

**Student Farm Tour 2009**

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**Hart-Ransom Elementary School**  
**1810 Bluegum Ave.**  
**Anchortown, AK 99999**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
**[Patricia.ONeil@alaska.gov](mailto:Patricia.ONeil@alaska.gov)**  
**907-761-3858**

# Student Farm Tour

I am interested in organizing a farm tour to the Bakker's U-Pick farm this fall. I think this would be a great opportunity for children to learn how things grow and how to harvest their own vegetables. It is anticipated that through this experience they will learn how great fresh vegetables taste, and as a result they will encourage their parents to purchase locally grown fresh produce. Additionally, it is anticipated that they will be interested in growing their own food, and when they see produce in the grocery store they will understand more about agriculture and where their food comes from. I feel there is no substitute for learning by doing, and by having hands on experience on the farm; it will help them to remember how food is grown.

## 1. Curriculum

- First I will prepare a survey questioning the students on what crops grow in Alaska.
- I will prepare a picture and word match up of Alaska Grown products for students to complete prior to attending the farm tour/hands on picking experience.
- Prior to the students picking their own produce, we will choose five vegetables and we will discuss how they grow in Alaska, how they are harvested and different ways they can be prepared for a meal.
- After the farm tour, students will complete a second survey asking the students what crops grow in Alaska, and it will also ask how at least five crops grow and are harvested.
- I will team up with at least one other teacher. My goal is to fill up a bus with at approximately 45 students. She will also be applying for a grant, to help cover the trip expenses.

## 2. Increase awareness of Alaska Grown:

I will prepare the students prior to the farm tour, by having the word match up of Alaska Grown products. When we go to Bakker's, they will be given a list of crops that are grown on their farm, helping the students increase their awareness of Alaska Grown crops. Also, when they take their own baggies of produce home, they will be reminded of crops that grow in Alaska, and also have the chance to share that with their parents, which will hopefully increase the parent's awareness as well.

## 3. Scholarship Funds

The scholarship funds will be used to help pay for the bus trip out there. However, I teach in a lower income area, and what is of great interest to me, is enabling the students to bring produce home. They do not have the funds to do this, so we will pay the farm \$10/ student so that they can buy produce and bring it home to share with their families.

## 4. # of Students Reached

I have a class of 22 this coming year, and another third grade teacher in my school has a class of 21. She has great interest in including agriculture in her curriculum, and we have

both participated in AITC in past years, and we are interested in taking what we have learned there sharing it with the students. These students will be directly reached, as we have day to day contact with them.

5. Surveys

I will conduct two surveys, one at the beginning and one at the end, to determine if the curriculum described increased students’ awareness of Alaska Grown, and educated them on the subject of agriculture.

6. AITC

In 2008, I took AITC in Wasilla from Vicki Naegele. It was informative and I learned so much that I could pass on to my students. I took from Vicki tools to reach the students to increase their awareness of how agriculture is in every part of their life, from clothing to food. She has a CD of games and ways to teach the students agriculture, which I have utilized in the past. I will ask Vicki to review the matching exercise that I will prepare, to see what input she will have on it. I will also ask her opinion on the five crops we will do a close review on, to see what would be most valuable to educate the students on.

Thank you for considering my proposal. I am excited about the prospect of educating my student on agriculture, and increasing their awareness of food and fiber.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Bus	\$ 280.00	Help cover trip expenses
Baggies of Produce	\$ 220.00	\$10 * 22 Students
Total	\$ 500.00	