

# Billings Farm & Museum

**Spring 2020 PR Campaign**

**Select Highlights**







## These cute animal ambassadors will make you smile

By [Lydia Schrandt](#)

Editor

JUNE 26, 2020



[Photo courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum](#)

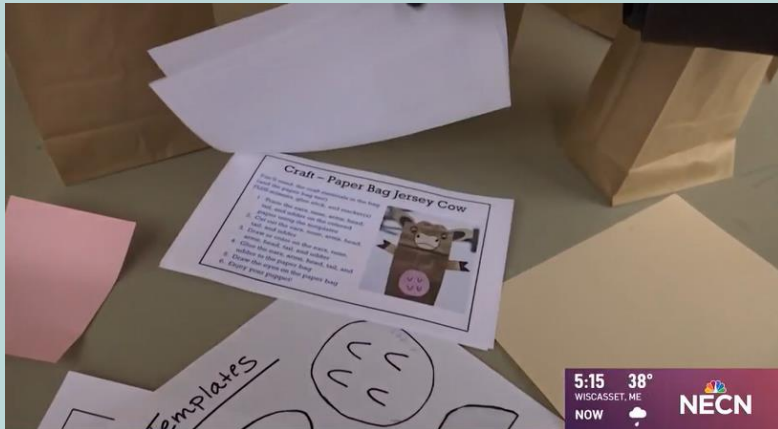
### Norman - Billings Farm & Museum

Norman serves as the smiling "Lambassador" for the Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vermont. Visitors to this outdoor history museum and fully operational dairy farm can learn about the state's rural heritage while visiting with Norman and his dairy cow, draft horse and sheep friends.

AS SEEN ON  
 **NECN**

CORONAVIRUS · MARCH 19, 2020 9:16 PM

## Activity Kits for Vermont Kids Home Because of Coronavirus





# Boston Sunday Globe

APRIL 19, 2020

## HERE

### FARM TOURS AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vt., is offering families a way to experience life on a dairy farm through videos, photos, and interactive content posted to Facebook, Instagram, and the Billings Farm at Home Web page. Kids can virtually meet fuzzy baby chicks, newborn calves, tiny lambs in sweaters, and watch and download content including farm recipes to try at home, animal coloring pages, and other fun activity kits. Beginning April 20, a week of special activities will celebrate Earth Day's 50th anniversary, including presentations on how families can help protect the planet, and crafts for kids using recyclable materials. On April 22, at 1 p.m., the next "Ask Billings Live" series on Facebook allows viewers to ask questions to resident experts. Get updates directly by e-mailing [askus@billingsfarm.org](mailto:askus@billingsfarm.org) and typing "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. 802-457-2355. [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/](http://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/)

## THERE

### HOTEL CREDITS SAVE MONEY AND JOBS

As the hospitality industry comes to a standstill, many independent hotels are struggling to pay loyal staff as the properties remain temporarily closed. To help provide a cash flow — and keep people employed — hospitality technologists Porter & Sail have partnered with a number of hotels to sell future credits, offering significant sav-



ings to travelers for future stays all the way through 2022. The process is simple: a \$200 purchase buys a \$300 credit to apply to a future booking against the cost of a stay at that point in time. Guests can buy in as many increments as they'd like, receiving greater savings as they spend more. Please note: Hotel credits do not constitute a booking. Each voucher buyer should book directly with the property they wish to visit. At checkout, the voucher number will be used against any room charges, and in most cases, food and beverage charges. The offer includes such award-winning properties as Cielos Wine Hotel & Spa in Mendoza, Argentina; Acre Resort in Los Cabos, Mexico; Flemings Mayfair hotel in London; and additional hotels in Tulum, Mexico, Los Angeles, New York City, and Nairobi. All proceeds go to the hotels to keep staff employed. Porter & Sail is not taking any fees. [hotelcredits.porterandsail.com](http://hotelcredits.porterandsail.com)



### BOOK NOW, TRAVEL LATER

Always wanted to go on an African safari but were deterred by the price? Take advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime book now, travel later offerings by African Bush Camps. Travelers can save up to 65 percent off standard rates on four packaged specials, visiting some of the company's 15 luxury camps in Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The catch? New bookings

must be made and confirmed in April or travel before March 31, 2021. Includes accommodations, meals, beverages, internal flights and transfers, two game viewing activities per day, laundry, emergency medical evacuation insurance, and national park fees. African Bush Camps guided safaris, led by naturalists with extensive experience, offer the flexibility to set your own schedule to make the most of your adventure, including walking, talking, and learning, game driving, bird watching, and more. [experience.africanbushcamps.com/breath-of-fresh-air-specials/exabc2020](http://experience.africanbushcamps.com/breath-of-fresh-air-specials/exabc2020)

