

### **Opening Circle:**

We start out in one large opening circle where the farmers introduce our program theme: “In the fall, we can discover six plant parts that all work together to make energy!” Students learn that all of the fruits and vegetables they love, besides being tasty, are plant parts with a specific function. We learn a song about the plant parts and, after learning the farm rules, divide into smaller groups, maintaining a student-to-farmer ratio of about 12 to one, and begin our Farm Adventure!

### **Farm Rules:**

1. Watch where your feet go! We can walk on grass, straw, woodchips, and in-between the rows in the Kids’ Farm. It’s difficult for baby plants to grow when feet are on them, so please walk only where plants are not growing (except for grass!)
2. Please wait to be invited before picking and eating anything. Some things aren’t ready to be picked, and the farmers know where the good stuff is.
3. When it is time to pick and eat, please use two hands: hold the stem with one hand and pick what you want to eat with the other, that way we don’t rip up the whole plant.

### **Fall Farm Adventure At a Glance: Station Descriptions**

#### **In the Kids’ Farm field: [Six Plant Part Scavenger Hunt](#)**

Activity: Students are led through the farm fields on a 6-plant-part scavenger hunt looking for roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds. When groups find a new plant part, they learn its function and then taste it!

Theme: “In the fall, we can discover six plant parts that all work together to make energy!”

#### **In the Living Playground:**

Pre-K and K students: [Rainbow Chip Color Search](#)

Activity: Students go on a color search, looking closely to match their paint chip with autumn leaves and plant parts; they collect matching-colored items from our raised garden beds and share their findings with the group.

1<sup>st</sup> grade and up: [Mystery Leaf Hunt](#)

Activity: Working in pairs, students collect leaves, selecting some that are growing and some that are fallen, then use scientific tools to take an up-close look, sharing what they know about the role of leaves in making food for the plant. Next, students use observations and connections to their own past experiences to formulate theories about why leaves turn brown in the fall.

Theme(s): “The leaves are the kitchen of the plant.”

#### **In the Kids’ Clubhouse: [Seed Collection](#)**

Activity: Students collect seeds from mature plants and sort them into plant families, exploring the purpose of seeds and their structures.

Theme: “Plants make new life while they die back in cold weather!”

**Oxbow supports new science standards**

Farm- or garden-based environmental education is an excellent platform for exploring Life Sciences through hands-on activities and guided inquiry. During an Oxbow Fall Farm Adventure, students make observations, ask questions, and use evidence to communicate their findings.

**NGSS Core Disciplinary Ideas introduced:**

Structures and Function: Students learn about the parts of plants and how those structures function to help the organisms grow and survive. Students review the life cycle of a plant and how reproduction is essential to continue the existence of every kind of organism.

Inheritance of Traits: Students make observations and have a discussion about the similarities between young plants, seeds, and the adult plants in those plant families.

Unity and Diversity: Students observe that while many plants have similar parts that serve the same function, they can appear different depending on the varying types of plant and natural or artificial selection.

Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics: Through exploring plant life cycles and their physiological responses to seasonal changes, students learn about energy flow in a plant and how it changes throughout different seasons.

**Several early elementary NGSS performance expectations are supported through our programming. Please contact us at [education@oxbow.org](mailto:education@oxbow.org) or call 425-788-1134 if you would like more information!**