

Please read the information included in this letter as some of our policies have changed for the 2024-2025 school year!

McLeod Farms is once again offering the **Come and See the Farm** program to schools in the area. Our program is targeted for children ages **4K through 12**.

Groups are treated to a story about strawberries & learn about how we grow strawberries & other spring crops. After sampling a cup of strawberry ice cream, they will be transported by wagon to the patch where each child will be able to pick a 1lb container of strawberries. They will also receive a coloring/activity book. The field trip takes about 2 hours including lunch.

Our tours are led by knowledgeable farm staff who provide educational information & materials appropriate for the age of the students. It is our job to keep you and your group safe, therefore, we ask that you abide by all farm rules and regulations.

The cost per child is \$8; there is no charge for teachers & your bus driver. **Payment must be made as a group.** We ask that the groups limit chaperone/parent attendance due to limited wagon seating (2 or 3 per class). There is no fee for chaperone attendance, however, they will not receive ice cream or a container for picking strawberries during the guided field trip. No individual payments are accepted for siblings/parents. Parents/chaperones are there to assist the children if needed. If chaperones would like to purchase ice cream, strawberries, or other items, we encourage them to visit our market after the guided portion of the field trip concludes. We have public u-pick hours on the weekend.

Please let the McLeod Farms staff know of any allergies related to dairy and/or strawberries prior to your field trip. We will try to provide a substitution if necessary, however, we ask that teachers/chaperones be prepared with one as well.

To help us make your field trip a safe, fun, & educational experience for the children, please review & share these guidelines with parents and/or chaperones prior to your field trip.

Field trips are available <u>Tuesday through Friday (April 8th – May 2nd).</u> Time slots available are:

9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am

Please call us at 843-335-8335 between 8:30 am & 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday to reserve a date & time slot for your field trip. Be aware that 10:00 am slots, Thursdays and Fridays are the most popular times so book early to reserve the date & time slot desired.

Thank you for your interest in our farming operations!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FIELD TRIPS AT MCLEOD FARMS

Prior to your trip

We will contact you at least 1 week prior to your field trip to confirm your reservation & to give us the most accurate count for all members of your group who will attend. This information is critical to help us plan for the number of wagons and drivers needed each day. If you prefer, you may also email that information to rachel@macspride.com.

Our staff will instruct each group on specific requirements for hand washing & other rules for proper behavior in the strawberry patch, on our wagons, & other areas. These rules will apply to adults as well as students.

PLEASE LET OUR STAFF KNOW IF ANY STUDENTS HAVE FOOD ALLERGIES!

<u>What is the correct physical address for the field trips?</u> You should use the following address for your GPS applications: 29247 S. C. Highway 151, McBee, SC 29101. If your GPS does not recognize that address, try searching for Browns RV's on SC Hwy 151, McBee, SC & follow those directions. Depending on which direction from which you are arriving, the McLeod Farms Roadside Market will either be ¼ mile before or ¼ mile beyond Browns RV's.

Bus and other vehicle parking

When you turn into the parking lot, one of our staff will direct you to the appropriate parking area. Please note that buses will be parked parallel, one behind the other on the left side. Vehicles will be directed to park (nose in) on the right side. Please do not park vehicles on the same side as any bus & please comply with directions provided by our staff regarding parking. Our staff will meet you at the bus & lead the group to your first destination.

Please be prompt

Plan your departure to arrive on time but **try not to arrive more than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled field trip**. Our tours are reserved with enough time between to allow for minor fluctuations. Groups that arrive more than 30 minutes late are subject to cancellation.

Have your information ready when you arrive

Please designate <u>one lead person</u> to gather information for the <u>entire group</u>. We <u>only allow one collective</u> <u>payment from the entire group</u>. Payment can be either by cash, check, or credit card. You will be provided a copy of your paid invoice to turn in to your accounting office. We also accept purchase orders from your school or district office & will email a formal invoice if your school requires this. Please provide an appropriate email address

Bathrooms, picnic area and other important information

It is very helpful if teachers organize groups for bathroom visits prior to your arrival on site. It is best to offer bathrooms to the entire group rather than send one or two at the time. We have 5 stalls available for girls and 2 stalls for boys. Our staff will assist with bathroom visits to make the process as fast and efficient as possible. Please note that porta johns are available at the patch if needed.

We have tents & picnic tables available for your group (for eating sack lunches). There is an on-site restaurant (Bigs Meats & More); you must call them directly to set up boxed lunches for your group (843-335-6474).