

Fernbrook Farms Education Center
Upper Level
Fall Homeschool Program 2008

Basic Ecological Principles

October 2

Basic concepts of ecology will be covered in this lesson including energy flow within a system as well as forest and wetland succession. Students will explore forests, meadows and wetlands in order to build a foundation for future learning this semester.

Terrestrial Insects and Spiders

October 9

In this lesson students will collect and identify terrestrial insects and spiders. The focus of this class is taxonomy and physical and behavioral adaptations of these organisms.

Forest Ecology

October 16

This lesson will closely examine the individual cycles within the forest as well as plants and animal populations. We'll then look at how it works with every component together being an essential piece for the system and the life within it.

Wetland Ecology

October 23

Similar to the forest ecology lesson, we'll look at the individual parts of this ecosystem and learn how each element of the wetlands plays an integral role in the survival of all the species which live there.

Farm Animal Care

October 30

From chickens to goats to cows and ducks to lambs and pigs we'll spend this day learning about each of our farm animals needs for healthy living. We'll discuss animal nutrition and hygiene as well medical issues we need to be aware of and preventative measures we take to keep them free from sickness and disease.

F.B.I. (fungus, bacteria, invertebrates)-The Decomposers

November 6

Autumn is the time for decomposition. This lesson showcases the decomposers and the necessary cleaning process in the forest and fields. Our lesson will study these individual groups of organism and their effectiveness and roles in this important, life-sustaining process.

Land Use/Human Impact

November 13

This investigation looks at how we use the farm and the wear and tear the land takes. How do we make sure we're not harming the earth while we farm here? We'll also discuss our own personal carbon footprints and ways we can reduce our own human impact.

Edwin B. Forsythe Field Trip

November 20

This field trip will take us to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. This is a full day trip leaving the farm at 9:30 am and returning about 2:30 pm. While there we'll be guided by conservationists through some studies of the ecosystems while learning about what they're doing there to protect local species.