

A destination for Schools

Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center is becoming a destination for schools and tour groups seeking to learn more about sustainable agriculture and what it takes to produce food in northern New England. From Insect Safaris and Sensory Treasure Hunts to farm tours catered to topics like Farm Energy Use or Fertility Management Cedar Circle Farm has it going on. In 2010 more than 1500 individuals participated in guided farm tours, wagon rides, winter sleigh rides, or place based educational activities with Cat Buxton, the farms' Education Coordinator.

Cedar Circle Farm raises flowers and organic vegetables and berries on 50 acres along the bank of the Connecticut River in East Thetford, Vermont. The farm has a busy full-service farmstand and coffee shop (with wi-fi) and a growing reputation as a family friendly place to visit. The beautiful setting is seeded with an educational atmosphere featuring a self-guided tour so that visitors can learn more about the farm while taking a stroll with the kids and a cup of coffee or tea from the Hello Café. The tour takes you through the gardens and greenhouses, by the chickens and horses, and gives an overview of the farming systems, marketing techniques, education programs, and alternative energy strategies that Cedar Circle Farm employs.

From May through October the farm is open and is host to several classes, workshops and presentations, Dinners in the Field and Tastings. Their annual Strawberry and Pumpkin festivals consistently draw over 1000 people and due to a volunteer run Waste Recovery Area produce no more than 2 bags of trash. The festivals feature Pick Your Own crops, educational displays, live music and other entertainment, local vendors, and lots of children's activities.

Cat Buxton teaches gardening classes at Cedar Circle Farm and throughout the Upper Valley. She serves on two community garden committees, is the school garden manager for Thetford Elementary School where she has helped to integrate the gardens into the school cafeteria and classrooms. She has been coordinating the events, education programs, and community outreach efforts for Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center since 2007. She is happy to advise and inspire new farm-to-school endeavors and to entertain bus groups, schools, and youth groups year-round by appointment. Visit www.CedarCircleFarm.org for details or to make a reservation for a tour or educational activity contact Cat@cedarcirclefarm.org

Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center is a proud participant in the Farmer Correspondence Program, a free program sponsored by the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA-VT) that matches classrooms with farmers based on interests and grade levels. Farmer pen pals correspond with students during the winter and spring educating students about life and work on the farm. To get your school involved, contact nofavt.org.