

Oliver Kelley Farm

A Social Narrative



OLIVER
KELLEY
FARM



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Getting to the farm

Today I am going to the Oliver Kelley Farm.

It is in Elk River, Minnesota.

When we get there, we will park in a big parking lot. I will see a large building.

Before I explore, I will need to check in at the Visitor Center.



Outside the building

I will see a statue of a cow and a statue of a sheep.

I will learn more about these animals during my visit.

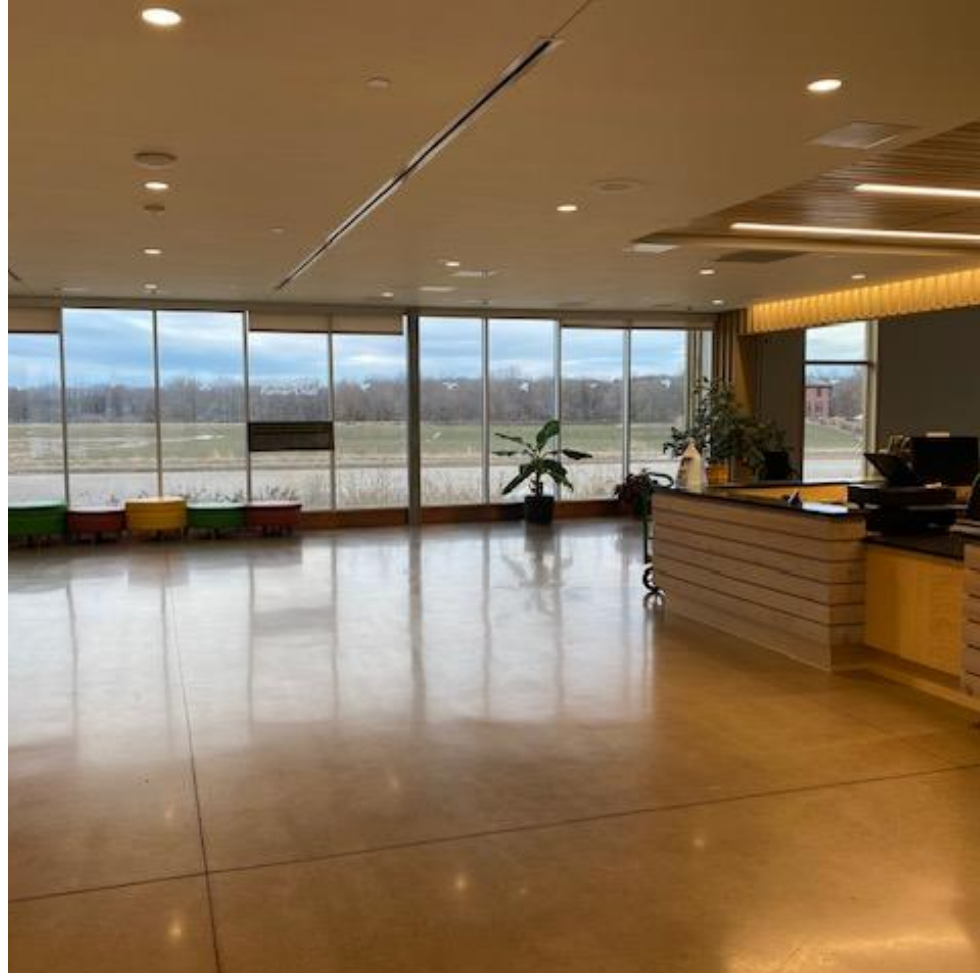


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Visitor Center

When I enter the Visitor Center, there may be other visitors waiting to check in. I will be patient if I have to wait my turn to check in.

