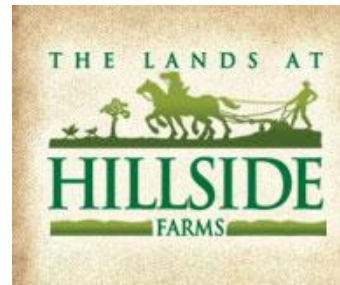


The Lands at Hillside Farms
65 Hillside Road
Shavertown, PA 18708
Phone: (570) 696-4500



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Christine Doherty
Farmer and Ag Educator
(570) 696-4500
Christine@thelandsathillsidefarms.org

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION PROVIDES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WITH HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students gain knowledge through non-traditional programs

SHAVERTOWN, Pa. – The Lands at Hillside Farms offers a variety of educational programs for students of all ages. All programs meet the academic standards set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and provide a learning experience away from the textbook. After an afternoon program at The Lands at Hillside Farms, students will have an appreciation of the systematic nature of plant life and the composting process. The programs are an affordable way for students to gain hands-on knowledge of the agricultural world that surrounds us.

Three programs are offered for students in kindergarten through second grade. In *Meet the Animals*, educators bring a heifer and a goat to the school. This program allows students to experience livestock up close and learn how to care for each animal. *A Perfect System – Identifying the Role of Different Plant Parts* educates students on the concept of systems. Children interact with a plant display board and determine the role each part of a plant plays. An educational video is shown for *A Cow's Stomach – From Green Grass to White Milk*, which discusses the four stomachs of a cow.

Grades three through six become introduced to the five major dairy breeds in *My Cow – Weights and Measures on a Dairy Farm*. One breed of cow is chosen by the students, and

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different weights and measures are used to learn how much water and hay a cow needs on a daily basis in order to produce milk. *Drinking the Sun* allows children to participate in a milk tasting and help create a model grazing system. The program discusses photosynthesis and explores the role sun plays on a sustainable dairy farm. Students learn why milk from a pasteurized cow is healthier for the animal, environment, and human consumers.

Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders explore how coffee production impacts migratory bird populations in *The Environmental Impact of a Cup of Coffee*. At the end of the program, a mural is created to compare different coffee growing environments. *Worms Eat My Garbage* provides an understanding of how worms can turn garbage into soil. Students explore a portable worm box and are given directions to build their own worm bin at home.

These programs provide an educational connection to the environment and help children make valuable lifestyle choices that they can carry with them into the future. The fee for the first class is \$96 and each additional class is \$40.

The Lands at Hillside Farms is a nonprofit, regional educational center, and historic farm estate. Their dedicated mission is to present aspects and benefits of the region's land, history, and promotion of lifestyle choices. Each mission component is demonstrated through family-friendly educational programs, sustainable agricultural activities, and living. For more information, log onto www.thelandsathillsidefarms.org.

For media inquiries or further information on the educational programs, contact Christine Doherty, Farm and Ag Educator, by phone at (570) 696-4500 or by e-mail at Christine@thelandsathillsidefarms.org.

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