

Apples - INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

Elementary School – Middle School – High School

Table of Contents:

1. Background
2. Ferguson's Apples Instructor Guide
3. Apple Discovery Student Activity Sheet
4. Ferguson's Apple Video Student Worksheet
5. Ferguson's Apple Video Worksheet Instructor Copy





BACKGROUND

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days 2021–Eau Claire was hosted on Huntsinger Farms July 20 - 22, 2021. Innovation Square and the Farm Tours featured six innovative farms that are producing food for Wisconsin, the Nation and beyond using the latest farming practices and technology to position their farms for the future with sustainability, yield, quality, and taste in mind.

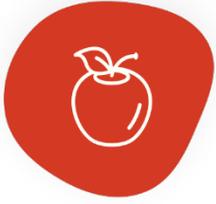
Our continuing mission is to educate the general public about the changing face of agriculture and to **inspire and educate youth** about the many different exciting careers associated with agriculture. The all-volunteer Executive Committee commissioned a new online resource to bring the farms from Innovation Square and the Farm Tours to the people of Wisconsin who could not attend the show.

These farms are: Chippewa Valley Bean/Doane Farm, the largest processor of red kidney beans in the world; Ferguson’s Orchards, the largest producer of apples between the Rocky Mountains and Lake Michigan, Huntsinger Farms/Silver Spring Foods, the largest grower and processor of horseradish in the world, Marieke Gouda/Pentermann Farm, the award-winning farmstead Gouda cheese company, Nellie’s Holsteins, a recently expanded and modernized 5th-generation dairy, and Superior Fresh, the largest aquaponic – hydroponic farm in the world.

The website is <https://chippewavalleyfarming.com>.

In addition, agriculture educators at Chippewa Valley Technical School and Holmen High School developed a full suite of educational materials for Elementary, Middle School and High School youth to be used alongside the videos and background featured on the website free of charge to all educators.

All the instructor guides and student work sheets are available as downloadable Word documents on the website (<https://chippewavalleyfarming.com/education/>) so that teachers can edit them to fit their curricula. We hope your students of all ages will enjoy learning about farming different crops, herds and fish in the Chippewa Valley and be inspired to learn more about agriculture as a hobby or career.



Ferguson's Apple Orchards

Instructor Guide

Elementary School – Middle School – High School

Professional Video, Background, Overview and Activities at
<https://chippewavalleyfarming.com/fergusons-orchards/>

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL

Objectives:

I will be able to taste the differences in apple varieties.

I will be able to explain the life cycle of an apple tree.

I will be able to share my own experiences of apples with my peers.

Interest Approach

1. Set out several varieties of whole apples around the room. The more the merrier. At each apple place a post it note with a different number on it.
2. Ask two students to walk around each of the apples and list 3 differences they say. They will most likely state:
 - a. Color
 - b. Size
 - c. Shape
3. Explain that there are many many varieties of apples, just like there are many varieties of lettuce, grasses, flowers, etc.
4. Transition to video by sharing with the class that we are about to learn more about apples and agriculture tourism from the owners of Ferguson's Orchards.



Video

1. Print and handout Ferguson's Orchards- Video Sheet.
2. Read out loud the questions that appear on the sheet.
3. Watch the video. Pause when the owner talks about the frost fans to allow students time to illustrate them on their video sheet.
4. Go through the video with the students asking for their input, discuss the questions from the video sheet and other ideas that come up.

Elementary School Activity

1. Give each student a plate and the same number of toothpicks as you have different varieties of apples around the room. Students will also need crayons or colored pencils to draw the apple.
2. Slice the apples so there is one small slice per student.
3. Print off and hand out the apple testing sheet.
4. Instruct students to go station to station with a partner to taste each variety of apple by picking it up with their toothpick.
5. Students will fill out their "Apple Taste Testing" Sheet as they go.
6. Place a list of ["Apple Sensory Terms"](#) on the screen or board to help them with their sensory vocabulary.
7. Once each group has gone to each station, discuss which varieties students liked the best, which ones stuck out to them, what their senses were for each, ect.
8. Then identify the variety name of each station. See if the varieties that the students liked correspond with the varieties they are most familiar with.



MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL

Purpose

Students will create a television advertisement to be played in the fall during the evening news on the local news station to promote Ferguson's Orchards.

Objectives

I will get out of my comfort zone and act out a skit to promote a Wisconsin Agribusiness.

I will research what activities Ferguson's Orchards have to offer to the public.

I will work with others to complete a task.

Directions:

1. Watch the Video.
2. Task students with creating a television advertisement to be played during the evening news on the local television stations to promote Ferguson's Orchards.
3. Assign students into groups of 3-4 and assign them a Ferguson's Orchard location (Galesville, Eau Claire, Pepin Heights Lake City).
4. Students will use the <https://www.fergusonsorchar.com> to research and complete the task.
5. Suggested criteria for promotional advertisement
 - a. 30 Seconds- 1 minute in length
 - b. Every student in the group must speak at some point
 - c. Need to promote at least 5 of the attractions of that location.
 - d. Can use any resources in the room
 - e. Need to have at least 3 props used
 - f. Need to include where a consumer could find more information
6. Give students 15-20 minutes to create their ad and then have them either perform in front of the class OR record their "ad" and then play all of the ads to the entire class.



HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

Purpose

Students will become experts in one variety of apple by using any reputable resources then teach their peers about their one researched apple variety.

Objectives:

I will be able to determine the most popular varieties of apples in America.

I will be able to research using multiple platforms to find reputable resources.

I will create a presentation to teach others about the apple I became an expert on.

Directions:

1. Watch the video
2. Students will become experts in one variety of apple by using any reputable resources. This can be done individually, in partners, or in groups of 3.

Here are a few resources to use for research.

- a. <https://mnhardy.umn.edu/varieties/fruit/apples/all-apple-varieties>
 - b. <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/apples/varieties.cfm>
 - c. <https://www.michiganapples.com/About/Varieties>
 - d. <https://waga.org/apple-varieties>
3. Using the above resources, students will collect information on their specifically assigned or chosen apple variety. Encourage students to choose varieties they have heard of before, be sure that no two students have the same variety they are researching.
 4. Have students place their findings along with photos into a slideshow presentation to teach the rest of the class about that variety.
Aspects to look for: Taste, texture, uses, shelf life, growing habits, yield, size, color, ect.
 5. Discuss which varieties they are most familiar with or would like to try.
 6. OPTIONAL: Create a bracket (similar to March Madness) and have the different varieties “compete” against each other. For example- I researched the Honeycrisp and Sarah researched the Empire- we would both give our presentation of our findings and then the class would vote on which variety should move on to continue competing.



Conclusion and/or Extensions

1. Take a field trip to your local apple orchard.
2. Ask a local apple orchard to participate in a “Flat Stanley” activity where they take photos or videos of them caring for the orchard and you view those photos and videos as a class.
3. Using Google Earth do a visual of a local apple orchard.
4. Make applesauce with the leftover apples you have.
5. Try starting your own apple trees with the seeds from your apples.



Apple Taste Testing Worksheet

NAME _____

<i>Station number</i>	<i>Draw the apple using correct color and shape</i>	<i>APPEARANCE (what does it look like)</i>	<i>What does it TASTE like?</i>	<i>TEXTURE What does it FEEL like?</i>
1				
2				
3				
4				



FERGUSON'S ORCHARD VIDEO WORKSHEET

Follow along with this video as we learn about Ferguson's Orchard.

1. What state did the founders of Ferguson Orchard come from prior to starting the orchard?

Southern California

2. How many different kinds of apples do they grow?

About 30

3. How many years after planting can you expect to see an apple?

About 3 years

4. True or false.
Apple growers take the entire winter off because there is nothing to do.

False. It is a year around job.

5. Draw a frost fan.

Looks like a modern windmill but much smaller.

6. About how many thousands of visitors does the Eau Claire location get each fall?

About 75,000

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WERE NOT ASKED IN THE VIDEO.

7. Have you ever been to an apple orchard? If so, what do you remember about it?

8. How often do you eat an apple or applesauce?

9. What's your favorite kind of pie? Is it an apple pie?



NAME _____

VIDEO WORKSHEET

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