

# BIG RIVER FARMS

A program of the Minnesota Food Association

## Youth & Family Education Program

**Thank you for your interest in the Big River Farms Youth & Family Education**

**Program!** This program offers students and families an opportunity to learn about basic sustainable agriculture practices and have the opportunity to interact with current farmers in our program. Programs are held throughout the growing season, and each day will consist of three to four 20-30 minute sections, each addressing a different topic with a fun, hands-on approach.

This program is designed for elementary and middle school-aged children, but can be adapted to suit the age and needs of any group. Both families and student groups are welcome.

Read on to learn more about the program!



### Lessons Offered:

- Meet Your Farmer
- The Amazing Chicken
- Seed to Table
- Making Dirt
- What Parts of a Plant do we Eat?

### Visiting Big River Farms

This is a working farm. You will be spending your time outside and should dress

appropriately. Prepare for heat or cold, wind, rain, sun, bugs, pollen, uneven ground, dirt and manure. Wear boots or sturdy shoes, not sandals or loose-fitting footwear. Groups attending programs should come to the farm wearing name tags. Bring a refillable water bottle. Permission to picnic at the farm before or after your scheduled program must be requested prior to your visit.

## Farm Safety

All children must be chaperoned and visitors will be instructed on farm safety. Please stay with your program group or tour guide, respect farm property and farmers' plots and produce. We recommend that everyone follow safety procedures such as frequent hand washing while interacting with farm animals and handling food.

## Planning Your Visit

**Group Size:** We require a minimum of 12 confirmed participants to schedule a unique visit to the farm. If you have 12 or more participants, please contact us to schedule a visit. If you have fewer than 12 people in your group, please contact us and we will combine you with another group.

**Preregistration** is required to participate in the Youth & Family Farm Education Program. Programs will fill up fast, so we encourage reserving your place as soon as possible. Contact Emily Squyres at (651) 433-3676 or [emily@mnfoodassociation.org](mailto:emily@mnfoodassociation.org).

**Cost of Participation:** The program fee is \$5 per person. If this cost is a barrier to your participation, please contact the office about scholarship opportunities.

**Payment:** We are happy to accept payment by credit card, check, or cash. To donate online, visit <http://mnfoodassociation.org/form/youth-family-program-sign-up> and click the Donate Now button.

Checks may be mailed to:

MFA Youth Program, 14220-B Ostlund Tr. N., Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047.

Check and cash donations will also be accepted on the day of the program.

**Permission Slips:** All children under the age of 18 are required to provide a signed permission slip from their parent or legal guardian in order to participate in the program. Permission slips will be provided at the time of registration.

**Chaperone Requirements:** All student groups and families are required to provide their own chaperones. Required adult to child ratios are as follows:

- Pre-school to Kindergarten, one adult per three children
- 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, one adult per five children

**Photography:** MFA and its employees or agents reserve the right to take photographs, videotape, or digital recordings of all participants while on the farm, and to use these in

any and all media, now or hereafter known. If anyone in your group does not wish to be photographed, it is that individual's responsibility to notify all photographers and to avoid the camera's view.

**Picnics at the Farm:** Program participants and groups are invited to bring a bag lunch and picnic at the farm before or after the program. Please make arrangements prior to your visit, so that farm schedules and activities do not prevent this option. Picnickers must clean up picnic area after use. No trash collection is provided.

**Special Needs:** Please inform us before your visit if you (or someone in your group) have special needs, and we will let you know if we are able to make accommodations.

**Transportation:** Groups and families are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the farm. Limited parking is available onsite; please carpool when possible. If you plan to bring a bus, please notify us in advance so we can make the necessary accommodations. For directions, visit <http://mnfoodassociation.org/map/directions/181/>.

**Cancellation Policy:** Call the farm office immediately if you need to cancel your visit. Programs are not cancelled due to inclement weather but may be moved indoors. Programs may be canceled if dangerous weather is forecast. Please check with the farm office if you have any questions.

**Contact:**

Emily Squyres  
14220-B Ostlund Trail North  
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047  
(651) 433-3676  
[emily@mnfoodassociation.org](mailto:emily@mnfoodassociation.org).

**Thanks, and see you at the farm!**



MINNESOTA FOOD ASSOCIATION

# Minnesota Food Association's Children Policy

MFA and Big River Farms is an ideal place to bring young kids out to enjoy the fresh air of farming. We want to encourage all of the participants in our programs to feel comfortable bringing their children with them to the farm during the season. Letting kids run and play in the fields is part of the fun and joy of farming. However, we want to be aware that there are many possible dangers that come with farming including cars and trucks, tractors and their heavy implements, as well as sharp knives and other tools. In order to make MFA a safe place to bring our children we have created certain rules that we ask all people with children to follow.

1. **You are responsible for the children you bring to the farm at all times.** You should know where they are and what they are doing at all times.
2. **No Children are allowed inside the packing shed** area when people are working. The floors get very slippery and people often are moving very fast.
3. **No climbing of any kind should be done on the farm.** This includes but is not limited to climbing on the tractors or other machinery, climbing on the deer fence, or on top of the office roof.
4. **Children should not go into the shop area for any reason.** There are many chemicals and tools in there that are very dangerous.
5. **Children should not go into the animal pens without an adult present.** They are welcome to go and visit the animals but must stay outside of the pens. The animals are to be respected at all times.
6. **MFA reserves the right to enforce these rules for the safety of all the children at the farm and to ask that kids do not come to the farm if they can not follow these rules.**