



SUNNYBROOK
Farm Museum

School Programs

Spring 2026



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2879 Botterill Crescent
Red Deer, AB



SUNNYBROOK
Farm Museum

New Life for an Old Farm

In 1899, James Bower came west in search of land. He bought a half section from the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company and soon arrived with two railcars full of furniture and his family's belongings. Mrs. Bower and their children joined him a few months later. The Bowers' Sunnybrook Farm became well known for its purebred cattle and herd of Percheron horses.

Along with tending his farm, James Bower logged near the Red Deer River canyon and made bricks from local clay. The farm was eventually taken over by his youngest son, Norman. In 1988, Norman and Iva Bower embraced the idea of an agricultural museum in Red Deer by gifting part of their property to the community. The ten acres that now make up Sunnybrook Farm Museum includes barns and workshops built by the Bowers.



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Programs

PIONEER LIFE

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES

The Pioneer Life Program at Sunnybrook Farm Museum offers an interactive journey into early Alberta life. Participants engage in hands-on activities like making bannock, churning butter, washing laundry, milking a cow, and grinding grain. Alongside these experiences, they'll meet live farm animals, connecting with the daily routines of Alberta's pioneer families. The program concludes with a scenic wagon ride, providing a memorable glimpse into the hardworking yet community-centered lifestyle of the past.

Length: 2 hours

LEVERS AND GEARS

GRADE 3 SCIENCE

The Levers and Gears Program at Sunnybrook Farm Museum introduces participants to simple machines through hands-on activities. They explore levers, pulleys, rollers, and gears, learning how these mechanisms made farm tasks easier for pioneers. Participants experiment at various stations, tackling questions like, How much weight can you move with a lever or pulley? and Do gear ratios really matter? By applying their knowledge to historic farm equipment such as graders, combines, and tractors, they connect science and history in a fun and educational experience.

Length: 2 hours



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Programs

BO PEEP

PRE-KINDERGARTEN SOCIAL STUDIES

The Bo Peep Program at Sunnybrook Farm Museum offers children an exciting adventure as they help Little Bo Peep search for her lost sheep. Along the way, they'll explore the farm, learn about different animals, and discover bits of history. The program wraps up with a fun barrel train ride, creating a memorable experience full of exploration and hands-on learning.

Length: 1.5-2 hours





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Frequently

Asked Questions

COSTS

HOW MUCH DO PROGRAMS COST?

We charge on a per-student basis, some programs have registration limits

\$6.50 per student for a half day
\$13.00 per student for a full day

There is no cost for teachers or parent supervisors.

HOW DO I PAY?

You have two payment options.

1. Invoice After Your Visit: We will email an invoice to your school's administrative contact after your visit, based on the number of students who attend. You may also request an invoice before your visit, but please note that we don't offer refunds if fewer students attend, and we'll send a second invoice if there are additional students.
2. Pay on the Day: You can pay in the museum office on the day of your visit by cash, cheque, debit, or credit.

Both options ensure you only pay for the students who attend.

BOOKING A PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE BOOKING PROCESS?

You can now book your program online using our Google Calendar appointment scheduler:

<https://www.sunnybrookmuseum.ca/school-program-booking-calendar>. When you book online, your appointment is automatically added to both your calendar and ours for easy confirmation.

If you are looking for a specific date or time that does not appear available, please the office at 403-340-3511 or 403-986-3410, or emailing us at coordinator@sunnybrookmuseum.ca. and we will check if we can accommodate your request manually. You can still book a program by calling the office.

Approximately one month prior to your visit, you will receive a program details confirmation form by email. This form collects important details such as the number of students and adults attending, any dietary restrictions (if applicable), your school's billing information, and any additional considerations for your group. Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to allow us time to prepare for any accommodations your class may need.

CANCELLATION

WHAT IF I NEED TO CANCEL OR MOVE MY PROGRAM?

Please let us know as soon as possible if you cannot attend your booked program. If your school is unable to come due to bad weather, we will do our best to find an alternative date for your visit.



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Frequently

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WHAT TIME DO PROGRAMS START? & HOW IS THE DAY STRUCTURED

The exact start time is determined when you make your initial booking. Morning programs generally begin at 9:30 am or 10:00am depending on the preference of the teacher; the earliest start we can accommodate is 9:15am. Afternoon programs generally begin anytime after 12:30pm.

We can make some accommodations for timings due to travel distance or school hours. However, these are made on a case-by-case basis. For more information please call the office.

Programs are divided into 3 or 6 stations which are 15-20 minutes long. Each station focuses on a single concept or theme. The groups are rotated by the staff, and each group will have the opportunity to go to each station. The number of stations running simultaneously will depend on the number of students registered for the program.

ARE THE PROGRAM STATIONS ACCESSIBLE FOR STUDENTS WITH MOBILITY NEEDS?

Please let us know at the time of booking, or as soon as possible, if you have a student with mobility needs. With notice, we can adjust the set up to allow for the best experience possible for all students.

All of our buildings are wheelchair accessible except for the loft of the Dairy Barn.

ARE THE PROGRAMS OUTSIDE?

Our programming in May and June takes place out on the 10 acre farm site. All of the activities, except for visiting the animals and the egg hunt (Bo-Peep only) can be facilitated under cover. However, we ask that all students, teachers, and parent volunteers dress for the weather as the cover keeps off the rain but not always the wind.

DO YOUR PROGRAMS MEET PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS?

All of our programs are designed to meet various curriculum connections. If you have any questions about this, please contact us.

HOW MANY CHAPERONES ARE NEEDED?

We ask that you bring a minimum of one adult chaperone per rotational group. You will be notified of the number of groups needed in the email 4 weeks before your program. You are welcome to bring as many adults as you would like or is required by your school board. There is no cost for chaperones.

CAN WE BRING LUNCH?

You are welcome to bring your lunch and enjoy a picnic on the site. There are picnic tables available for use and a playground on-site for afterwards. Please give us a heads up if you intend to have your lunch on the site either before or after your program.