## EVERYWHERE

### TRAVEL-SIZE HAIR DRYER

Savvy travelers are using their time sitting at home to update gear for future trips. The Bisou Mini Travel Dryer, offered by Le Angelique Hair Tools, is one essential item that is often overlooked. The small hair dryer easily fits into your carry-on or backpack without adding unnecessary weight to your bag. The 1,200-watt heat concentrator enables hair to dry quickly while the mini-diffuser adds volume. Available in a number of stylish colors including pink-cheetah, cherry-blossom, gold, and basic blue and black. \$35 includes free shipping. [leangelique.com/collections/blow-dryers/products/bisou-mini-blow-dryer-blue](http://leangelique.com/collections/blow-dryers/products/bisou-mini-blow-dryer-blue)



### BUG OFF

It's almost bug season! When out walking in the woods, camping, or sitting in your own backyard, stay protected from emerging mosquitoes, biting flies, disease-carrying ticks, and more with Bug Thug offered by Good Stuff Botanicals. The natural pest repellent, a chemical- and DEET-free product, uses a combination of insect-repelling essential oils — lemongrass, cedar, mint, thyme, citronella, eucalyptus, and other herbs — to ward off stinging and biting bugs. \$17.99. [thegoodstuffbotanicals.com/bug-thug](http://thegoodstuffbotanicals.com/bug-thug)

NECEE REGIS

## HERE

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In today's #NotBadNews, we watch a baby rhino take its first steps and connect you with the perfect book.

Welcome to #NotBadNews, our new (and hopefully short-lived) daily column where we round up the good, surprising, and weird things that have happened around the world during this coronavirus pandemic.

### Baby's First Steps

We thought we'd seen the cutest animal video all week when one koala celebrated Easter—but we couldn't have expected this.

Denver recently welcomed a baby rhinoceros to their zoo, now only two months old. The baby has been kept behind the scenes, but just this week got to take its first steps outside. Walking out into the exhibit, this cutie explored its new home in the mile-high city.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD: Denver Zoo's two-month-old rhino calf took its first steps outdoors, sticking close to mom while exploring its new surroundings.

<https://t.co/l1Tgatg0Vc>  
[pic.twitter.com/msGn1Utha5](https://pic.twitter.com/msGn1Utha5)

— ABC News (@ABC) April 16, 2020

And while Denver welcomed a rhino, Billings Farm and Museum in Vermont wants us to say hello to their newest lamb, which they say came just in time for Baby Farm Animal Celebration! (Sounds like a celebration we can get behind.)



# The Boston Globe

(online edition)

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

## Virtual farm tours for kids, plus hotel credits to help save jobs

By Neece Regis Globe Correspondent. Updated April 16, 2020, 12:00 p.m.



Kids can virtually meet fuzzy baby chicks, newborn calves, tiny lambs in sweaters, and watch and download content.

### HERE:

#### FARM TOURS AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vt., is offering families a way to experience life on a dairy farm through videos, photos, and interactive content posted to [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and the [Billings Farm at Home](#) Web page. Kids can virtually meet fuzzy baby chicks, newborn calves, tiny [lambs in sweaters](#), and watch and download content including farm recipes to try at home, animal coloring pages, and other fun activity kits. Beginning April 20, a week of special activities will celebrate Earth Day's 50th anniversary, including presentations on how families can help protect the planet, and crafts for kids using recyclable materials. On April 22, at 1 p.m., the next "Ask Billings Live" series on Facebook allows viewers to ask questions to resident experts. Get updates directly by e-mailing [askus@billingsfarm.org](mailto:askus@billingsfarm.org) and typing "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. 802-457-2355. [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/](http://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/)



# Learning in the Time of Coronavirus: Vermont Venues Keep Trails Open, Offer Online Resources

POSTED BY BRETT ANN STANCIU ON WED, MAR 18, 2020 AT 9:43 AM



Billings Farm and Museum is offering crafts and activities "to go"

BILLINGS FARM AND MUSEUM

Vermont museums, educational centers and libraries have met the current social-distancing reality with free online classes, story times and learning resources. Although buildings are temporarily closed, many trail systems remain open. Remember to take breaks from screen time, and keep your family healthy with fresh air. Here are some Vermont venues offering online services:



## ONLINE Earth Week @ Billings Farm and Museum

Throughout Earth Week the online resource [Billings Farm at Home](#) will feature a variety of kid-friendly craft projects using recyclable materials found around the house. Children can learn to how to "spin yarn" with plastic grocery bags, make toilet paper pigs, a birdfeeder crafted from a bottle, and newspaper boats or hats.

**On Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22 at 1:00pm, Billings Farm & Museum will host the second Ask Billings Farm Live.** The Facebook Live will focus on the history of sustainability and stewardship at Billings Farm, along with how the farm practices responsible agriculture today. Geared towards elementary school students, educators and families, the museum's Interpretation & Education Coordinator, Christine Scales will lead the Facebook Live and answer questions from viewers.

**Billings Farm & Museum will share cooking videos featuring sustainable recipes on Time Travel Tuesday and Foodie Friday.** On Tuesday, April 21 stuffed peppers demonstrates all food to eliminate waste. Sweet potato, Swiss chard and avocado will be shared on as a recipe with all ingredients dependent on pollinators.

