Fence rows to Pr

A farmer pen pal program

Rachel Myers & Shari Ambrose
Where do I start?

Farmer to Student to Class?

With Rachel

With Shari
Rachel: What is your outcome?

Shari: LET’s start with thank you! (and an invite)
Making contacts: Farm Bureau Office, class
Local businesses
Making contacts: coops, extension offices, clubs, universities,
Region 6 Farm to Classroom Pen Pal Program

The Farm to Classroom Pen Pal Program strives to teach students that agriculture is the source of their food, clothing, shelter and other essentials of life. We also want students to understand the importance of agriculture in their communities. This program will link students and farmers that reside in the counties of Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek counties.

**Farm Family**

- The only requirement is that you write your assigned classroom at least five times during the school year.
- In addition to the letter writing, we encourage families to:
  - send videos or photographs of their farm
  - send seed or fiber samples of what is grown on their farm
  - visit their classroom in person or via Farm Chat or host a field trip

**Classroom**

- The only requirement is that you write your assigned farm family at least five times during the school year.
- With the letter writing, we encourage students and teachers to:
  - ask questions about everyday life on the farm
  - send photos of themselves and their classrooms
  - send classroom projects they have made for the farm families
  - allow the farm family to visit in person, via Farm Chat or visit the farm

For more information or to sign-up for this program contact:
Rachel Myers, Outreach Coordinator for Howard County Farm Bureau
563.547.2037
Rachel.Myers@iift.org
FARM TO CLASSROOM PEN-PAL PROGRAM
FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Farm Writers Fact Sheet
To participate in the 2018-2019 school year’s Farm Pen-Pal Program, fill out this Fact Sheet and return by September 30th to: Howard County Farm Bureau, 121 1st Ave W., Grazie, LA 22016. This fact sheet will be mailed to the classroom with whom you are matched as a source of information about your farm.

Farm Writer/GROUP NAME: ___________________________  CONTACT NAME: ___________________________

ADDRESS: ______________________________________  CITY, ZIP CODE: __________________________

TELEPHONE: ___________________________  EMAIL: ______________________________________

COUNTY: ___________________________

Please tell us about your operation. (How many acres, crops, livestock, how long it’s been in your family, etc.)

OTHER MEMBERS OF WRITER’S FAMILY OR FARM GROUP: (Spouse’s name, parent’s name, children’s names & ages, etc.)

PLANS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ADOPTED CLASSROOM: (How often you plan to correspond, what you plan to share and teach, etc.)

EXPECTATIONS FROM ADOPTED CLASSROOM: (How often would you like to receive letters, questions from the classroom and teachers, etc.)

Please list the technologies you have had experience with:

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HOST A FIELD TRIP TO YOUR FARM? (not required) __Yes  __No

SIGNATURE: ___________________________  DATE: ___________________________

For office use only:
Date received:
Classroom:
FARM TO CLASSROOM PEN PAL PROGRAM
FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Classroom Fact Sheet

To participate in the 2018-2019 school year’s Farmer Pen Pal Program, fill out this Fact Sheet and return by September 28th to: Howard County Farm Bureau, 124 1st Ave W., Cresco, IA 52136. This fact sheet will be sent to the Farm Writer with whom you are matched as a source of information about your class.

Teacher’s Name:__________________________________  School Name:__________________________________

School Address:__________________________________  City, Zip Code:______________________________

School Phone:______________________________  E-mail:____________________________________________

Number of Students in Class:____  Grade Level:____

Please describe the unique characteristics of the students in your class:

Please describe your school, its neighborhood and special characteristics:

What expectations do you have of your pen-pal? (How often would you like to receive letters, plan to respond to your pen-pal, etc.)

Do you currently teach about agriculture and food production?  ____Yes  ____No

What kind of information would you like to receive about agriculture? (Crops, livestock, conservation, new uses of farm produce, careers related to agriculture, etc.)

What equipment do you have access to for use in your classroom? Check all that apply.

____DVD Player  ____Skype/Facetime/Hangout  ____Smartboard  ____E-mail

Would you be willing to visit your pen-pal’s farm? (not required)  ____Yes  ____No

Teacher Signature:__________________________________  Date__________________

For office use only:

Date Received:

Farm
Dear Farmer,

You have received a Thank you letter from one of my first or second grade students at Community Lutherans school in Readlyn, Iowa. In our classroom, we celebrate Agriculture every Friday by learning about food, fiber and enjoying ag experiments! We wanted to thank you for your hard work and dedication to feeding the world and we would like to get to know you better.

My goal is to match each one of my students with a former pen pal. This is great practice for my beginning writers and they would love to know what the day in the life of a farmer looks like. You may write as often as you like, adding any details, stories or information you feel necessary and students will return letters with pictures and questions they have about your farm.

Thank you so much for participating! The students are so excited to meet you!

For privacy purposes, student addresses must be kept private. Please include your return address. Please send all correspondence to:

Student c/o Mrs. Davis
2681 Quail Avenue
Readlyn, IA 50665

Shari Davis
Community Lutherans School
First & Second grades

Your pen pal is _________________________.
After the match….write, share, send, what are the requirements
The year is coming to a close.... my farmers?

Thank you for all you do all year through!

Welcome, Farmers!

Community Lutheran

First & Second Graders

We are so happy you came to visit us today!
You invite them school!!

April 6, 2018
We shared a reader’s theater.
Rachel: summary & questions

Shari: summary & questions
Contact Us!

Rachel Myers
Education Outreach Coordinator
Dubuque County Farm Bureau
Rachel.Myers@ifbf.org

Shari Ambrose
1st & 2nd Grade Teacher
Community Lutheran School
Readlyn, Iowa
sdavis@communitylutheranschool.com