




Coordinated in Ireland by



Connecting Classrooms and Farms

FARMERS PACK



Farmer Time is a monthly videocall between the farm and the classroom. Coordinated in Ireland by Airfield Estate, the initiative pairs farmers with primary and secondary classes for a series of video calls throughout the year.

Farmer Time is all about harnessing the power of digital communications to inspire and engage young people about farming and where their food comes from. Children chat live to farmers from their classrooms through FaceTime or Skype, discuss ideas, ask questions, share knowledge and gain a 'real-time' understanding of the issue's farmers face every day.

Calls can cover subjects including math's, geography, climate change, genetics, biology, food technology, animal welfare, the role of pollinators, engineering, environmental protection, and much more. We are encouraging classroom learning, engaging children with where their food comes from, promoting healthy eating, and inspiring the future food production workforce.



SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED?

Please get in touch with Farmer.Time@airfield.ie and we can proceed to matching you with a farmer.



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www.airfield.ie/farmer-time



Farmer Time

Step by step guide

Teacher and Farmer matched by **Airfield Estate** by email.



Teacher emails matched Farmer to establish a convenient time for first scheduled call to take place and also to inform matched Farmer of current curriculum learning.



Teacher prepares class for call, what questions would they like to ask during first meeting with Farmer?



Farmer checks signal on farm to establish best place to FaceTime/Skype from.



First scheduled call takes place.



Teacher & Farmer review call by email and schedule further calls.



A few days prior to the next call, **Teacher** emails (or calls/texts) Farmer to find out what is happening on the farm and prepares children's questioning or informs farmer of current learning to establish links.

REPEAT

For more information and Case Studies please go to www.airfield.ie/farmer-time/ or www.leafuk.org/farmertime/home/teachers

Top Tips for Farmers

- 1** **Plan** the length of time that you want to spend on the call and test the technology beforehand.
- 2** **Decide** where you are going to make the call from on your farm, is the signal OK?
- 3** **If you use farming vocabulary**, remember to explain what it means – the children could start to create a farming vocabulary glossary.
- 4** **Additional** support can be found at www.airfield.ie/farmer-time/ or contact us at Farmer.Time@airfield.ie



SAFEGUARDING

We ask teachers and farmers to sign our Code of Conduct (available at www.airfield.ie/farmer-time/) before the calls begin. We also ask teachers to follow their own school safeguarding practices, including not leaving students alone to Farmer Time. All farmers are Garda Vetted before being linked with a school and are asked to ensure the teacher is present for all calls.



FAQ's

General Questions

How much does it cost to participate in Farmer Time?

Farmer Time is a completely free initiative supported by Airfield Estate and SuperValu and we are very thankful that the farmers who sign up give their time voluntarily.

I have my paired teacher/farmer details, what do I do now?

Once you have received your paired farmer or teacher details please do make contact and establish when would be a good time to start the initiative. Arrange for a test call to test the technology and connectivity.

How long does each call last?

Each call usually lasts between 10 to 20 mins.

I have contacted my paired farmer/teacher and have received no reply, what should I do?

If you have had no contact, then please email Farmer.Time@airfield.ie

What should I include in the calls?

Talk to your paired farmer/teacher about possible content for the calls, this can be linked to the student's current learning /curriculum/syllabus. If you would like support in identifying what to focus on in the calls then please email Farmer.Time@airfield.ie or go to www.airfield.ie/farmer-time/ for further details, hints and tips.



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FAQ's

General Questions

I do not have access to FaceTime, can I still take part?

Farmer Time can be accessed through FaceTime, Skype, Zoom or any social media video app that you have agreed with your matched farmer/teacher.

How many calls will I be expected to make if I sign up?

Farmer Time is an ongoing conversation between a farmer and a teacher that ideally lasts for an academic year. In many cases these conversations then continue into a second year when the teacher has a new class of students. However, at the end of every academic year both farmers and teachers are given the option to continue with their current pairing or be matched to a different age group or type of farm.

Can I be linked to my local school/farm?

Farmer Time is purely based on a virtual conversation paired farmers and schools are purposefully located in different parts of the country, we do not pair local farms and schools.

Does Farmer Time include a farm visit?