## Earth Day turns 50!

Virtual Earth Day celebrations and activities you can do at home with your

April 20, 2020 by [ParentingNH Staff](#)

## ASK THE BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

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For more: [www.billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/](http://www.billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/)

ParentingNH



# New England TODAY

TODAY

## Checking In | Voices from the New England Economy

*Yankee's* weekly roundup of personal stories about running a business in these uncertain times.

Ian Aldrich • June 13, 2020 • Read Comments (7)

As everyone in New England — and the world beyond — is being forced to rethink how they live and play and work and learn in the face of a pandemic, business owners are among those facing the most extreme challenges. They are tasked with keeping not only themselves and their families healthy, but also their employees, their customers, and the business itself.

We are here to share their stories. Each week, deputy editor Ian Aldrich checks in with some of the New England artisans and entrepreneurs that *Yankee* has introduced to its readers over the years, and learns how they are tackling the toughest job of all.

### Changes at the Farm

David Simmons, executive director  
**Billings Farm & Museum | Woodstock, VT**

How does a museum stay connected to the public when it's forced to close? And what does it mean to reopen to a world where people may still feel nervous to visit public spaces?

These are the questions David Simmons and his staff at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vermont, have been grappling with over the past few months.

"It's been incredibly challenging," he says. "We're still a farm, so we're still operating in that sense. But we've also had think through a lot of the things we do and how we have to do some of them differently."

The property has deep roots as a public space. When Frederick Billings established a farm here in 1871, he did so with a mission to help other dairy operators learn more about best practices and sustainability.

Today, it's still a working farm, with a herd of award-winning Jersey cows, but it's also an outdoor history museum that's owned and operated by the Woodstock Foundation, a nonprofit educational institution begun by Laurance and Mary Rockefeller.



David Simmons, executive director of Billings Farm & Museum  
Courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

But the Billings experience rests on the kinds of interactions and hands-on experiences that don't cater easily to a world that's practicing social distancing. A visit to the museum means a deep dive on the farm's fully operating dairy operation, as well as a primer on 19th-century Vermont life, from town meetings to one-room schoolhouses to general stores. There are animals to pet, farmers to meet, and if you're up for it, butter to churn.

As much as any institution could during this crisis, Billings got lucky when COVID-19 hit. Every year, the museum closes to the public for all of March, and so it was already not open to visitors when Vermont's shelter-in-place orders were put in place.

Still, Billings didn't wait long to pivot. In a typical year, the farm will welcome as many 60,000 guests. Many of them are school groups, and in the early days, the museum began working to make sure those connections were sustained.

On March 19, Billings rolled out a curbside activity pick-up with a variety of "Bag of Fun" kits for parents to take home. It launched with an all-things-cow theme featuring dairy trivia, butter-making instructions, and craft notes on how to make a brown-bag cow.

In the months since, Billings has leveraged its YouTube and Facebook channels to share sketching and art projects, offer book readings, lead farmhouse tours, and create virtual visits with the animals.



Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vermont  
Courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

As it has developed these programs, Billings has also fleshed out how it will have to operate when it does open on June 27. The dairy barn, for example, will be closed — "We have to be sure our farmers don't get sick," says Simmons — but the new heifer barn, which is open and airy, will still be available to visitors. There will be limits on the number of people who can be on the grounds at any one time, staff will wear masks, and there will be temperature checks of all employees and visitors.

So in other words, Billings will look a little different, though in many ways it remains the same. And Simmons is hopeful that a destination built around beautiful gardens, cute animals, and a yesteryear appearance will help offer visitors the kind of respite they may be looking for.

"This is a special place," says Simmons. "We're looking forward to it coming to life again and reminding people what a special place it is." —June 12, 2020



## Billings Sets Up Virtual Tours

The Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock is offering options for local families and for folks farther away who want to explore the historic premises—they can now meet the animals and see behind the scenes at the farm and museum.

Visit [www.billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](http://www.billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home) to find “Bag of Fun” activities and crafts to download as well as virtual visits with the farm animals. Watch “Introduction to Milking” and “Up Close With a Jersey Cow” or download “Dairy Cow Bag of Fun!”

Over the next days and weeks, Billings will continue to post new activities and videos including book readings, farmhouse tours, cooking demonstrations and more.

Send them ideas for future kits and videos,



The “Dairy Cow Bag of Fun” feature on the Billings Farm & Museum website. (Provided)

and questions you want answered about our animals, the farm, exhibits and collections at [askus@billingsfarm.org](mailto:askus@billingsfarm.org).

## Billings Farm & Museum Offers Crafts and Activities-To-Go

Due to the coronavirus precautions, the Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock will offer options for local families with kids at home, and for folks farther away who want to explore the farm and museum:

- They will set up a “drive-through” outside the Visitor Center where local residents can pick up craft and activity kits to grab and take home. The drive-throughs will take

place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with two distribution times each day. Alternate pick-up times can be arranged by emailing [askus@billingsfarm.org](mailto:askus@billingsfarm.org).

- Over the next few weeks, watch the Billings Farm YouTube and Facebook feeds for sketching and art projects, book readings, farmhouse tours and virtual visits with the farm animals.

