

Welcome to the 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm, an educational center owned by the Connecticut 4-H Development Fund, Inc. This beautiful 120-acre farm setting provides valuable hands-on science experiences to more than 17,000 children and adults throughout the year. Seasonal programs are offered to school classes, community-based organizations, families and the public.

The 4-H Education Center is located off Route 185 in Bloomfield, just minutes from Hartford. Students see cows, chickens, and goats. They plant seeds, harvest apples, and make ice cream. With enthusiastic, trained teachers, students learn how food grows, is processed and gets to their table. The farm's experiential science lessons correspond to the Connecticut Science Framework for pre-k through 12th grade.

Programs encourage critical thinking and curiosity. Each lesson meets the objectives identified in the Connecticut Core Curriculum Framework in Science for school-age youth and the Pre-school framework for younger children.

Come learn with the children. Pick raspberries, blueberries and cut Christmas trees in season.

Business hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information call 1-860-242-7144.

Please Respect the 4-H Center by Observing these Rules:

Enjoy your visit to the 4-H Education Center.

Park in designated areas only.

Dogs must be leashed at all times. No dogs are allowed in the buildings especially the animal barn.

Please do not trespass on property by the houses. They are private homes.

Do not feed the barn animals. Close barn doors after entering and exiting the barn.

Please observe all signs posted in the barn.

Please leave all plants and animals as you found them.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call the Center during business hours.



4-H EDUCATION CENTER at AUER FARM



WELCOME TO THE FARM
158 Auer Farm Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002

MAP HIGHLIGHTS

1. Dwarf Orchard: Designed by experts from the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and funded by Friends of the Farm, 1200 trees were planted in 1988. The orchard includes 20 varieties of apples. The apples are a fall pick-your-own crop.

2. Mushroom Barn: This historical building is made of clay tile. The windowless structure provided the perfect environment to grow mushrooms which require darkness and humidity.

3. Open Growing Field: This area is planted with different crops throughout the growing season.

4. Raspberries and Blueberries: Both are small pick-your-own fruit. The blueberries are a summer crop and must be covered to keep the birds from feasting. The raspberries are late to fruit but everbearing. Harvest is late August through fall frost.

