



Pearson's Farm & Wildlife Rescue

FARM FRIENDS PROGRAM

Children aged 6 to 15 years old

Where Every Animal Counts

OUR APPROACH

The three E's

We are proud to call ourselves Wildlife Champions, and we live by 3 core principles:

EDUCATE: Share knowledge about animal welfare and habitat preservation.

EXPERIENCE: Create meaningful, nature-based experiences that help people reconnect with animals, and the natural world.

ETHICAL: Operate with transparency, compassion, and integrity in all we do.

Our friendly, safe, and educational environment supports these values, while offering unforgettable encounters with animals of all kinds.

Pearson's Farm is a registered charity dedicated to the care, rehabilitation, and rehoming of animals. By visiting our farm, you're directly supporting the work we do everyday - and helping us continue to provide the love, safety, and a second chance to animals in need.

WHAT WE DO

At Pearson's Farm we proudly:

Hand-rear orphaned and injured native animals and birds, preparing them for release back into the wild where possible.

Provide permanent homes for non-releaseable native species who need lifelong care and safety.



Rescue and rehabilitate farm animals from neglectful situations and find them loving, forever homes.

Ensure all animals receive necessary veterinary care throughout their time with us.



Educate the public on animal welfare, conservation, and the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect.

Deliver hands-on, experience-based learning, using our animal ambassadors to foster real connections between people and animals.



10 WEEK FARM GROUP

Introduction – Aims of the Farm Group

Our 10-week farm group is designed to give children a unique, hands-on experience of life on the farm while supporting their personal, social, and emotional development. Each week, children take part in structured activities with animals, gardening, and craft, alongside free-choice time and play.

The group aims to:

Develop social skills: Working together, sharing, and taking turns with animals and activities.

Build confidence and resilience: Through safe animal handling, trying new tasks, and celebrating achievements.

Encourage responsibility: By caring for chicks, feeding animals, and helping with farm jobs.

Foster curiosity and learning: Exploring life cycles, sustainability, and the role of farms in providing food and fibre.

Promote empathy and respect for animals: Developing nurturing attitudes through hands-on animal care.

Support creativity and self-expression: With craft activities linked to weekly themes.

By the end of the program, children will have not only enjoyed farm life but also gained new skills, friendships, and memorable experiences that will stay with them well beyond their time on the farm.



10 WEEK SUMMARY

WEEK 1: WELCOME TO THE FARM

Children tour the farm, meet a range of animals (cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, horses, and joeys), and learn how to stay safe around them.

They practise handwashing, talk about boundaries, and play a “farm facts” ice-breaker game. The session finishes with a short animal activity, such as walking a dog or brushing a calf.

WEEK 2: CHICKENS - DINOSAURS & EGGS

Children discover how chickens are related to dinosaurs, looking at fossils and fun comparisons. Each child collects and decorates an egg, writes their name on it, and places it in the incubator to begin the hatching project.

They also learn about the life cycle of a chicken and start their “chick diary” to follow progress.

WEEK 3: SHEEP & WOOL

Children meet Ralph & Sam (Valais Blacknose sheep), brush their woolly coats, and take them for a gentle walk. They also bottle-feed young lambs and watch them play with their mothers.

The group washes raw wool, dries it, and dyes it in bright colours to take home — showing the journey from sheep to fibre.

WEEK 4: COWS & CALVES

Children bottle-feed and brush the calves Silver and Bessie, learning about how they grow and what they eat. They shake jars of cream until it turns into butter, tasting it on damper or crackers.

The group also candles the incubator eggs to check for development and updates their chick diaries.

WEEK 5: PIGS & CHICK HATCHING

Children meet Kevin Bacon the pig, helping to feed him and noticing his intelligence and cheeky personality. They learn about the hatching process and may see chicks “pipping” their shells or already fluffy in the brooder.

Children transfer chicks to their brooder box and then enjoy a craft session, making their own “dingle dangle” farm animal to take home.

WEEK 6: HORSES, MINIATURE HORSES & CHICK BONDING

Children brush and groom the horses and miniature horses, learning about hoof care and body language. They take turns leading a miniature horse around the paddock. The highlight of the session is meeting their chick (hatched from the egg they decorated in Week 2) when it is dry and fluffy.

Each child makes a name card, has their photo taken with their chick, and weighs it for the first time to start tracking its growth.

WEEK 7: KANGAROOS & CHICK WEIGH-IN

Children learn about Australia’s kangaroo species (Western Greys, Eastern Greys, Euros, and Reds) through a fact sheet. They collect veggies from the garden to feed the large kangaroos, then sit quietly together as middle-sized joeys come up for carrots and attention.

Children also prepare bottles and help feed the smallest joeys, noticing how they use their strong tails to balance. To finish, they weigh their chicks again and record the growth in their diaries.

WEEK 8: MAREMMA DOG, CRAFT & GOATS/LAMBS

Children meet Rusty the Maremma dog and learn how guardian dogs protect livestock from predators like foxes. They give Rusty a brush and take him for a walk. Each child decorates a photo frame, choosing a photo of themselves with their chick or a kangaroo to go inside.

The session ends with time in the goats’ and lambs’ pen, where the playground is located, so children can play and interact with the animals together.

WEEK 9: FARM ADVENTURE & FAMILY VISIT PREPARATION

Children enjoy a farm scavenger hunt, solving riddles, and finding objects around the property. They help with real farm chores such as collecting eggs, checking water troughs, or tidying pens.

The group then prepares for the upcoming family visit, practising how they will introduce animals, setting up signs or drawings, and helping tidy key areas of the farm. They also weigh their chicks again and note the changes.

WEEK 10: FAMILY CELEBRATION & CHICK GRADUATION

This final week is a family celebration. Children act as farm guides, proudly introducing their families to the animals they’ve worked with. Families share snacks, including produce from the farm such as eggs, damper, and vegetables. A photographer takes a special family photo with the animals, giving families a keepsake.

Children receive certificates of achievement and complete their chick diaries, reflecting on how much their chicks — and they themselves — have grown over the 10 weeks.

OVER 10 WEEKS, CHILDREN WILL:

Build confidence with animals.

Learn responsibility through chick care.

Explore sustainability and gardening.

Develop empathy through wildlife rescue.

Express creativity with farm crafts.

Finish with a family celebration.

Every child will also receive a special photo with their chick and a certificate of achievement!

ALL STAFF HOLD:

Current Working With Children Check (WWCC).

Senior First Aid Certification.

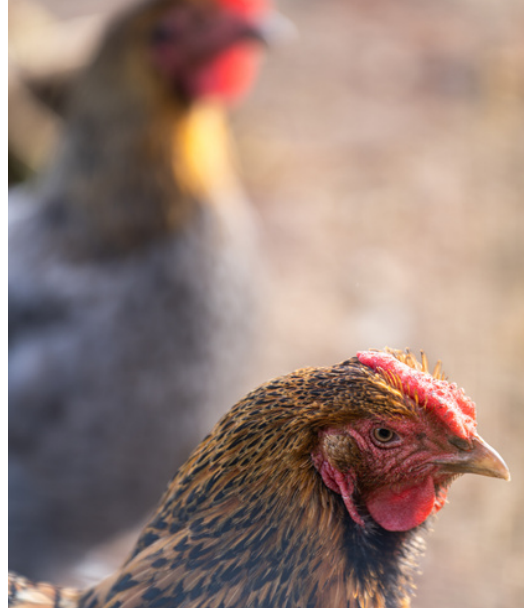
NDIS Worker Screening Clearance for working with participants with disabilities.

Your students will be cared for by experienced team members and mentors in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment.





WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU SOON.



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