

Getting Started

The classroom receives their match at the same time you receive your match.

The farmer/rancher is the first person to start the letter writing. You must write your letter by **September 30**. Please send the letters on time with the schedule below:

- September 30
- January 30
- April 30

Once you receive your match, it is a good idea to send a quick note or email to your new pen pal to let them know when you plan to send your letter.

As the Ag Pen Pal program continues, one of the keys to success is keeping in contact with the classroom you are working with. Remember, in the real world relationships take time to develop.

Here are some tips to try.

- Drop your pen pal a note to let them know when they can expect your letter(s) to arrive
 - Busy happens! Dropping a quick note to your pen pal to let them know that you haven't forgotten about them is very helpful in building a relationship.
- Determine ahead of time if you are going to send each letter individually or in one big batch
 - Receiving 30 letters at one time can be intimidating. Decide right away if you are going to write each student back individually or in one big letter. If you write back individually, make sure to include a letter addressed to the whole class and teacher with what is currently happening on your farm or ranch.
- Write letters, but don't be afraid to expand!
 - Use things like E-mail, a blog, Facebook or Twitter. It's an easy way to stay in touch with a busy classroom.
- Use basic terminology and describe everything
 - We often use "farmer and rancher talk" without even realizing it. Words like feed, poultry, bale feeder, and elevator have different meanings to students. You may find it easier to send pictures of words you are using.