

Getting Started

The farmer or rancher receives their classroom match at the same time you receive your match. The farmer or rancher is the first person to start the letter writing. They must write their letter by September 30. If you do not hear from your pen pal by October 5, please let us know.

Once you receive your match, it is a good idea to send a quick note or email to your new pen pal to let them know you are looking forward to hearing from them.

As the Ag Pen Pal program continues, one of the keys to success is keeping in contact with the farmer or rancher you are working with. Drop your pen pal a note to let them know when they can expect your letters to arrive. You can also determine ahead of time if you will have each student send a letter or if you will send a letter from the class. See below for ideas to write letters.

Meet Me Questionnaire Attach a picture of the student if possible

My name is:

My favorite color is:

My favorite food is:

My favorite animal is:

My favorite thing about school is:

Something I would like you to know about me:

My favorite farm animal is:

My favorite subject in school is _____ because

When I hang out with my friends, I really love to

If I could go any place in the world, I would go to

Let Me Show You

- Share with your farmer or rancher what you have been doing in class!
- Give the writing prompt "I wanted to write and tell you all about something that I have been working on in class!"
- Try to include photos of their projects when sending this letter

Share What You've Been Doing

Not sure where to begin? Encourage your student to start small. Begin writing about a pet, what they did that week, or what they love to eat.

Ask Questions

Pen Pal writing is a conversation on paper. Make sure your students include a few questions to keep the conversation going. It also shows your farmer or rancher that your students are interested in what they do too.

Personalize It

Get creative! Allow students to include drawings, stickers, or little things that show their personality. It doesn't have to be big or grand. Write on colored paper or allow the student to sign their name in a special way.

Are Your Students Younger?

Here are some easy modifications:

- As the teacher, play stenographer and write a sentence as the student says it.
- Create a collage of pictures (cut out from a magazine) of things that represent each student.