

School Tour “Key Topics”

Tours will begin by the U-Pick farm. Picnic tables are set up there. There will be an inside tour but we'll drive down to it then load back in wagon. Drivers “split up” one going outside first, one inside.

Have kids sit at picnic tables when unloading bus. Here you can give them a short (10 min. or so) idea of what they will be seeing, a brief family history, then load wagons and split up. Some teachers will let you know when they need to be back so adjust accordingly. Tours should take 1.5 hours.

Family History

- Seven family members currently share ownership in the farm.
- 200 ac. apples, 150 ac. peaches, raspberries, sweet corn, pumpkins & other vegetables
 - Land in family since 1831, current farm market opened in 50's w/ 5th generation
 - This is our 175th year farming the same land
- 3 members of the 6th generation currently run day to day operation

Inside

Park wagon behind Pavilion & unload

- Have kids follow you single file (one or two lines depending on # of people)
- Be very careful watching out for forklifts and warn all of them before bringing them in to keep hands to themselves
- Show them one of the large cold storage rooms
- Go to the back cold storage rooms. It is quieter there and easier for everyone.
- Explain controlled atmosphere storage – oxygen removed from air –apples crisp longer
- Bins hold about 20 bushel of apples
- Tell them this is what happens when apples are brought in from trees
- We have 3 large cold storage rooms now and are building a 4th
- Show them boxes tell them about brokers who sell fruit for us
- Packing line (labels on line – dumper,washer,polisher,dryer,grader,sorting table)
- Apples go in bags,boxes,bins some go to stores all over country some stay here
- Go by to get donut and cup of cider for each student you assist in handing out
- Let each person pick out a small pie pumpkin from under the pavilion before you load tractor back up.

They should probably leave apples and pumpkin on wagon while go in store if they've already picked. Take a few markers with in case they want to initial their bag & pumpkin.

Outside

Be sure you have bags on the tractor...don't hand out until you're ready to pick...bags are in the upick hut...if you run out of the small bags from the hut – they are in the truck trailer body beside the garage near the back warehouse down at the market.

Apples

Explain

- The trees tied to stakes
- The soap bars tied to trees
- The white paint on the trunks
- The different fruit trees and other produce you pass
- The wind machines (used in spring to keep warm air down to protect trees from frost)

Explain how the apple grows

- Plant tree
- Produces fruit in about 2 years
- Apple for next year on tree now (show them)
- Becomes a blossom in spring
- We bring in bees for pollination
- Flower falls off behind flower apple growing
- Some turn red some don't all start out green
- We have about 25 different varieties of apples
- We grow about 200 acres of apples & 150 acres of other produce (name)
- Show them how to pick apples (if guys are out picking stop by them) “twist & pull”
- Let each person pick small bag of apples

Pumpkins

Take them to the pumpkin patch

Explain how pumpkins grow

- Plant seed
- Vines grow
- Flowers & behind flower is pumpkin (can usually find one on vine to show)
- Grows and begins to turn orange in late August
- Let each person pick pie pumpkin up **WHEN YOU RETURN TO MARKET FROM UNDER PAVILLION** – Picking in the field is too messy

Hail Cannon

- Protects apple trees from hail which puts bad marks on apple
- Bad apples can't be sold to stores only for juice so they're not worth much
- Someone has to turn on manually in the shed
- The “cone” sends up a sort of “shock wave” that swirls out of the top
- That wave shakes up and changes the cloud formations so hail doesn't form
- Goes off every 4 seconds and is very, very loud (a loud boom)
- The noise it makes isn't what stops hail, it's the shock wave
- Haven't had hail since we've had it
- Covers approx. 125 acres of apples on this farm