

Visiting a farm

Fieldwork activity
Investigating a farm or small holding for a range of age groups
Length of time
Half a day - a day
Suitable locations
A local farm, small holding, chicken farm or agricultural enterprise. The link below will locate a farm near you: https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/schools/what-can-you-do/farm-finder
What, why and how?
<p>A farm study is a very worthwhile enterprise to undertake. The experience of a real working farm will provide pupils with information on where food comes from, as well as an enjoyable experience and lasting memories.</p> <p>The farmer may well be able to provide a map of the farm and the layout of the buildings. Your local OS map will also provide a base map. Besides giving a description of the activities going on at the farm you should ask about the major changes which are taking place. How might the farm look in 10/20/50 years' time?</p> <p>Some questions to help you plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the farm year organised? What type is it? • What's the history of the farm? • How far does work done on the farm vary with the seasons? • Is the farm trying to be environmentally friendly? • How does the farm provide sufficient food for livestock during winter? • What other activities are there on the farm that help to support the business financially (e.g. camp site)? • How far does the farm rely on family, other employees, outside services and contractors for the business to run? • What's the destination of the produce of the farm? • How far does the farm link with local businesses, e.g. farm shops? • What challenges does the farm face in the future? <p>Useful websites</p> <p>Food for life - https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/schools/what-can-you-do/visit-a-farm This site is packed with useful information on how to organise a visit, resource sheets and a farm finder link. There is also a useful pre- visit proforma providing all those important questions to ask when organising a visit.</p> <p>LEAF Education - https://issuu.com/linking-environment-and-farming/docs/how_to_deliver_quality_visits_to_your_farm_-_handb This is written for farmers but includes absolutely everything you need to know about a farm visit! Really helpful.</p>