Contact [\[farm.org\]\(http://farm.org\) to send in questions about the animals, the farm, exhibits and collections, and they will use them in their videos. Interested members of the public can type “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject line to receive email updates or visit \[www.billingsfarm.org\]\(http://www.billingsfarm.org\) and the Billings Farm & Museum Facebook page for craft distribution and online programming schedules.](mailto:askus@billings-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

# SEVEN DAYS

## Enterprising Vermonters Go Virtual With Online Classes, Tours and Cute Animals

By KRISTEN RAVIN

### Agriculture & Gardening

YouTube and Facebook feeds offer access to the animals and historic farmhouse at the **Billings Farm & Museum** in Woodstock. Running out of ideas for the kids? Locals can pick up craft and activity kits from a drive-through station outside the visitor center. The annual Baby Farm Animal Celebration is postponed, but there's still plenty of cuteness to go around.

As planting season approaches, Hinesburg's **Red Wagon Plants** offers seminars to get gardeners started. Houseplants 101 on March 26 and Beginner's Guide to Planning the Medicinal Herb Garden on March 28 move from the greenhouse to the web, reaching participants through live video conferences.

# SentinelSource.com

## Let Creativity Eradicate ‘Social Distancing’ Boredom

10 hrs ago

In the wake of a global pandemic, “social distancing” is becoming the norm – temporarily, anyway, until it's deemed safe to return to regular daily life. The problem this poses? Staying busy despite limited entertainment options.

Located about an hour away in Woodstock, Vt., Billings is setting up a drive-through outside of its visitors center, where local area residents can pick up craft and activity kits to bring home – two distribution/pick-up times will be available on each Tuesday and Thursday. Alternate pick-up times can be arranged by emailing [askus@billingsfarm.org](mailto:askus@billingsfarm.org). And over the next few weeks, the farm's YouTube and Facebook pages will feature sketching and art projects, book readings, farmhouse tours and virtual visits with farm animals. Get more information at [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).



## Crafts & Activities To Go

Thursday, March 19th, 2020 @ 9:00 am  
Billings Farm & Museum  
<https://billingsfarm.org/>



## VacationIdea DREAM VACATION MAGAZINE

### 25 Best Things to Do in Vermont

June 28, 2020 - Updated

Visions of Vermont conjure tranquil forested mountains, lively ski resorts, and authentic maple syrup. Vermont is also home to Ben & Jerry's ice cream factory, the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, VINS Nature Center, ECHO Leahy Center, unique wedding venues, and historic sites like the Ethan Allen Homestead and Hildene preserve. Here are the best things to do in Vermont.

#### 1 Billings Farm and Museum

The Billings Farm and Museum, located in Woodstock, Vermont, is well known as one of the best outdoor history museums in the nation. This has largely to do with the combination of the fully operational Jersey dairy farm and the beautifully restored 19th-century (1890) farm house, which serves as a museum.



© Billings Farm and Museum

Inside, visitors will enjoy comprehensive displays of artifacts, photographs, and oral histories illustrating the seasonal activities that forged the history and culture of pastoral Vermonters. Guests will also get the chance to engage with the award-winning draft horses, sheep, and Jersey dairy cows that are housed at the farm.

Rte. 12 & Old River Rd., Woodstock, VT Phone: 802-457-2355

# MOUNTAIN TIMES

ARTS, DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

MAY 6, 2020

## Billings Farm & Museum celebrates draft animal week online



May 11 – 15—WOODSTOCK— Join Billings Farm at Home for an online draft animal celebration, May 11 – 15. Learn all about the historic role these powerful animals played on the farm and how they are used today.

Meet their draft horses, Luke and Lonnie, and take a virtual horse-drawn wagon ride around the farm! Check in with Huck, the American Milking Devon steer featured in "Huck's Way Home," who is now all grown up. Learn all about draft animals: Why do steers have horns? How are draft animals trained? What is an ox? Visit Billings Farm at Home to find out the answers to this and more.

Activities for the week include recipes and video demonstrations to make shoofly pie, a classic treat after a day of plowing fields, and the original farmer "power" drink, switchel. Kids can follow instructions to make a hobby horse. Explore the different uses for horsehair as a fiber on the Draft Animal Celebration edition of Thursday Threads.

## Family Travel Forum®

On this trip, we want to: Grow / Relax / Explore / Be Awed / Research Student Articles

## THE 51 BEST VIRTUAL FAMILY VACATION IDEAS FOR STAYING SAFE DURING THIS PANDEMIC

Article By: FTFSTAFF

No worries about budget — or logistics — with our guide to 51 best virtual family vacation ideas for beating this pandemic while staying home safely.

# MOMTRENDS



Deep breath. It's your job as mom to keep things running at home even with a health crisis. Here at Momtrends HQ we are acutely aware of your pain. Both kids are out of school indefinitely and all activities are called off. To keep sane, I'm sharing my top 7 ways to keep your kids healthy and learning at home during school closures.

