Cultivating a Curriculum Through Community:

Building partnerships between farm and schools - Ag Literacy in Action!

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Auenfarm

What is 4-H?

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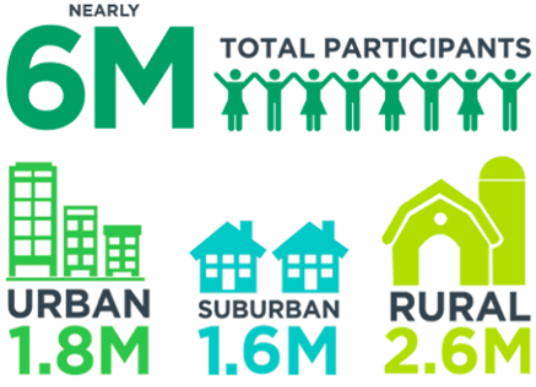
- Non-profit organization, founded c. 1902
- Largest Youth development program in the US
- Focus on experiential informal learning
- UConn 4-H programs available for youth ages 5-19
- Clubs, School Based Programs, and Camps

4- H specializes in partnerships

4-H Mission

- “engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development”
- Focus: citizenship, healthy living, science, engineering, and technology

National Reach



- Nearly 6 million youth participants
- Urban, suburban, and rural communities
- 500,000 volunteer
- 3500 4-H professionals

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb

- What do hope to gain from this session?
- What experience do you have with community partnerships?
- Talk with your table partner - 1:1 or 1:2

Some of “Auer” Partnerships:

“A true partnership exists when each person has the opportunity to make suggestions and decisions, and when everyone’s contribution is recognized and valued.” (2002) 4-H Partnership Guide

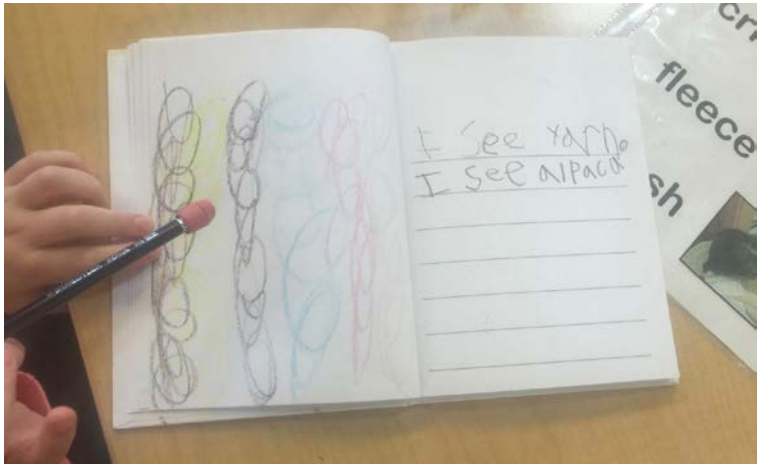
Middle School Youth- Montessori

- Youth visit Auerfarm for week at a time, for a total of 65 days per school year.
- Engage in core academic areas as well as experiential learning through farm activities.
- Plan for a 4-H club after school hours to extend students time on farm.
  - Will be a cooking, gardening, community service focus.
- City of Hartford looking to expand partnership with Auerfarm.

