



Summer time!



Summer! A lazy time for some folks, but not for farmers! Farmers at the museum are weeding gardens and helping their field crops grow! Some crops are even ready to pick. In July, the 1850 Pioneer Farm harvests their wheat crop. Wheat is a grain that is used to make flour for things like bread. Pioneers cut the wheat with sharp tools, called scythes. Some of these scythes were attached to a special handle with long wood or metal fingers that caught the wheat as it was cut. This tool is called a grain cradle. Pioneers cut their wheat with these hand tools. It was hard work on a hot summer day! When you visit the 1850 Pioneer Farm barn this month, see if you can find the scythes and the grain cradles!

At the 1900 Horse-Powered Farm in August, it is also time to harvest a special grain. That grain is called oats. As you visit the museum, can you spot the oat fields at the 1900 Farm? Oats are a short plant and look a little bit like hay or wheat. Look hard to see the grain heads on the end of the plant! People can eat oats. Do you like oatmeal cereal or oatmeal cookies? Most farmers in 1900 grew oats to feed their horses. Horses need lots of energy to pull machines and wagons. Oats give them that energy!



A special machine called a mower/binder helped cut the oats at this farm. Horses pulled the machine through the field to mow or cut the oat plant. The "binder" part of the machine tied the long oat plants together. Farmers could actually ride on this machine to make it a faster job.

Besides all the work of harvesting wheat and oats, summer was also a time of

year for celebrations and food. On July 4th, farming towns held their biggest party of the year, Independence Day. They had picnics and celebrated the good things coming out of the garden. What is your favorite picnic food? Even a pioneer family might make a picnic to celebrate America's birthday. As you visit this summer, look at the pioneer garden. What is growing there that could make picnic food? Are there tomatoes? We could slice them and make a vinegar



dressing for them. Are the watermelons ready yet? The pioneers had pretty melons that looked like they were covered in stars on the outside. Can you find them? Are there other fruits ready or is it too late for wild berries? Ask the farmers at the 1850 Farm for hints on where to look for wild raspberries and other fruits. Pioneers might also fry chicken for their outdoor

picnic. Chickens can give us meat, but they also lay eggs. Boiled eggs were used to make dressings, deviled eggs, and potato salads. Each hen might lay an egg once a day or one every two or three days. Count the chickens at the 1850 Pioneer Farm. Are there enough chickens to collect a dozen eggs in one week?

Pioneer farmers often lived too far from a town to go to a parade or celebration. Their close neighbors might come over and have a party. Someone could read the Declaration of Independence and play the fiddle or sing. Later, farmers who lived closer to towns might go to town and see a parade or even fireworks. They might buy lemons for lemonade or a special treat of ice to make ice cream. When you visit the Tangen House



and the General Store this summer, look around to find some special ingredients people might buy for a fancy picnic or party. Ask the guides in the Tangen House if they made any special recipes for Independence Day. You might be surprised!

LHF Kids Club Events - July and August

*Don't miss our LHF Kids' Club Activity Spots in July and August! 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 July 16, check out the **Flynn Mansion** for some farm mathematics! Count out the money needed to pay Mr. Flynn's farmhands and use your adding skills to figure out how much money his crops and cows might be worth.



On August 13, visit the **1850 Pioneer Farm**. Help museum guides sort, flail, and winnow wheat! They use a long stick to take the grain heads off the wheat to send it to market.

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. There are lots of farm animals at Living History Farms. When you visit in July and August, can you find the big things these little parts belong to?

Try this: Recipe and Food Experiment



CC image courtesy of Ralph Daily on Flickr

Recipe: Shortcake

Make a sweet summer treat!

[Shortcake Recipe](#)



Food Experiment

Test your muscles to make whip cream from a few simple ingredients

[Whip Cream Experiment](#)

Word Search

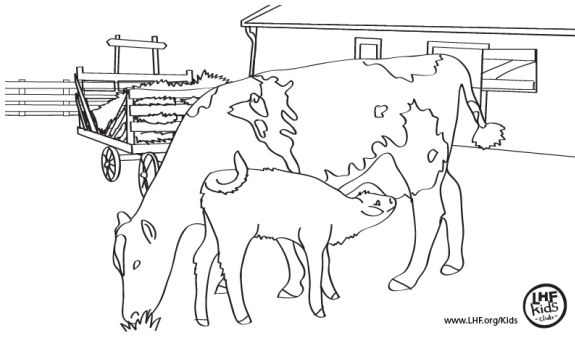
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J	C	Y	Y	M	A	R	E	D	J	U	X	A	S	R

ROOSTER	FENCE
EGG	COW
SHEEP	MILK
EWE	DUCKS
HEN	CHICKEN
MEAT	
WOOL	
SOW	
HOG	
CALF	
HORSE	
MARE	
LARD	
OX	
DRAFT	

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 July 22, 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 July 22, 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](#)



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

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