### 13 MORE IDEAS TO STAY SANE WHILE SCHOOL ARE CLOSED

Daily FREE etiquette classes from Socialsklz at 2pmEST. [Get the schedule here.](#)

#### Fun cereal art projects

Since you can't travel now, work on your past travel albums. [Here are some ideas to keep those memories alive.](#)

Billings Farm in Vermont has a variety of virtual farm experiences produced by Billings Farm & Museum. [Check it out here billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](https://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home)





## Vermont Reports First 2 Coronavirus-Related Deaths

Gov. Phil Scott said he understood that "the fact that they had tested positive for COVID-19 is going to be concerning to many Vermonters."

By Asher Klein and Jack Thurston • Published March 19, 2020 • Updated on March 19, 2020 at 8:04 pm



Two people who tested positive for the disease caused by the new coronavirus have died in Vermont, Gov. Phil Scott said at a news conference Thursday evening.

Both were elderly, Scott said. They are the state's first two coronavirus-related deaths.

"While their exact causes of death will be determined by the state's medical examiner, the fact that they had tested positive for COVID-19 is going to be concerning to many Vermonters, so I thought it was important to address it tonight," Scott said.

He noted that the virus is most dangerous to seniors and people with underlying conditions like lung and heart disease. He called the news sad but not unexpected, and a reminder that everyone in the state needs to do their part to prevent the coronavirus' spread.

Vermont health officials had reported 22 coronavirus cases in the state earlier Thursday.

Health Commissioner Mark Levine noted the deaths came fewer than two weeks after the first coronavirus case was reported in the state.

COVID-19 prompted Scott to declare a state of emergency last week. Schools closed this week in a bid to slow down the disease's spread, leaving nonprofits like Billings Farm & Museum to fill a void for learning.

The agriculture education center has been offering take-home bags twice a week for young children.



2:08

Activity Kits for Vermont Kids Home Because of Coronavirus

Vermont health officials say the number of known COVID-19 cases in the state has risen to 22.

"I know this is a time when there's a lot of uncertainty and parents are struggling, so anything we can do for families we thought would be a great thing to do," said Christine Scales of Billings Farm & Museum.

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## 5 charming New England towns you can drive to from Boston



[Josh Laskin](#)  
6h ago

**What to do:** As the Northeast's premier skiing destination during the winter months, many of Vermont's ski resorts are overlooked as soon as the snow melts. For this reason, the local ski hill, Suicide Six, has a new mountain bike park, which has miles of machine-built trails that are free to use. If extreme sports are not for you, take a tour of the [Billings Farm & Museum](#) when it reopens (you'll get a firsthand look at what farm-to-table actually means). Woodstock and the surrounding hills are also great for cross-country cycling. Travelers will discover rural roads that meander along streams and past historic farmhouses. Before driving back to Boston, drop by the farmer's market to stock up on fresh snacks.

# AFAR

## 11 New England Road Trip Itineraries for Any Season

By AFAR Editors    Jun 23, 2020

### Winter New England Road Trip

#### Skiers' Paradise, Vermont

*Distance: 80 miles*

Come winter, heavy snow drifts mean good things for skiers in New England. Visit two of the best ski resorts on the East Coast on this road trip, which starts in Stowe and finishes in Woodstock, Vermont. It's a mere 80 miles between the two towns, but the slopes—and attractions—in each mean you'll want to spread the trip out over a long weekend. Things not to miss in Stowe: the family-run [Alchemist](#) brewery, [Stowe Maple Products](#) sugarhouse, and the thin-crust pies at the aptly named [Piecasso](#). In Woodstock, be sure to carve out time for [Richardson's Tavern](#), [Billings Farm & Museum](#), and [F.H. Gillingham & Sons](#), which has been open for more than 130 years.



132 views | Jun 24, 2020, 05:46pm EDT

## This Summer, Beat Cabin Fever And Hit The Road



**Margie Goldsmith** Contributor

Travel

*I cover travel, lifestyle, and culture.*

For most people anxious to get away this summer but still uneasy about flying, one of the safest ways to avoid crowds is to take a road trip. Many hotels have opened up (a few never closed) completely sanitized and safe for the most squeamish visitors. Discover an off-the-beaten path attraction or well-known National Park, but whatever you choose, pack sterile gloves (for handling gas nozzles), sanitizer and face masks. You'll get the most out of your getaway if you choose destinations in compliance with COVID-19 safety and physical distancing guidelines. Here are some reopenings for both day trips and longer stays which will safely and happily welcome you with open arms:



Cows in pasture at Billings Farm & Museum, Vermont BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

**Billings Farm & Museum**, Woodstock, Vermont is perfect educational and fun day trip to take the kids and is welcoming back visitors with a brand new Heifer Barn, a blooming 10,000 square foot Sunflower House, and a summer camp for junior farmers. The farm follows Vermont's Department of Health and CDC guidelines prioritizing the well-being of the guests, staff, and animals. Spaces open to guests include the pastures, walking trails, Visitor Center & Theater, "Upon This Land" exhibit, Farm Life Exhibits, Wagon and Chicken Barns. The new Heifer Barn with state-of-the-art technologies ensuring "cow comfort" is open for tours. Visitors can explore The Sunflower House, the Heirloom Garden, Victory Garden, Pollinator Garden, and Pizza Garden.

