



Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center

1500 Purisima Creek Road Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

(650) 712-3151 elkusranch@ucanr.edu

Dear Teachers,

In an effort to both support your classroom instruction and to help our educators provide the best experience for your students, we would like your help in completing the attached activity. Before your visit to the ranch, please spend a few minutes with your students completing both the K and W sections of the KWL. Select an area of focus for this activity such as “Where does our food come from?” or “What do plants and animals need to survive and grow?” Bring this form with you to the ranch and share it with your educator. This information will help our educators insure that the students’ questions are addressed during their visit. When you return to your classroom, please spend a few more minutes to complete the L section of the KWL. We would love to have you share your students’ learning with us. Send us a copy of the completed KWL to either the physical address above or by email to elkusranch@ucanr.edu .

We look forward to your visit to the ranch.

Sincerely,

Leslie Jensen

Program Coordinator

Instructions for the KWL

Depending on the age of your students, a KWL can be completed with the whole class, in small groups, or by individual children.

1. Determine the learning objectives for your trip to Elkus Ranch.
2. Direct the students' attention to the **K** above the first column which stands for "Know".
Ask what they already know about your topic and record their comments. If students dispute whether an item is true or not, it sometimes helps to rephrase it as a question and place it in the 2nd column.
3. Now direct the students to the **W** above the second column which stands for "What?"
Ask the students to share their questions (What would you like to know?) about your topic that they hope to have answered at the ranch. Please share these first two columns with your educator at the ranch on the day of your visit.
4. After your visit to the ranch, direct students back to the KWL. Read each statement in the first column and determine if it is true or false based on what they learned at the ranch. Correct any misinformation. Review the questions from the second column and record students' answers. Identify any information that may require further research from both columns.
5. Record any new learning in the **L** column (What did we **L**earn?)
6. Unconfirmed statements in the **K** columns, unanswered questions in the **W** columns, and new questions generated after your ranch visit make great research projects for your students. We are happy to participate. Encourage students to write us a letter with their questions and we will do our best to answer.

What I think I
already **K**now

What I still **W**ant
to Know

What I **L**earned at
Elkus Ranch

