

Meet a Farmer!

Harriet Wegmeyer

Dear Students,

My name is Harriet. I'm a pumpkin farmer! My husband and I have a farm called Wegmeyer Farms. That's our last name. We have more than 50 varieties of pumpkins on our farm. We also grow strawberries and more than 40 different vegetables.

Do you want to know something interesting? I didn't grow up on a pumpkin farm! When I was in third grade I started growing pumpkins on my parent's dairy farm in New York. My mom was a schoolteacher and my dad was a dairy farmer. We also had an ice cream stand. Yum! My sister and I grew pumpkins as a way to make money on our own. We sold the pumpkins at the ice cream stand.

When I grew up, I moved to Virginia. My husband had grown pumpkins when he was a kid too. We decided to start our own pumpkin farm. We loaded up the pumpkins in our pickup truck and sold them at the farmer's market. Soon we started selling pumpkins at other farmer's markets. Now we let people come to the farm to pick their own pumpkins, and we sell pumpkins to grocery stores.

Did you know pumpkins are delicious? One year we got a call from a famous chef named Emeril Lagasse. He asked us to be on his cooking show! We made pumpkin soup with Emeril for his Thanksgiving special.

We plant pumpkins in early summer and harvest through mid-October. In the winter we care for the land by planting cover crops to add an important nutrient called Nitrogen back in the soil. Harvesting pumpkins is a hard job, because all of the pumpkins must be picked by hand. Some of them are very heavy! Being a farmer is a year-round job, but it is exciting. I love pulling back the leaves to discover each unique pumpkin!

Would you like to be a farmer? Go out on Flag Day and plant some pumpkin seeds! Watch how they grow and learn from them. You might become a farmer too!

Sincerely,

Harriet Wegmeyer
Pumpkin Farmer



Harriet Wegmeyer
Pumpkin Farmer, Virginia