PART OF THE USA TODAY N

Brent Hallenbeck, Burlington Free Press

Published 9:10 a.m. ET June 4, 2020

This story may be updated.

"We plan to open to the general public Thursday – Monday, June 27," Marge Wakefield, the museum's public-relations coordinator, wrote in a June 4 email. Based in Woodstock, notes on its website that once the space opens again, visitors will be required to wear face masks and asked to "minimize contact with touchable objects."

Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Wo  
[www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org).

Contact [askus@billingsfarm.org](mailto:askus@billingsfarm.org) to send in questions about our animals, the farm, our exhibits and collections and we will use them in our videos. Interested members of the public can type "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line to receive email updates or visit [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org) and the Billings Farm & Museum Facebook page for craft distribution and online programming schedules!

ARCH 26, 2020

Billings Farm & M...

Billings Farm & Museum July 4th celebrations

Jun 27, 2020

Enjoy an easy hike along the Walking Trail by the Ottawaquechee River and see the farm from a different view. Tour the new Heifer Barn with its state-of-the-art features such as climate-controlled curtains and ventilation. Explore the Farm Life Exhibits and learn about 19th century farming and domestic life.

Families can take our Story Walk along the pasture fences and partake in traditional games like hopscotch. Visit the gardens and see the Sunflower Garden in its infancy. Bring a blanket and have your picnic lunch on the grounds while taking in the scenic views of our Jersey cows, sheep and horses in the pastures.

The Dairy Bar will reopen to serve ice cream for the holiday weekend. Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, some traditional events, such as historic base ball, will not take place this year and the barns and 1890 Farm Manager's House will be closed to the public. The Billings Farm & Museum site will be limited to a maximum capacity of 225 people. For more about visiting Billings Farm safely and to learn which spaces are open, visit <https://billingsfarm.org/safety/>.

On July 3 and July 4, join us online at Billings Farm at Home at [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](https://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home) to view readings of historical speeches and find fireworks crafts to make at home.



## Billings Farm, Museum Welcomes Virtual Visitors

By Paula Sienna 5 hrs ago

Usually, at this time of the year, Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock, Vt., would be excited to kick off the season with its Baby Farm Animal Celebration. This springtime tradition would typically usher in the first of the approximately 60,000 visitors that come see the Farm between mid-April and October. But with the region, the country and the world social distancing, and all non-essential businesses and most public gathering places closed, the staff at Billings has done a quick pivot to bring the Farm and Museum to the public at home instead of welcoming them on site.

"Our mission is inspiring and engaging generations through shared stories of Vermont's rural culture and our continued practice of responsible agriculture," said Christine Scales, interpretation and education coordinator at Billings Farm. "A big part of what we do is shared stories. We love people to share their stories and to make connections to what is familiar and unfamiliar to them. The farm is a space and a catalyst for those connections and to lose that space requires reframing."

Typically, May and June would see an influx of school groups. Students would have the opportunity to participate in programs surrounding farm education including topics such as grass to grocery, the role of draft animals on a farm and finding out more about sheep and wool. Guests could also have peeked at the gardens, including an heirloom garden showcasing the plants that would have been grown in the 1890s – the garden matches the on-site 1890s farm manager home, which was, according to Scales, the "smart home of its time and very innovative" – Victory garden, a pizza garden and a pollinator garden. Instead, Scales and her colleagues have made an abrupt turn to bring as much of that learning to families at home.

"We were in a meeting and thinking, 'What can we do that would be positive?'" she said. "We were getting ready for the season and really did a 180. We thought of the things we could do quickly based on what we already have in our toolkit and then here are the things we can do in a week."

The first offering was a craft. Looking at what projects would best translate to a curbside pickup, 50 kits were made. Scales wasn't sure if there would even be any interest, but right away, the response was positive and they ended up distributing 120 curbside craft kits.

Knowing a stay-at-home order was likely, Billings staff also spent two days quickly filming different aspects of the farm so they could be turned into digital learning experiences. Since then, there has been additional content such as cooking videos, crafts to be done at home and "Ask the Educator" sessions.

"We looked at our education program and asked how can we share with an audience that isn't here," Scales said. "As an educational non-profit, we have to live our mission and we should be helping our community and be a resource. We saw the virtual content as a way we could be a help and still live our mission. As a team, we wanted to do something to help and bring joy to people, even if it is just a picture of a baby animal."

In addition to over a dozen videos that explore and explain everything from crazy quilts to cooking to chickens, garden, goats and more, Billings Farm also posts new content based on a schedule: Time Travel Tuesday, Thursday Threads and Foodie Fridays. In this way, families looking for a new way to engage kids stuck at home and keep them learning can continually access new information and home-based projects on an ongoing basis. For example, the option "All About Dairy" teaches about milk and the animals that produce it before inviting families to make their own smoothies. A module on Monarch butterflies includes both age-appropriate learning material as well as a butterfly wreath-making activity.