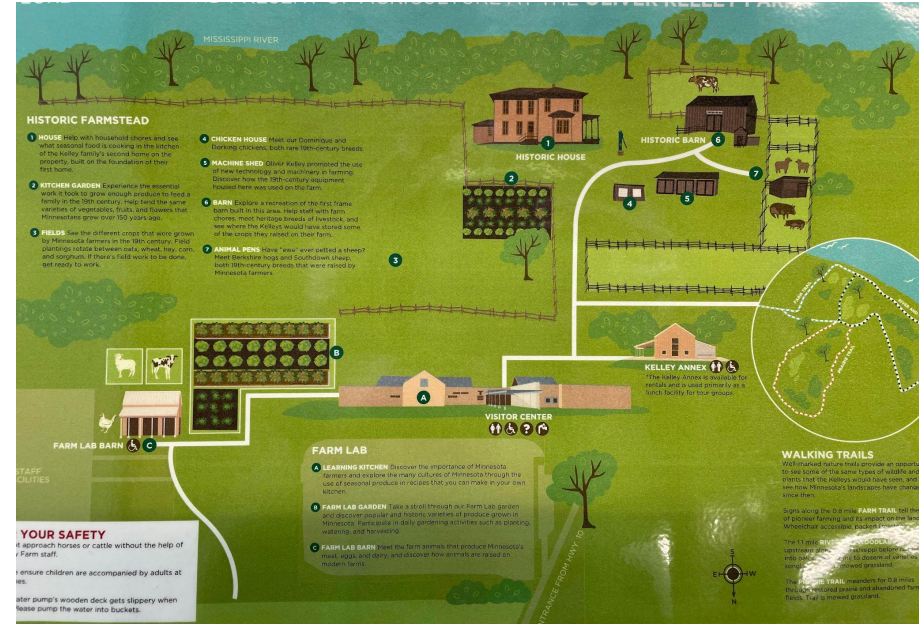
I can use the restroom or fill my water bottle while I wait.



Planning my visit

At the front desk I will buy a ticket and get a map of the farm.

I will make a plan with my group for our visit. During our visit, if I need to change my plan, I will check in with the group first so we all can stay together.



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Community room movie

I will enter the Community Room to watch an eight-minute movie about the farm. It is dark inside when the movie is playing. It is shown on a loop, so I can always watch it at the end of my visit too!



Restrooms

I can use the restroom in the visitor center before I begin exploring.



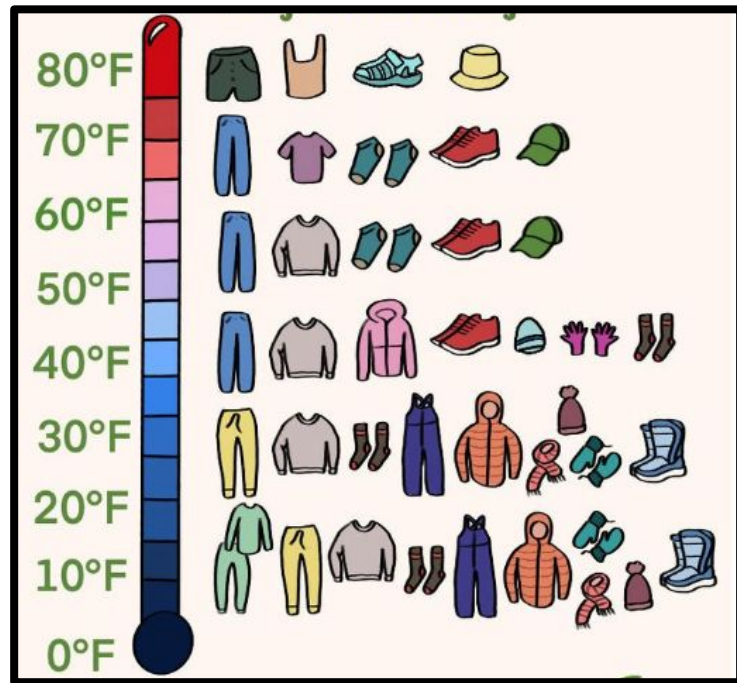
What should I wear?

It can be hard to learn when you are not comfortable.

If the weather is hot..
I will dress to stay cool!

If the weather is cold..
I will layer for warmth!

If it rains..
I'll wear a raincoat and boots!



Meet the farmers

If I have a question, I can ask the farm's staff. Many are dressed like real farmers from the 1800s. Others wear green polo shirts.



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Farm rules

To keep myself and the animals at the farm safe, it is important to follow the farm rules. I will move slowly near the animals. I will speak quietly.

If I want to touch an animal, I will ask a farmer first.



