiry-based learning.

SEASONAL PROGRAMS ~ *Fall 2011 to Summer 2012*

SEASONAL PROGRAMS AT AUER FARM

FALL 2011 TO SUMMER 2012

Our seasonal programs are ideally suited for students, pre-K through 12th grade. Schools may also request a custom designed program on a specific topic. We offer several programs that are open to the public during holidays and vacations, over the summer, and to celebrate special family events, like birthdays.

Upon request, our teachers are also available to visit classrooms and bring the farm to you! They may bring a sheep, goat, chicken or rabbit. We offer curriculum units on site, and bring equipment to make ice cream with your students. These programs are offered in the Greater Hartford area and beyond.

Seasonal programs can usually be adapted to any age group. We have several programs specifically designed for high school students. Most of our programs meet the Connecticut State Standards for science education.

Please reserve your visit in advance. Seasonal programs are popular and time slots fill up as early as a year ahead. We welcome groups from schools, camps, churches, recreational programs and other organizations for a morning or afternoon program, seven days a week.

For families: We'd love the opportunity to help plan your child's birthday party! Many special family gatherings such as reunions, weddings, or anniversary parties have been successfully held at the Farm. With more than 120 acres, we offer a wealth of outdoor activities, picnic space, and a covered pavilion that can be used for table set-up, musicians or shelter. Our indoor classroom space is also available for your event.

Please call for more information about any of these programs or to reserve a time to visit us.

FALL 2011



APPLES AND APPLE TREES 🌻

Fall is an exhilarating time to be outdoors. Autumn and apples are a great combination. This very popular program takes children and their teachers for a joyful hayride through the apple orchard, with a stop to pick apples. Back in the classroom, students help press the apples for cider and get to taste some local cider provided by the Farm. This program can be adapted to any age group. It is also available for those with different learning styles, physical or perceptual challenges.

Available from mid-September through early November. **Register now! Dates are filling up.**

COST: \$8.00 per child; no charge for first two accompanying adults

NEW!

GRANDPARENTS' DAY AT THE FARM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 9 TO 11AM

Come visit the animals with your grandchild! This new program is offered to children and their grandparents. We'll tour the barn, learn about the sheep, goats, cows, rabbits and chickens, then move into a classroom to create a craft project and have some warm refreshments. Suitable for children Pre-K through grade 3 and one or two grandparents.

Registrations accepted from September 1 through October 10

COST: \$12.00 for one child and one grandparent
\$5.00 for each additional child or adult

NEW!

HALLOWEEN ON THE FARM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7 TO 9PM

Come join us for a flashlight walk through the hay maze! We'll take an evening hayride, make a campfire, tell scary stories and end with hot chocolate for everyone. We also have surprises in store, but we can't give them away! Please note this is a family event and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Suitable for children 4 through 12.

Registrations accepted from September 1 through October 25

COST: \$6.00 per child
\$15.00 for families of three or four
Children under 5: free





WINTER 2011- 2012

NEW!

HOLIDAY AFTER-SCHOOL CRAFT WORKSHOP

MONDAYS: NOVEMBER 28, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19
3:30-5:30PM

Using natural materials, we'll make gifts or decorations for the holidays. Come and plan a craft project for Channukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or the Winter Solstice. We'll have materials to make felted projects, jewelry, wreaths, ornamental decorations and more. Suitable for grades 3-6.

Fee includes instruction, materials, and a healthy snack on all four days. Registrations accepted from September 1 through November 15.

Cost: \$100.00 per child

WINTER VACATION PROGRAM

MONDAY – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26–30;
9AM-12 NOON

Come enjoy five days of exploring nature in winter! We'll walk the farm and search for animal tracks and other signs of activity in the fields and woods, and learn how animals keep warm in the cold weather. Kids will create special indoor art and craft projects that make use of found objects. A warm morning snack will keep us energized! Enrollment limited to 20. Suitable for grades K-3.

Cost: Full program: \$125.00

Single day attendance: \$30.00

Sibling rates and scholarships are available.

MAPLE SYRUP PROGRAM ❁

In the early spring, when warm days lead to freezing nights, maple sap begins to flow. In this program, students follow the maple sugaring process from tree to table. On a tour of our sugar bush, students learn to identify maple trees, tap them, and collect sap in buckets. In our sugar house, they observe the sap boiling and see how the liquid thickens. Our evaporator demonstrates how 40 gallons of sap are condensed into one gallon of maple syrup. Older students learn syrup grading.

After participating in the sugaring process, students will taste the results of their hard work over pancakes.

Offered mid-February through late March.

Cost: \$10.00 per child; no charge for the first two accompanying adults

\$9.00 per child without pancakes and maple syrup



SPRING & SUMMER 2012



FARMS PRODUCE FOOD 🌻

In spring, everything on the Farm awakens. Visit our animals and explore the many plants that produce food. Working in our garden classroom, students identify the parts of a seed, plant their own seeds to take home, and learn what each one needs to germinate and grow.

During a hayride through the 120 acres of gardens, pasture land, hay fields, and orchard, they search for signs of spring, learn to listen and seek clues that show plant-animal relationships.

Offered mid-April through mid-June.

COST: \$9.00 per child; no charge for the first two accompanying adults

SUMMER ON THE FARM

Summer is an ideal time to visit the farm. Students experience the full bounty of Connecticut farming by witnessing crop production in the apple orchards, hay fields, woodlands, pastures, flower and vegetable gardens.

They learn that many natural ingredients in ice cream are found on the farm, and make ice cream using a traditional hand-cranked freezer. During this hands-on activity, students witness the freezing process as liquid transforms into a cool, creamy treat, and cool off by enjoying the results of their work.

Offered late June through late August.

COST: \$9.00 per child; no charge for the first two accompanying adults



BIRDING WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, APRIL 28; SATURDAY, MAY 19

9AM-12 NOON

Become a Junior Naturalist! Come and explore the Farm's extensive bird habitats. In the spring, we offer two birding workshops to help young students learn to identify birds using our child-friendly binoculars. We'll walk the farm and return to the classroom to talk about what we've seen.

Children will learn how and where to find birds, explore their diverse habitats and create a birding journal. Teachers will guide them in a special creative project for each workshop, such as nest-making and birdhouse design. A nourishing snack is also included. Workshop is limited to twelve children, suitable for grades K-3.

Register for one workshop or both, since each is a complete lesson. No prior experience is necessary.

Saturday, April 28, 2012 – Wetland Birds

Saturday, May 19, 2012 – Birds in Spring

COST: Each workshop is \$15.00

Register for both: \$25.00

Scholarships are available.



ANY TIME OF THE YEAR

BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Many children and adults love to celebrate their special day at the 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm. We offer a two-hour farm experience including a teacher-led program on a seasonal topic. Hayrides are available in spring, summer and fall, and a visit to the barn is always a treat. You are welcome to explore the farm on your own, enjoy games, food and cake in our large classroom, or use our outdoor covered pavilion. You may bring your own party supplies, decorations, games and food. Our kitchen is available for your use.

Cost: \$150.00 for up to 20 children and adults
\$5.00 for each additional person.

\$75 deposit required, with a ten-day cancellation policy for a refund of deposit.

FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS 🌻

Bring a program to your own site!

Our teachers often bring programs directly to a school or other sites in the Greater Hartford area. They may bring an animal, demonstrations, or the equipment to make ice cream— and can teach a variety of curriculum units to children in their own classroom. Please call to learn more about these opportunities. Available year-round.

Please call for cost information.





158 Auer Farm Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002

phone: 860.242.7144, Extension 10

fax: 860.243.0005

www.auerfarm.org

4hcenter@comcast.net