"This is opening up more exciting opportunities in virtual content and we will see how people react to it and if they are enjoying it," Scales said, noting that the feedback on social media and through the "Ask the Educator" segment has been upbeat and positive so far.

"We hope the Billings Farm At Home page brings people joy and happiness and a way to stay connected with the farm and museum while we are not open," she said. "We miss our school groups and hope people miss us, too, but we want everyone to know we are still here and will be here."

To log on and learn more about Billings Farm and Museum through its curated Virtual Education program designed for families and individuals at home, visit [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](https://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home). For more general information on Billings Farm and Museum, visit [billingsfarm.org](https://billingsfarm.org) or [facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum](https://facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum).



## Vermont nonprofits offer at-home learning amid coronavirus closures

22  
Shares



Updated: 12:41 PM EDT Mar 20, 2020



**Jack Thurston**   
New England Cable News Reporter



With children across Vermont home from school in a move aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19, nonprofits are stepping up to help fill a learning void.

“As we wait for the school to start providing more, it’s nice to have these things filling in,” Woodstock father of two Ben Jervey said of the family activity kits which Billings Farm & Museum was giving to parents Thursday.

The destination has long taught visitors about agriculture in the 1800s, but with tours now on pause as we all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19, the team at the farm and museum are offering take-home bags twice a week for young children.

The bags distributed Thursday contained a craft project and information about farm animals.

Activities through Billings Farm & Museum are also available online.

“I know this is a time when there’s a lot of uncertainty and parents are struggling, so anything we can do for families we thought would be a great thing to do,” said Christine Scales of Billings Farm & Museum.



## Vt. Nonprofits Offering At-Home Learning During COVID-19 Closures

Museums and other facilities are quickly moving to shift some services online to help parents whose kids’ schools are shut down to slow the spread of disease

By Jack Thurston • Published 15 mins ago • Updated 14 mins ago



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APRIL 8, 2020

## Billings Farm & Museum launches 'Ask Billings Farm Live' series



Saturday, April 8 at 1 p.m.—WOODSTOCK— Beginning April 8th at 1 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum will launch "Ask Billings Farm Live," a Facebook Live series where viewers can ask questions of Billings Farm and Museum's resident experts and learn more about its collections, farm, and programs.

The first program features Interpretation & Education Coordinator Christine Scales, who will preview Baby Farm Animal Celebration. Elementary schools, students, educators and families, are invited to ask questions about the animals and the farm. Join in on Facebook at [facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum](https://facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum). The next program is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 at 1 p.m. and will feature the topic of Earth Day.

Check out Billings Farm at Home, a new online resource for young and old to explore Billings Farm and its history. Visit [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home](https://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home) to come face-to-face virtually with our farm animals and learn how they are cared for. Discover delicious seasonal and historic recipes to make at home. Explore the restored 1890 Farm Manager's House and learn about the 1890s tools and practices that tell the story of Vermont's rural culture. Find arts and craft projects for families using materials most people have at home. Check out videos on making maple syrup and see how to milk a cow.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution. Their team is committed to providing educational opportunities and experiences to visitors, whether here in Woodstock, Vermont or at home wherever you are.

## ParentingNH

### Don't miss the (virtual) Baby Farm Animal Celebration April 10 & 11

Calves, lambs, steers, goats, chicks, and bunnies, oh my!  
April 7, 2020 by ParentingNH Staff



Celebrate spring at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vt., from your home. The annual Baby Farm Animal Celebration will be online Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Get up close with the farm's baby animals through videos, photos and downloadable activities. Virtually meet and learn about the farm's calves, lambs, steers, goats, chicks, and bunnies. Watch the eggs in our incubator through our online stream and perhaps see a chick hatch. Interactive content includes farm recipes to try at home, downloadable animal coloring pages featuring sketches by artist Kristina Rodanas, and instructions on how to make natural egg dye at home to decorate Easter eggs.

Go to [billingsfarm.org](https://billingsfarm.org) or find them on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum).

### Billings Farm and Museum

★★★★★  
(1 reviews)

Like One person likes this. Sign Up to review

Route 12 & River Road  
Woodstock, VT 05091  
(802) 457-2355  
[www.billingsfarm.org/](https://www.billingsfarm.org/) | [info@billingsfarm.org](mailto:info@billingsfarm.org)

Ages: 0 and up  
Cost: Adults: \$14.00 | over 62: \$13.00 | children 5-15: \$8.00 | 3-4: \$4.00 | under 3: \$2.00  
Parking: Yes  
Features: Restrooms

In the barns, discover Vermont dairying- past and present -and learn about the development of the Billings Farm, still one of the best jersey farms in America. The horse barn, calf nursery, milk room, and dairy barn are stops along your self-guided tour. Attend a farm program - many are offered daily - and learn about dairying during the afternoon milking of the herd.