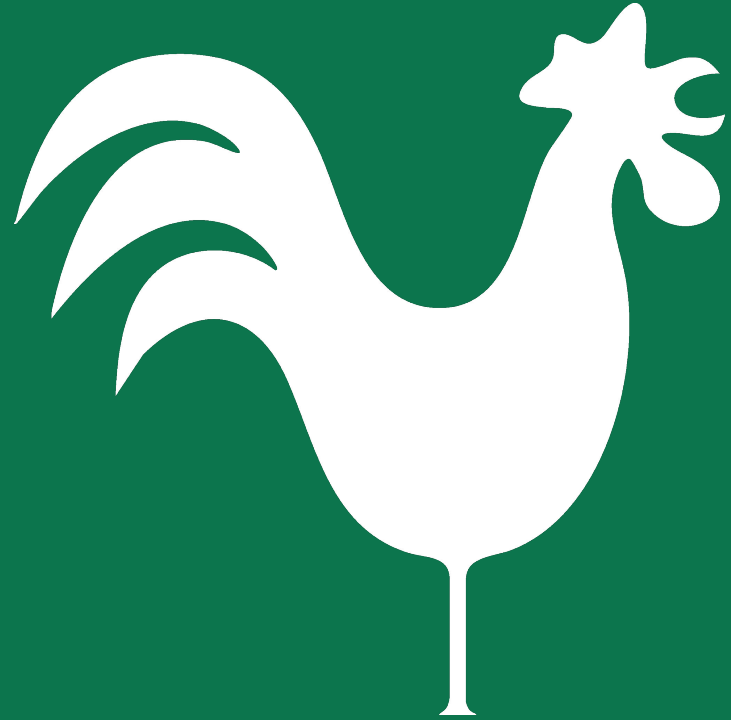


Taking a break

If I need a quiet place to rest during my visit, I can use a classroom in the Visitor Center. But the best place to take a break is on the front porch of the house. It is quiet and peaceful there.



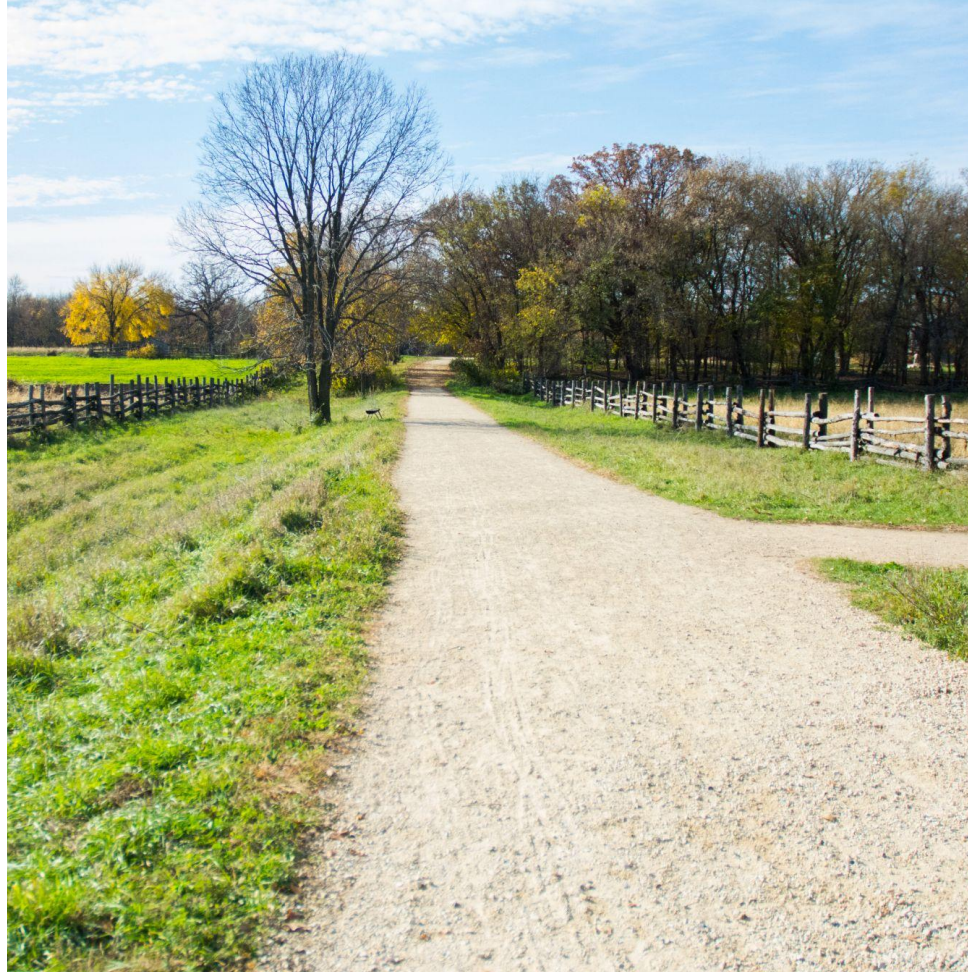
Historic Farmstead



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Let's go to the farm!

