



Seminarbäurinnen

Summary of the project:

“Experience is learning that sticks” - That’s the motto of “Seminarbäurinnen”, a group of educationally trained Austrian farmers who visit schools and early years settings and run a wide range of interactive activities for pupils. The activities are based around the themes of nature, the landscape, food and agriculture. “Seminarbäurinnen” were first formed in 1994 when hundreds of farmers were trained to work with children and teenagers. experienced “Seminarbäurinnen” farmers are available for visits to kindergartens and schools throughout Austria. Each farmer offers activities that link to their own farms. So a dairy farmer may offer milk based activities, while a chicken farmer may talk about animal welfare and fertilisation.

Who is involved

“Ländliches Fortbildungswerk” is an organisation that develops the certified training for farmers. The course is divided into four modules: personality development, presentation techniques, session planning and ideas for activities. Farmers who have completed the training get a certificate and are then able to offer their programs to schools and early years settings.

Key steps

“Seminarbäurinnen” are invited by teachers to come into the school setting and work with the children on shorter activities (around 2 hours long), half day or for a longer term projects. In all cases, the farmer will demonstrate the food process from field to plate. They will use interactive activities in order to tell their story as farmer. The programs in schools are varied and adapted to the level of the respective classes and are therefore suitable for all school levels and types.

“Seminarbäurinnen” also organise school project days where several farmers will visit the school and develop, in cooperation with the teachers, a customised program with learning stations covering different topics.

How are the children involved?

Pupils will work with the farmer in their classroom, school garden or the school kitchen. Often, they might also they also visit the farm of their “Seminarbäuerin” link.

How is the project linked to food and farming?

For many children, the only awareness they have of farming is through the media and advertising. This is why the dialogue between agriculture and society is becoming increasingly important. The “Seminarbäurinnen” are active farmers, who are producing food and using their knowledge to work with pupils and discuss the role that agriculture plays in wider society. They also discuss with students where they can access, prepare and cook good quality food.





How is the project linked to the school curriculum?

The programmes in schools are adapted to all school grades – pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education. The programmes also link to wider school subjects such as biology, chemistry, geography and economics. Further information can be found by following the link below: <https://www.landwirtschaftundschule.at/>

Positive outcomes

Through projects like this one, thousands of Austrian school pupils are getting the opportunity to meet, chat and have their questions answered by farmers every year.