Farmer Time is a virtual conversation between the farm and the classroom and does not involve a farm visit as our paired farmers and schools are purposefully located in different parts of the country. However, if you are interested in visiting a farm local to you or hosting school visits on your farm then please do contact **Farmer.Time@airfield.ie** for further advice on how to do this.



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FAQ's

Farmer Specific Questions

I cannot get a signal on my farm, what should I do?

Once you have contacted your paired teacher then organise a trial call to establish the most effective place to make a connection on your farm, if you still cannot secure a connection then please contact **Farmer.Time@airfield.ie**

How old will the students be that I am matched with?

We currently have students participating across Ireland from age 5 to 18 years, if you would like to work with a specific age group then please do contact **Farmer.Time@airfield.ie**

What if I get a hard question?

This is a call between the farmer and the class and teacher. Don't be afraid to ask the teacher what they think or suggest that you will answer that question next time. Feel free to contact the teacher or ourselves to help with any topics that come up. Overall, we want you to be open and honest about farming and to build a relationship with the class.

Do I have to come up with things to talk about?

If something interesting is happening on the farm please take films or pictures and send them to the teacher to share with the class – especially if they are happening on days when you aren't on the call – as this may give you topics of conversation when you do call. Ask the teacher what the students are learning about and see if you can apply it to your farm or farming in general. This can really show the children how farming and food production are linked to them in a practical way. Contacting the teacher (and the teacher contacting you) the week of the call will help with this.



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FAQ's

Farmer Specific Questions

What is the Garda Vetting process?

Anyone who works or volunteers with children and vulnerable adults must go through Garda vetting. This is a process to check whether you have a criminal record, or if there is any specified reason why you might pose a threat to vulnerable people. Garda vetting is conducted by the Garda Síochána National Vetting Bureau, who will send a vetting disclosure to the organisation. To complete this process for this programme, farmers are asked to supply at least 2 forms of valid ID, as well as proof of address. We then confirm ID with a video call and after this we send your details to the Garda vetting bureau. They will then send you an online form to fill in which is usually returned to us in around 10 working days.

Can I feature Farmer Time on my social media?

Yes, but please use your own photos and not that of any school children or teachers you interact with. If mentioning or tagging the school you are paired with, please ask the teachers permission before you post. Please also use **#FarmerTime** so we can follow and promote your posts.



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Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Farmers

At Airfield Estate and Farmer Time we are committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of every young person that we work with. We also ensure that the adults we work with are briefed in the correct behaviour expectations when working with children and young adults. When participating in Farmer Time, we ask schools to follow their own safeguarding procedures. Please find below our Safeguarding Code of Conduct which all participants in Farmer Time must follow in order to participate.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Pupils should never be left alone during a Farmer Time session, an adult member of staff must be present at all times and fully involved in the activity for the call to take place.
- Pupils should never take part in an individual FaceTime call with a Farmer.
- Farmer Time should always take place within school hours (including after school clubs) and on the school site with a member of school staff present.
- Farmer Time calls in school should always be carried out on registered school devices.
- Children should be reminded about not sharing personal information during the calls.
- Full names of the children should not be used during the call.
- Acceptable language will always be used by all participants.
- No communication with any participating children outside of the FaceTime session, including through social media.
- Any recording of conversations or photographs will be agreed beforehand with the farmer and the school and should be stored securely using the school's procedure for storing information.
- Farmers and teachers are not permitted to take or store photographs, screen shots or video recordings of any children taking part in the Farmer Time session on any personal devices (phones, ipads, laptops etc.)
- Farmers and teachers are not permitted to share photographs, screen shots or video recordings of any children taking part in the Farmer Time session on social media or with anyone else.
- Farmers and teachers are not permitted to discuss any specific participants (farmer, teacher, school children) involved in Farmer Time on social media.
- General, non-specific social media posts are encouraged, but only if permission has been approved from both school and farmer, please use the #FarmerTime.

We hope that you find this information helpful and follow this code of conduct to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the young people that we work with. Airfield Estate's full child safeguarding policy can be sent to you on request.

I have read and understand the above:

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

(Print name: _____)



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Farmer Time is founded by farmer Tom Martin and internationally co-ordinated by LEAF (www.leaf.eco).

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