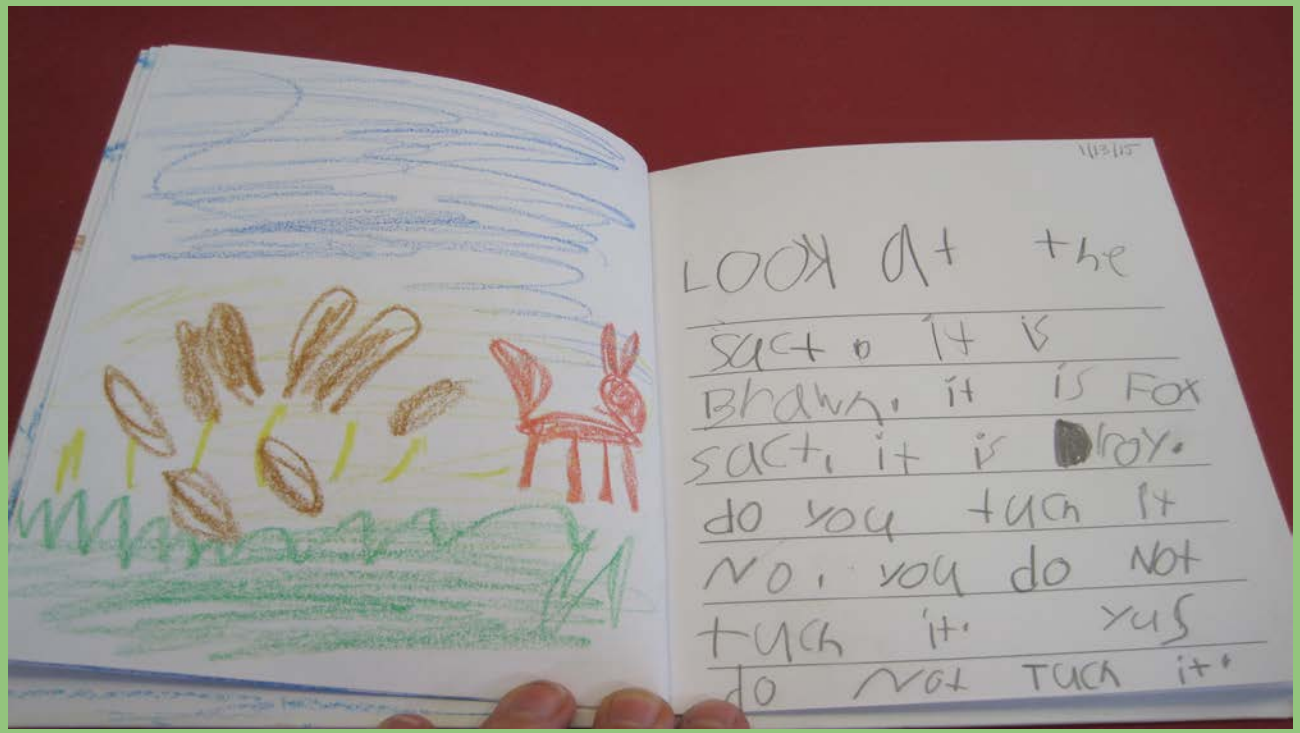
West Hartford Public Schools

Healing Meals

How did we grow this?

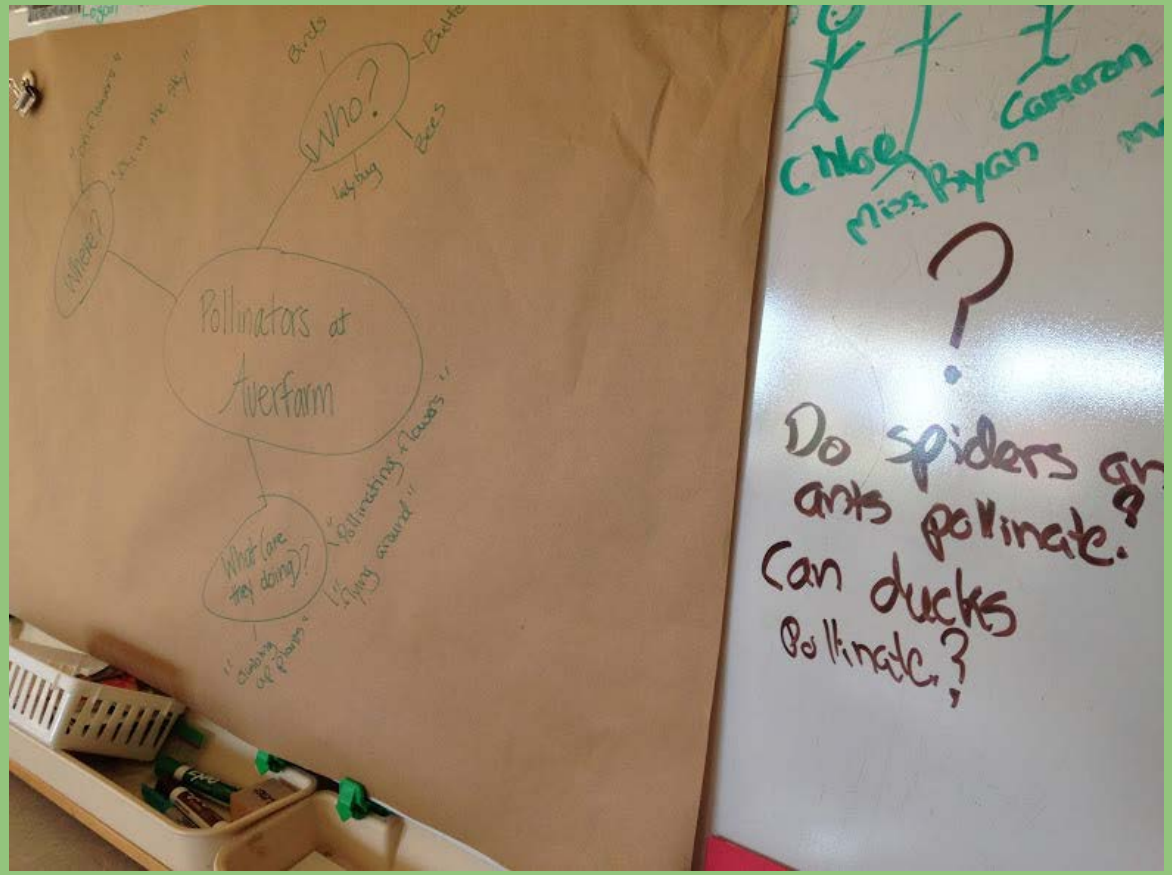

I See yarn
I See alpaca
fleece

Lessons throughout the seasons . . .



Lesson Previews: Building Connections

Lesson Provocations



Pollinator Lesson in Action

Back in the classroom, learning continues...

What are ways you connect and extend Ag Literacy learning for your students?

- How can you deepen learning experiences through pre and post experiences?
- How can technology help?
- What are your obstacles to extending ag literacy learning?
- Share with your table one take away that you will try to implement.

A teacher reflects..after years of hanging in and keeping children at the center.

“It takes time but when you have honesty and a common goal of growth great things can happen. You can’t just say this is where we want to go, you need to say “if we work together imagine where we could go, that leaves it open to the possibilities of what’s to come.”

- Haley Ryan, pre-k teacher
Wintonbury