



Welcome Spring!

Spring is in full swing! Farmers are busy planting seeds all around Living History Farms. As you visit the museum this spring, look for the gardens at each house and farm. What is growing there? Farmers grew large gardens filled with all kinds of plants to eat. But people who lived in town might have small gardens in their yard or they might only grow flowers. Do you plant flowers or maybe tomatoes and other vegetables? Today, even people who live in apartments can grow gardens in window pots. Let's see if there are plants you might have in common with our museum farmers!



At the museum's 1700 loway Farm, the farmers are planting the "three sisters". These are three plants, corn, beans and squash (or pumpkins), that grown really well together. The corn plants grow very tall and the bean plants grow up the corn stalks. The squash vines have big leaves that keep weeds from growing.

At our 1850 Pioneer Farm and the 1900 Horse-powered Farm, the farmers plant kitchen gardens. These are big gardens filled with vegetables to eat! Some Iowa settlers planted their gardens in square beds. Later, farmers planted in long rows. Why did it change? At first, farmers used metal hoes to work in the garden. The small beds were easier to plant and weed with these hand tools. Later, a farmer used new inventions, like the garden plow and garden cultivator, to prepare the garden. These are machines pulled by horses that turn over the ground and get rid of weeds. Long rows made it easier for horses to walk through the garden.



Our museum guides also plant flowers around the historic houses in May and June. Some of these flowers, like marigolds, are actually planted with the vegetables. Marigold flowers have a strong smell. Many people plant them in the veggie garden to keep rabbits away. Mostly, the flowers are planted to be pretty. Families liked to pick flowers from their garden to decorate the

house. The Flynn Mansion garden is called a cutting garden and has many of these flowers.

LHF Kids Club Events - May and June



Don't miss our LHF Kids' Club Activity Spots in May and June! These are hands-on activities for LHF Kids Club members at Living History Farms sites. Bring your LHF Kids Club passport and get a stamp for joining in on the activity! At the end of the season in October, kids with a completed passport can exchange their passports for a special prize in the Marketplace Museum Store! Activities take place on scheduled days from 10am to Noon and 1pm to 3pm.

On May 7, check out the **1700 Ioway Farm** for some garden tool exploration! Use Ioway bone, stone, and wooden garden tools to help with planting the three sisters crops.

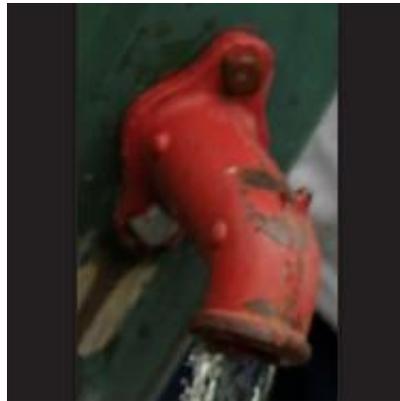
On June 18, visit the **Tangen House** in Walnut Hill for garden chores! Help museum guides to plant, weed, and water the flower gardens and pots that will decorate the house all summer long.



History Detectives



Clue #1



Clue #2



Clue #3

Good detectives pay attention to small things. They look around and use their eyes to explore every detail. In this newsletter, we're exploring gardens, seeds, plants, and farm tools. Here are some photographs of small parts of big things. When you visit in May and June, can you find the big things these little parts belong to?

Try this: Craft & Recipes



Craft: Make a May Basket

Make your own May basket using paper, a hole punch, and yarn.

[May Basket Craft](#)



Recipes to try:

Cook Glazed Peas and Carrots, or fix some Lettuce Sandwiches.

[Spring Recipes](#)

Word Search

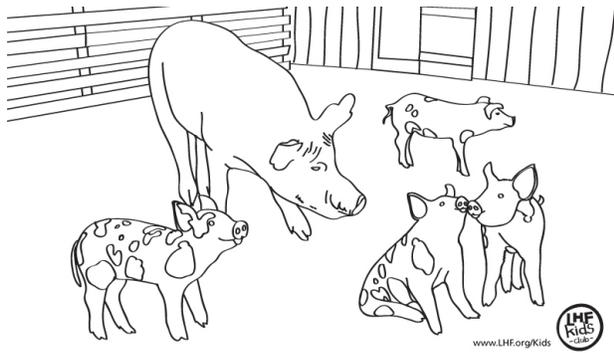
[Word Search - Printable PDF](#)

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CABBAGE	WEED
SEED	PUMPKINS
WHEAT	HOE
ALMANAC	PLANT
POTATOES	BED
ACRE	
CORN	
PLOW	
TOMATOES	
ROWS	
SPROUT	
TURNIP	
BEANS	
PEAS	
PEPPER	

Coloring Contest

Download this month's printable coloring sheet, color it in, and bring it with you on your next visit or send it in



the mail to be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to the MarketPlace Museum Store!

Next time you visit Living History Farms, you might see your picture decorating the windows of the store! Drawing will be held on May 13, 2016.

LHF Kids Club Coloring Contest

Color in the picture above and bring it to Living History Farms, or mail it to us at the address below to be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to the MarketPlace Museum Store! Next time you visit Living History Farms, you might see your picture decorating the windows of the store! Drawing will be held on May 13, 2016, and winner will be contacted via email.

Kids Club Member Name: _____ Age: _____ Parent email: _____

Drop off your finished artwork at the LHF Visitor Center or mail to: Living History Farms, 2600 111th St, Urbandale, IA 50322

[Download your coloring sheet](#)



JOIN LHF KIDS CLUB



Try it FREE today.

Living History Farms | 11121 Hickman Road | Urbandale | IA | 50322