

# YELLOW FARMHOUSE

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## EDUCATION CENTER

### Spring Virtual Field Trip

**Title:** *Spring: The Start of the Growing Season*

**Duration:** 75 minutes

### Objectives:

- Students will understand the concept of seasonality as it applies to local crops and agricultural activities.
- Students will be able to describe how the plow has evolved over time.
- Students will consider the cultural significance of the strawberry plant for indigenous people of the northeast, such as the Narragansett Indian Tribe.

### Materials:

- [YFH Spring Video](#)
- Spring Video Worksheet (see below)

### Key Terms:

- **Bone hoe:** A simple farm or garden tool, typically made from the shoulder bone of a large animal, used for breaking up soil prior to planting.
- **Cultivator:** A mechanical tool or tractor attachment for breaking up soil and pulling weeds.
- **Cover crop:** A crop planted to prevent soil erosion and build soil health (as opposed to a cash crop, which is grown to be sold).
- **Germinate:** To sprout, develop, or start to grow.
- **Maturity:** The state of being fully developed and ready for harvest.
- **Natural resource:** Materials or substances supplied by nature (such as forests, water, fertile land, or mineral deposits) that can be used for industrial or economic purposes.
- **Pasture-raised:** The practice of raising animals that spend some portion of their lives on pasture or with access to a pasture (as opposed to living their lives completely indoors).
- **Rotational grazing:** The practice of regularly and strategically moving livestock onto different parcels of pasture, in order to promote soil, plant, and animal health.

- **Seedling:** A young plant grown from a seed (as opposed to a clipping or cutting).
- **Tilling:** The practice of turning over soil to prepare it for planting crops.
- **Wuttáhminneash:** Heart berry (strawberry in Narragansett language).

## PROCEDURE

*Introduction: (15 minutes)* Tell students that they will be going back to the Yellow Farmhouse for their spring virtual field trip. Ask what foods they would expect to see on a farm in the spring.

After students have a chance to share, project the [Seasonal Food Guide](#) website so students can see what is in season in Connecticut during the current month. Explain that different foods grow in different parts of the world in different seasons. Spring is the time when Connecticut farmers are starting to harvest a few crops and planting many more crops that will be harvested in the summer.

*Virtual Field Trip (25 minutes):* Play video. You can play the video in its entirety, or stop and review answers to the questions after each segment.

0:00-4:00 Introduction and segment about spring planting

4:01- 13:53 Visit to Connecticut Historical and segment about tractors & farm technology

13:54-15:27 Segment on chickens

15:28-23:01 Visit to Ashawaug Farm, segment on strawberries & closing

*Birthday Meal Activity (20 min):* As a class, review students' responses to the questions on the *Spring Video Worksheet*. Explain that one of the reasons why the strawberry was so significant for indigenous people was that it was the first berry of the spring season. Remind students that in pre-colonial and colonial times, people only had access to foods when they were naturally in season (they could not be grown elsewhere in the world and transported long distances as they are today).

Explain to students that they are going to use the Seasonal Food Guide website to plan a birthday meal for themselves using only what is in season in Connecticut during their birth month. *Note: if you do not have enough devices for each student, they can work in pairs or this activity can be done as a whole class with a few volunteers (perhaps one from each season).*

*Closing (15 min):* Ask students to share out their birthday meals (ideally one from spring, summer, fall, and winter). Ask students what was fun/challenging about this activity. Explain that in the next class, they'll learn more about what grows in Connecticut, specifically plants that are native to this region.

*Spring Video Worksheet*

What are two pieces of information typically found on a seed packet?

Name three tools that have been used to till the soil throughout CT history:

What are some of the benefits of raising chickens on a farm?

Why is the strawberry plant significant for the Narragansett Indian people?

## Birthday Meal Menu

When is your birthday?	
If you could only eat foods that grow in Connecticut at the time of your birthday, what would you make for your birthday meal?	
Main Dish	
Side Dish	
Dessert	

Note: Some foods are available throughout the year and/or can be preserved to have a long shelf-life, so they can also be included in your birthday meal. These include but are not limited to: eggs, meat, seafood, grains (flour, bread, pasta), jam/jelly, pickles.