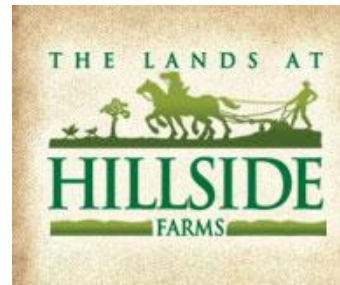


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NEWS RELEASE

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CHILDREN CAN EXPERIENCE AGRICULTURE UP CLOSE AND HANDS-ON

Students gain knowledge through non-traditional programs

SHAVERTOWN, Pa. - The Lands at Hillside Farms provides an out-of-the-classroom experience for students in kindergarten through second grade. The programs meet the academic standards set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and allow children to explore agriculture in a fun, exciting way. All programs are an affordable way for students to gain knowledge through skilled demonstrations and first-hand experiences.

In *Exploring the Farm*, kindergarteners can discover the important role farms play in their life by meeting the animals of The Lands at Hillside Farms. Children can also explore the Youth Garden and take a walk through the greenhouses. On Thursdays, students can experience a hand milking demonstration in the program *From Moo to Milk*. Kids can meet with cows in every stage of development, including newborn calves, heifers, and members of the dairy herd.

First and second graders visit with animals and participate in a hands-on activity in *Farm Animals*. Students can take part in a meet and greet session with calves in *Dairy Animals*, which runs every Thursday. They visit with different types of dairy animals by taking a tour of the Dairy Barn. A hand milking demonstration is also provided.

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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. All programs are available from September through June. The kindergarten program fee is \$60 plus \$5 per child and approximately one hour in length. The programs for first and second grade are \$100 each plus \$7 per child and are approximately two hours in length.

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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