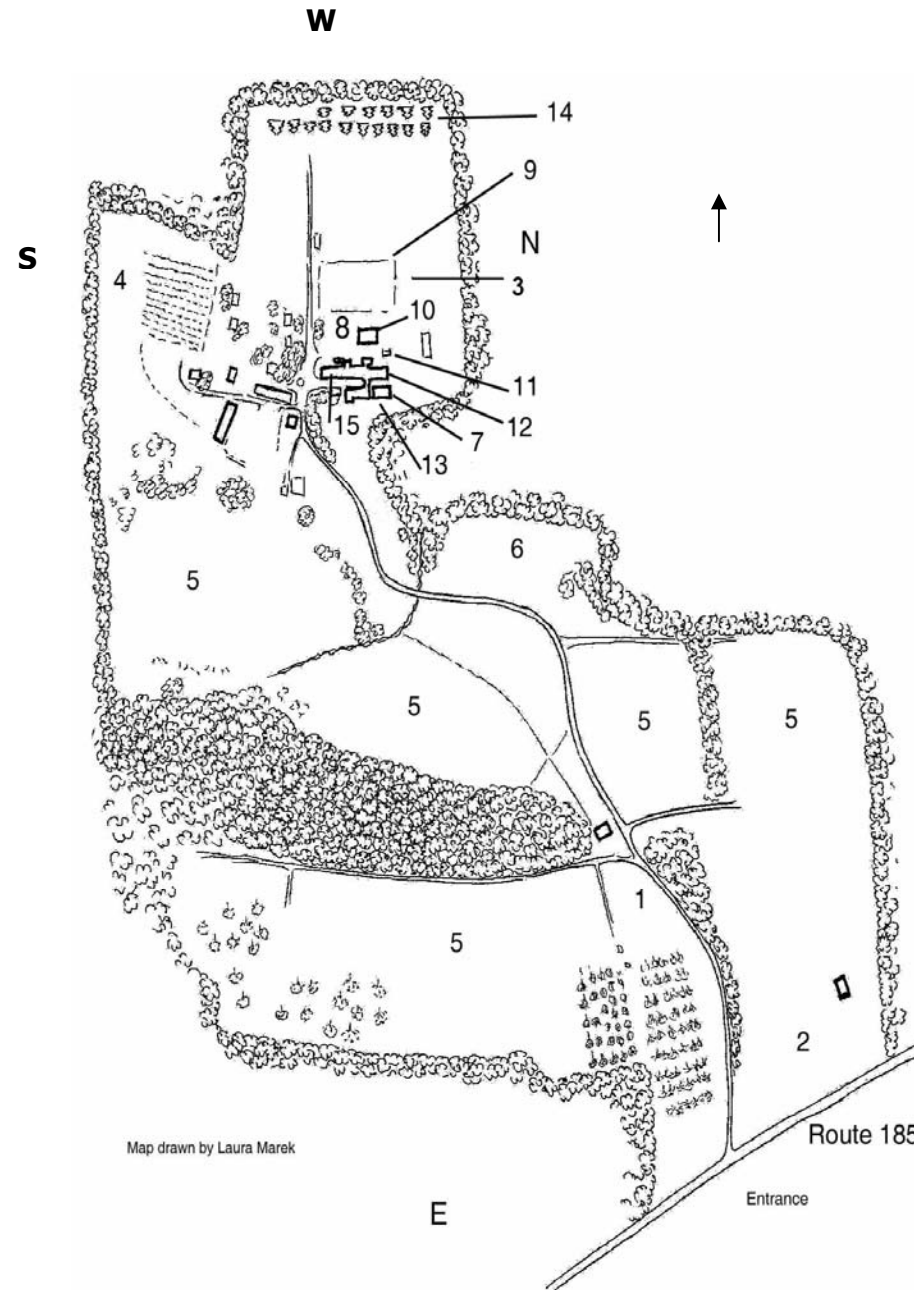
5. Open Spaces: The fields are used for pasture and to grow hay. Mixture of grasses, i.e., timothy, fescue, and other forage crops are fed to the Center's livestock.

6. Wildlife: The Center provides wonderful space for turkeys, bluebirds, bobcat, coyote, bear, deer and the many raptors found in Connecticut. Families of Red-tailed Hawks have nested in the tall oaks for 20 years.

7. Classrooms: 17,000 students learn science and technology at the 120-acre Center. The lessons are reinforced at learning stations within the Center's classrooms.

8. Gardens: Created for classroom use, the different gardens enhance specific lessons. The Herb Garden is made up of both medicinal and culinary herbs. The Sustainable Garden shows that plants can grow with little care. The Butterfly Garden is made up of plants which attract butterflies both through the blooms' color and scent. The Vegetable Garden is planted to provide harvest through three seasons. The hoop house is used to propagate plants and extend the growing season. Compost bins provide enriched soil and nutrients for the gardens.

9. Food Share Plot: One-half acre of land is a gleaning garden for Food Share. Working together with Master Gardeners and the Hartford County 4-H clubs the garden is planted and maintained.



10. Hay Barn: The building stores 4000 bales of feed and mulch hay and straw. It is used for the Center's animals.

11. Maple Sugar House: Demonstrational sugar house used for the Center's maple syrup program. The program is held from February to March when the sap runs. In order to make one gallon of maple syrup, approximately 40 gallons of sap are boiled and condensed in the evaporator.

12. Outdoor Classroom: Designated site for rainy-day shelter for classes.

13. Secret Garden: The teaching garden is surrounded by flowering shrubs and colorful perennials, children learn plant science in an experiential, outdoor learning environment.

14. Christmas Trees: Variety of evergreens which have been planted over a series of years provide a cut-your-own December crop for the Center.

15. Animal Barn: Farm animals are an essential part of farming. They provide food, fiber and assist with the growing of crops. Our barn is an important part of the 4-H Center, be sure to stop in and visit the animals.