I will go with my group from the Visitor Center to the farm. The gravel will make a crunching sound as I walk. I might spot some birds or bugs along the way. Sometimes the path is dusty and sometimes it is muddy.



Arriving at the farm

At the farm, I will see what
farming was like in the 1800s.
It's like traveling back in time!



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Exploring the farm

There are many spots to visit on the farm. I will stick to my plan and stay with my group. If I forget the plan or need to make a change, I can talk to the people I came with. If I need help, I can ask a farmer.



Meeting the animals

I will see lots of animals. Most will be inside fences.

When I see animals inside fences, I will not try to enter their space.

When I see animals outside of fences, I will not go up to them unless I have a farmer's help.
I will be quiet and gentle around the animals.



Chickens

I will see chickens in the chicken coop. They cluck and crow and scratch the dirt. They may run and flap their wings. I will not run after them. If I ask a farmer, they might let me feed or touch a chicken. I might even check for eggs!



Sheep and pigs

I will see sheep and pigs living next to each other. The sheep are shy and will not let me pet them.

The pigs are stinky but friendly. I should not put my fingers by the pigs' noses. I can ask a farmer if I can touch their head or back.



Oxen and horses

I might see oxen and horses doing work. They are the strongest animals on the farm. When they are inside the fence, I can watch them relax. If they are resting at the hitching post with a farmer, I can ask to pet them. I will keep my voice low and my body calm.



Water pump

I will see a real water pump in the center of the barnyard. I can push the handle down to make water come out of the spout. The water will be cold!

I can fill a bucket for animals or the house. If there are other visitors, I will take turns at the water pump.



House

I can go inside the big, old house. It has many rooms to explore. It's floors squeak, and sometimes the screen doors slam.

To see the second floor, I can use the stairs or the elevator in the woodshed.



Woodshed

I can step inside woodshed to see where farmers stored wood for the stove. It is dark and dusty.

It is also where farmers keep their garden tools. Everything in this room is old (except for the elevator).



Kitchen and bedroom

I can help the farmers working in the kitchen.
They might be cooking or baking.

There is a hot stove in the middle of the room.
I will need to be careful.

The bedroom is next door. I can touch what I
see, but I should not pick up or move things.
If I need to rest, I can sit on the bed.



Root cellar

I can enter the root cellar from inside the house or from outside. It is where farmers store food for winter. If I am not sure how to find the root cellar, I can ask a farmer.



Garden and fields

I might see a farmer working in the garden or fields. The farmer can teach me things about all of the different plants.



Machine shed

I can see where farmers like Oliver Kelley kept important tools. Some of the tools are big and heavy. Some can be very sharp.

I should only use a tool with a farmer's permission.



Upper and lower barn

I can visit the barn. It is tall and open. Birds swoop through the window and fly in the rafters. This is where farmers store food for their animals and big farm machinery.

The lower barn is dark and quiet. This is where animals eat their food and take shelter from the weather. If there is bad weather, I can shelter here too!



Exploring the trails

On my visit, there will be different paths I can take. My group can choose to visit the Mississippi River, the prairie, or the woodland trails.

There won't be many people here, just my group, and another explorer or two.



Farm Lab



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Farm lab garden

The farm lab garden changes with the seasons. Here I will find many different gardens. There are herbs, vegetables, and flowers. I should stay on the main path. (Sometimes it's a little bumpy!)



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Garden activities

I can relax at the garden. I can read signs and explore on my own. The garden is also a great place to work. If I'm looking for something to do, I can ask the gardener if they need help.



Farm lab barn

The farm lab barn is a nice shady spot. Here I can learn about modern crops and livestock. There will be farmers available to help show me around.





Farm lab animals

I can meet more animals here. If I see a closed gate, it must stay closed. If I see an open gate, I should let a farmer know. Gates help keep us and our animals safe!



Before I Go



Picnic

I might eat lunch at the farm. If the weather is nice, I will eat outside on the picnic tables. I will make sure to wash my hands. There are sinks outside on each end of the visitor center. This is important to keep me safe and healthy.



Gift shop

If I want to buy a souvenir, I can visit the museum store in the visitor center. The store has items for kids and adults.



Saying goodbye to the farm

When it is time to leave the farm, I can wave goodbye to the farmers and the animals.



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**We look forward
to your visit!**



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Questions?

Visit our website at
mnhs.info/public-sn-kelleyfarm,
call, or email.

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