They offer Farm Programs for:

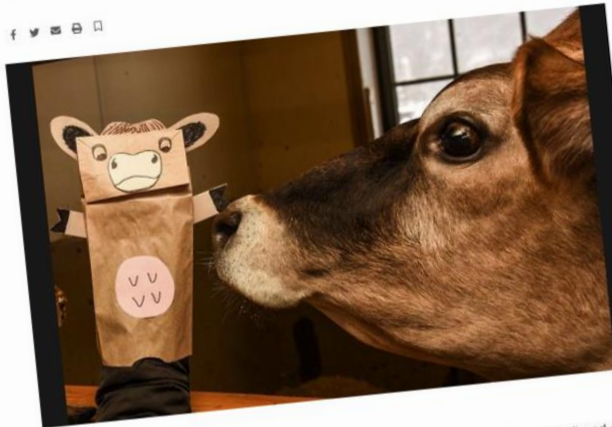
- Young children
- School field trips
- Home schoolers
- Special events (Spring Festival, Wagon Ride Wednesdays, Ice Cream Sundays, and more)
- Drive through art activity pick ups - drive-through" will take place outside of the museum's visitor center for local residents to pick-up craft and activity kits to take home. The drive-throughs will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays with two distribution times each day.

find&go seek

Thursday, March 19, 2020

## Crafts & Activities To Go

🕒 Thursday, March 19th, 2020 @ 9:00 am  
📍 Billings Farm & Museum  
🔗 <https://billingsfarm.org/>



A "drive-through" will be set up outside the visitor center where local residents can pick up craft and grab and take home. The first drive-through is scheduled for Thursday, March 19 with distribution times from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. and from noon-1 p.m. The drive throughs will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays with distribution times each day. Alternate pick-up times can be arranged by emailing.

### 📅 UPCOMING DATES

- Thu, Mar 19 @ 9:00 am
- Tue, Mar 24 @ 9:00 am
- Thu, Mar 26 @ 9:00 am
- Tue, Mar 31 @ 9:00 am
- Thu, Apr 2 @ 9:00 am
- Tue, Apr 7 @ 9:00 am
- Thu, Apr 9 @ 9:00 am

📄 Download schedule

### 📅 SCHEDULES

- Starting Thursday, March 19th, 2020, repeats every week on Tuesday and Thursday, April 11, 2020 @ 9:00 am

### 📍 VENUE

Billings Farm & Museum  
69 Old River Road  
Woodstock, VT

# FAMILY TRAVELLER

## Fun and Free: 20 Best Virtual Travel Experiences

7TH MAY 2020

We may be living in extraordinary times, but the travel industry is making huge efforts to help make life more enjoyable for parents and kids with virtual travel experiences — and to teach them something new at the same time. Family-friendly hotels, destinations, attractions and even sports teams are producing virtual travel content that will delight kids and parents alike. And the best part: It's all free. Here are some fun virtual travel and e-learning experiences that you won't want to miss.



Learning about pollinating at Billings Farm & Museum.

### 15/20 VIRTUAL TRAVEL: LEARN ABOUT POLLINATING

While the [Billings Farm & Museum](#) in Woodstock, Vermont is currently closed to guests, life on a dairy farm can be experienced through the [Billings Farm At Home landing page](#). For the museum's Pollinator Week taking place from May 4 through May 8, the Billings Farm & Museum educators have crafted kid-friendly mocktail recipes for children to learn about the importance of pollinators. Each day during "Pollinator Week," one mocktail recipe (and a cocktail recipe for adults) will be shared on the Billings Farm social channels. On its [YouTube](#), Facebook and Instagram channels, Billings will also be doing virtual farmhouse tours, storytime book readings, cooking demonstrations and interactive art projects.



## Virtual Family Vacation Ideas while we practice staying at home

Comments

et — or logistics — with our guide to the best virtual family vacation ideas. You don't have to leave home during these difficult times!

ams, zoos, aquariums, theme parks, cruise lines and more are offering all varieties of virtual tours and activities during this difficult period.

your life easier during this difficult period. Pardon the cliché, but we ARE all in this together. And please share your experiences in the comments section.

we can never afford to go... maybe a place we hope to go. At the very least, we will all have some fun virtually while we stay at home — and learn something too!

hospitality and culinary industry who are out of work — those who make our family travels especially difficult. Companies like Walks, a small group tour operator in 15 destinations worldwide with 700 local tour guides, is offering an activity at home — make pizza or pasta, for example, or tour the Metropolitan Museum while interacting with virtual tours that cost just \$10, and 100 per cent of what you choose to tip go to the guides who obviously need the work.

they are offering. Here are 51 Best Family Virtual Travel Ideas compiled in collaboration with our friends at the travel industry.

to animals and zoos around the country are obliging with Live Cams, virtual behind the scenes tours and more.

newborn calves, and tiny lambs in sweaters; Life on a Vermont dairy farm can be experienced through virtual farm animal tours, interactive content including farm recipes to try at home, farm sketches by artist Kristina Rodanas and instructions on how to make natural egg dye at home to



# Results Recap:

*March 15 – June 30, 2020*

**50+**

media placements  
in broadcast, print, and  
online

Total  
audience reach  
exceeded

**40 million**

Healthy blend of  
**local, regional,  
and national  
coverage**

No wonder  
Norman is  
smiling!

