

Unpacking Farm in a Box



A new programme from



Country Trust

Where children learn and grow

How Farm in a Box came about



How could we help when schools couldn't visit farms and we couldn't go into schools?



The idea of Farm in a box emerged, we decided it must:

1. Be a safe, farm-centred event, easy for teachers to deliver and extend in school
2. Address teacher/child priorities
3. Build relationships between children and farming/farmers
4. Provide meaningful, multi-sensory hands on experiences
5. Provide opportunities to try new things, be challenged and succeed
6. Allow farmers to share their story
7. Link to a child's lived reality - food I know and eat, where I live - to farming and the countryside
8. Be deliverable mostly outside
9. Enhance/strengthen our farm visit programme
10. Help children to develop agency
11. Build happy memories
12. Reflect our values



How Farm in a Box works

2. “The video was excellent in helping them engage with the learning as it showed them what they needed to know without any distractions to lose focus.”

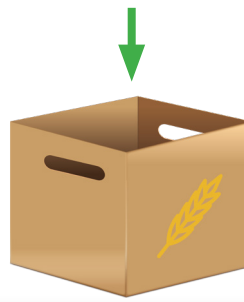
“The children loved the video, seeing Farmer Michael in his field and finding out what he was doing that morning. It brought the farm alive and now the children really want to visit the farm.”



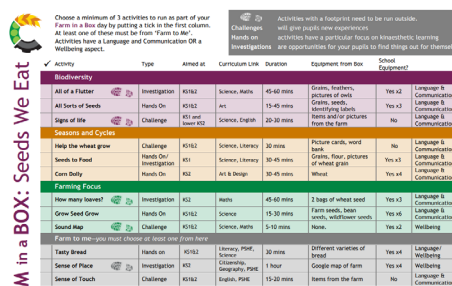
- 1 School/class is matched with a farm and a theme



2. Personalised farm video made by the CT



3. Activities chosen from the menu together, to tailor make the day



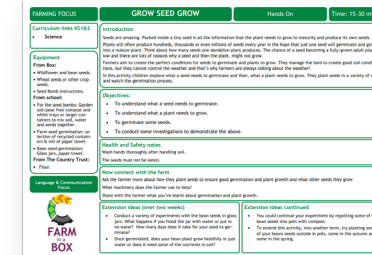
Seeds we eat activity menu

5. “The farmer even left a handwritten note addressed to my class. This was such a nice touch.”

“They loved the box and that it was addressed to them, they were intrigued and were desperate to open the box.”



5. Box is packed by the CT and farmer



4. Teacher receives farm video and activity cards

"I felt confident delivering the sessions knowing my children would enjoy them"

“The children were intrigued and were desperate to open the box”

“It brought the farm alive and now the children really want to visit the farm”

3. “After speaking to Jenny regarding my pupils’ likes and dislikes, Jenny provided three activities that she felt my pupils would enjoy. I then felt confident delivering the sessions knowing my children would enjoy them.”



4. Getting sent the activity sheets in good time before worked, as we were able to read through and absorb it and get our resources together. But running through each of the activities when we met you was invaluable, so we then felt confident to run it ourselves.

The resources we had to provide were easy to source and the ones provided in the Box were great..we didn't feel we needed any extra farmer knowledge."



6. Farm in a Box Day! Led by teacher

"There was a real buzz and vibe about the day, it felt like a school trip even though we didn't go anywhere, it still had all the excitement."

"It was multi-curricular and fitted particularly well with our English Focus; writing a non-fiction report, and supporting our science topic; what's healthy eating, it also touched on our P.E. curriculum, lots of them were exhausted at the end of the day because they had been in fresh air running around most of the day."

7. Live Q&A with the Farmer

"Using Zoom for the chat with farmer worked really well and ALL children sat and wanted to listen."

"The pupils all had loads of questions and some of them weren't vetted, it just came from them. They played the video again at the end after we had chatted to him and they noticed things a lot more and could relate to them after they had done the activities. The next day they still remembered the farmer's name and the dog - it shows that they were really paying attention."

*"The children
were fully
engaged for
the whole
day"*



*"I had the
children's
interest
instantly"*

8. Teacher and children complete evaluation

What the children said

"I learnt that sometimes you can't always have an easy time farming and it's actually quite tricky. I also learnt that you can't always do what you want to do because of the weather."

"I had never tried half the vegetables that you gave us."

"I really enjoyed the Sense of Place activity because I got to explore different spots and find my calming place."

"It was easy to set up and so worth it for the children. What a great experience! I would recommend to all schools."

"My reception pupils were really engaged in all of the activities and were able to make some clear links to 'real-life' farming."

"I had parents telling me that their child went home and were talking about it with their families saying they had met a real farmer."

"The whole day was brilliant, totally worth doing. The children loved it and we've received lots of positive comments from parents, who heard from the children how much fun they had doing FIAB. We (school) want to do Farm in a Box every year and get different activities each time!"

9. Extension activities

"Lots of activities- spread out over a few days to make the most of it. Extended by making bread and pictogram work."

"They had loads of other questions so we are writing these on a postcard to send on to Farmer Spencer."

10. Farm Visit!



Every teacher and child is asked to provide structured feedback

What we have learnt from 50 Boxes, 1750 children



We can support teachers to deliver a high quality, impactful, farm centred event in school. With wide ranging curriculum outcomes and personal and social benefits too.



We can help children create connections & build relationships with farmers, farming & the wider world, before they visit a farm.

Learn

Quantitative Survey- Highest rated

- Learning is hands-on & meaningful.
- Pupils had experiences they wouldn't normally have.
- Pupils were able to develop language & communication skills

Qualitative Feedback

- Purposeful writing & talking
- Multi-sensory experiences
- Knowledge about food, farming and the natural world
- Wide ranging curriculum links
- Teachers more confident to teach through food & farming

Grow

Quantitative Survey- Highest rated

- Activities support pupil wellbeing
- #### *Qualitative Feedback*
- A chance for everyone to shine
 - New relationships forged with farmers
 - A chance to try new things and succeed
 - Experiences to talk about
 - Happy memories
 - A farm visit to look forward to
 - Opportunities for meaningful outdoor learning
 - Excitement, focus, enjoyment

Thrive

Quantitative Survey- Highest rated

- Pupils made connections between their world & the farmer's world
- Helped contextualise classroom learning
- Farmers shared their story with children about how & where our food is produced

Qualitative Feedback

- Connections made with people and places
- First hand encounters with big issues such as food wastage
- Tasting different foods

What next?

Which aspects could be even better?

- Activities giving children a chance to develop a sense of agency
- Opportunities for pupil led learning
- Engagement from reluctant learners
- Understanding the impact of FIAB relative to our other programmes

Where next for Farm in a Box?

- Develop more resources for EYFS/SEN
- Develop a Climate Change Farm in a Box - connecting children to the most important issue of our time, key to agriculture and each one of us.
- Achieve scale cost effectively but maintaining quality and impact

How you can help

- *Fund a Box* - It costs £15 per pupil/ £520 per Box to provide a day of rich experiences for a class of children.
- *Support innovation* - Help fund the development of new versions, and the delivery of Farm in a Box at scale.