



RE: Dairy in the Classroom Grant 2016

Dear Vermont School Teacher,

Vermont Dairy Farmers in partnership with New England Dairy & Food Council, Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Green Mountain Dairy Promotion are excited to offer schools in Vermont the opportunity to participate in programs that educate students about dairy farming, dairy products and the importance of healthy eating. Virginia Holiman in conjunction with New England Dairy & Food Council Registered Dietitian, Jill Hussels, and Shelburne Farms Educators, will offer two programs: **Dairy in the Classroom** and **Fuel Up to Play 60**.

The **Dairy in the Classroom** program will include five 75 minute classroom visits by an educator* and a dairy farm field trip. Forty classrooms of no more than 25 students per class will be selected to participate in the **Dairy in the Classroom** program in 1 of 3 sessions: **early spring 2016** (March –April); **late spring 2016** (May-June) or **fall 2016** (September-December). Classrooms selected will receive a grant of \$200 to pay for transportation expenses for a field trip to a cow-based dairy farm and materials as needed. The educator services and farmer stipend will be at no cost to the school. The **Fuel Up to Play 60** program will include implementation of two Fuel Up to Play 60 Farm to School Plays. Fuel Up to Play 60 can complement and enhance Dairy in the Classroom with additional resources, tools, rewards and incentives for schools.

Dairy in the Classroom

Students will explore and become aware of the importance of cows, dairy farming and dairy products play in their local community and the role farmers play in their local food system to help their community stay healthy. They will learn how dairy products contribute to good nutrition. Students will experience a variety of fun hands-on activities relating to cows and the production of dairy products. Students will learn about the work needed to produce healthy, nutrient-rich foods on a dairy farm and other farms. Students will be introduced to the “Cow to You” poster showing the path foods take from the farm to the lunchroom. Students will make butter and ice cream. They will taste test a variety of cheeses and yogurt in addition to seasonal fruits and vegetables. All Dairy in the Classroom students are invited to participate in the Vermont Dairy Festival Parade on the 1st Saturday of June in Enosburg.

Fuel Up to Play 60 Farm to School Plays (www.FuelUpToPlay60.com)

Materials will be provided for students to participate in “Farms Deliver and Know Your Foods.” Students can learn about the farms and farmers in their region. Students can view a Dairy from Farm to You video and visit a local dairy farm with milking cows. Students can learn about healthy eating and the nutrients that fresh foods provide by participating in awareness activities and events highlighting where their food comes from and why they are healthy choices. Students can participate in Farm to School test tests in the cafeteria of various foods provided by farmers including fresh dairy foods and seasonal fruits and vegetables. Students can create “Farms Deliver” posters highlighting the role farmer’s play in their local foods system to help their community stay healthy.

***Educators:**

- Virginia Holiman is a certified teacher, educator and NOFA-VT Mentor.
- Shelburne Farms Educators:
 - Dana Hudson is the Northeast Regional Lead for the National Farm to School Network working through VT FEED - Shelburne Farms.
 - Susie Marchand is the Agricultural Education Coordinator for the Farm-Based Education Network.
 - Linda Wellings was an elementary school teacher for 20 years before joining the Farm staff as Professional Development and Curriculum Specialist.

Who is eligible to apply? Any K-3rd grade teacher in Vermont schools that is enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60. If not enrolled, schools can register for free at www.FuelUptoPlay60.com.

Considerations made during the selection process include: geographic distribution, inclusion into an ongoing classroom program, level of interest, stated follow-up plans and repeat applications.

Selected classrooms must be willing to:

- Commit to all Dairy in the Classroom lessons and participate in Fuel Up to Play 60 Farm to School Plays
- Attend a dairy farm field trip with milking cows in calendar year 2016
- Provide documentation on student learning of Dairy in the Classroom programs and participation in Fuel Up to Play 60 to include but not limited to pre and post tests, photos, and projects such as posters and/or videos
- Allow school and teacher name in press release materials

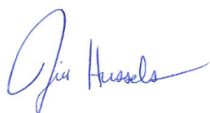
Once the classroom is accepted, Virginia Holiman or Shelburne Farms Educator will consult with the classroom teacher to introduce the teacher to the classroom sessions and schedule a time for the 5 visits.

An application form is attached. Additional Farm to School resources including NEDFC's Fuel Up to Play 60 Farm to School Plays and the resources in the Dairy: From Farm to You kit can be found on the **Farm to School** page on www.NewEnglandDairyCouncil.org.

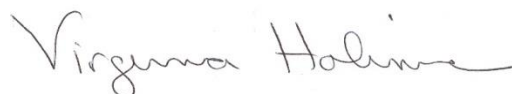
Deadline to apply is February 8, 2016. Please send applications to Virginia Holiman, PO Box 341, Highgate, VT 05459. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by February 19, 2016.

Should you have any questions, please contact Virginia Holiman at vholiman@hotmail.com.

Thank you,



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