

# KELSEY CREEK FARM

Promoting learning opportunities in a farm environment





**Kelsey Creek Farm** offers the community a unique opportunity to step out of urban life and into a working farm experience while preserving its historic character through interpretive displays and educational programs. Our activities promote creativity, hands-on learning, and outdoor exploration for visitors of all ages. Admission is free, though donations are always appreciated. The farm provides a welcoming environment to connect with nature, observe farm animals, and participate in seasonal events.

When visiting any Bellevue park, please keep all dogs and pets on a leash. For the health and safety of our farm animals, kindly follow posted signs restricting pets from the barnyard.

FARM ANIMALS IN THE PASTURES DAILY FROM 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 365 DAYS A YEAR (R) RESIDENT / (N) NON-RESIDENT

## Weekday Classes

### Adult/Child

#### **Little Farmers**

Come enjoy hands-on fun in the barn and barnyard with your 2-3-year-old! Each class offers engaging activities centered around farm animals and seasonal themes. Together, you and your child will help with barn chores, feed and pet animals, make crafts, enjoy parallel play, and even go for a pony ride. Each monthly session highlights a different set of animals. While some favorite animals and activities will repeat, there will always be new experiences to enjoy. Be ready to play both indoors and outdoors and to get a bit messy! Siblings under two are welcome in front or back carriers.

Ages: 2-3

Fees: \$78 (R) \$94 (N)

Hours/Dates: Tue, 10-11:30 a.m.

Jan 7-21

Feb 4-18

Marh 4-18

April 1-15

### **Farm Story Time**

Come enjoy story time in a farm setting. Each story session will involve a different farm-related theme and include a visit with one of our resident farm animals. The stories will come alive for your children as they see the featured animal characters from the stories in real life. Pre-registration not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited. Doors close when the program begins or when capacity is reached. Recommended for ages 1-5.

Ages: 1-5
Fees: FREE

Hours/Dates: Thu, 10-10:30 a.m.

<u>Jan 30</u>

Feb 27

### **Drop Off Programs**

### **Farm Explorers**

Join us for a farm adventure featuring animal care, barn chores, a pony ride, and making yummy snacks. This drop-off program is designed for the independent 4-6 year old. Classes will feature seasonal themes, arts and crafts, engaging stories, and time with our friendly farm animals. Each monthly session highlights a different set of animals. While some favorite animals and activities will repeat, there will always be new experiences to enjoy.

Ages: 4-6

Fees: \$96 (R) \$115 (N)

Hours/Dates: Thu, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Jan 9-23

Feb 6-20

March 6-20

**April 3-17** 

### **Junior Farmers**

Your child will be immersed in farm life in this after-school program. Each class will feature seasonal themes, art and crafts, engaging stories, and hands-on time with our friendly farm animals. Kids will learn about animal care and will get to interact with our farm animals in a safe and supportive environment. Each monthly session highlights a different set of animals. While some favorite animals and activities will repeat, there will always be new experiences to enjoy.

Ages: 7-9

Fees: \$78 (R) \$94 (N) Hours/Dates: Wed, 2-4 p.m.

Jan 8-22

Feb 5-19

March 5-19

April 2-16



### **Weekend Workshops**

### **Veggies for Valentines**

Do you love farm animals? So do we! We'll celebrate Valentine's Day by making veggie treats for the farm animals and popcorn treats for the kids! Your child will meet our animals, make a Valentine card for an animal, and receive one in return! If you do not want your child to eat popcorn, please bring your own snack. Adult/child teams only. A team is one child and one adult.

Ages: 4-8

Fees: \$25 (R) \$30 (N)

Hours/Dates: Sun, 1-2 p.m.

Feb 9

### **Bunny Buddies**

Does your child love bunnies? In this program, you and your child will pet our bunnies, feed them some yummy treats, and do a bunny-themed craft. Adult/child teams only. A team is one child and one adult

Ages: 4-8

Fees: \$25 (R) \$30 (N)

Hours/Dates: Sun, 1-2 p.m.

March 2

#### St. Patrick's Celebration

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the farm with the animals! We'll dress up a pony in green decorations, go on a treasure hunt to look for leprechaun gold, and do a craft. Adult/child teams only. A team is one child and one adult.

Ages: 4-8

Fees: \$25 (R) \$30 (N)

Hours/Dates: Sun, 1-2 p.m.

March 16

### **Spring Egg-Stravaganza**

Celebrate spring at this egg-themed workshop. We'll collect eggs from our chicken coops, feed lettuce to the ducks, and compare the eggs that ducks and chickens lay. We'll pet a bunny and finish off with a fun egg hunt! Adult/child teams only. A team is one child and one adult.

Ages: 4-8

Fees: \$25 (R) \$30 (N)

Hours/Dates: Sun, 1-2 p.m.

April 13

### **Volunteer Programs**

### **Sheep Shearing Special Event Volunteers**

Assist staff with event set up, managing children's activity booths and other event tasks at our annual Sheep Shearing event. This is one of Bellevue's most unique events, running over 40 years. Volunteers gain experience in event operations, customer service, working with children, and teamwork while earning community service hours

Ages: 15+ Fees: FREE

Hours/Dates: Sat, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

April 26

### **Sheep Shearing Event Clean Up Volunteers**

Help us wrap up the annual Sheep Shearing event at Kelsey Creek Farm. Volunteers are needed to assist with breaking down the event activities, ensuring our farm is ready for the next day. This is a great opportunity to earn community service hours, gain hands-on experience in event operations, build team-work skills, and be part of one of Bellevue's most unique events.

Ages: 15+ Fees: FREE

Hours: Sat, 3-5 p.m.

April 26

#### **Adult Farm Volunteers**

Assist Kelsey Creek Farm staff in providing daily care to our farm animals. Help staff bring the animals out to pasture, clean their living quarters, and prepare meals for the animals each day. Volunteers will learn about caring for livestock and about Bellevue's agricultural history while giving back to their community.

Ages: 18+ Fees: FREE

Hours: 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Tue, Jan 7-Feb 25

Wed, Jan 8-Feb 26

Tue, March 4-April 29

Wed, March 5-April 30

#### **After School Teen Farm Volunteers**

Assist Kelsey Creek Farm staff in providing daily care to our farm animals. Help prepare meals for the animals, clean their living quarters, assist with other farm chores, and help bring the animals back into the barn each day. Teens will learn responsible animal care, job skills, and independence while earning service hours for school.

Ages: 12-18

Fees: \$15 (R) \$18 (N)

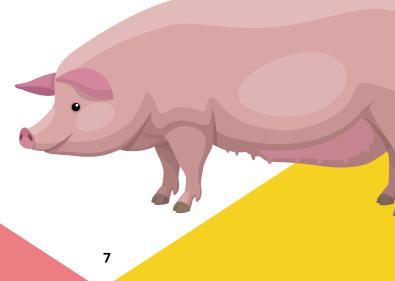
Hours/Dates: Wed, 2-4:15 p.m.

<u>Jan 8-22</u>

Feb 5-19

**March 5-19** 

**April 2-16** 



### **Saturday Morning Teen Farm Volunteers**

Join the team at Kelsey Creek Farm and get hands-on experience caring for farm animals! Help bring the animals out to pasture for the day, prepare meals for the animals, clean their living spaces, and assist with other farm chores. Teens will learn responsible animal care, job skills, and independence while earning service hours for school.

Ages: 15-18

Fees: \$15 (R) \$18 (N)

Hours/Dates: Sat, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Jan 11-25

Feb 8-22

March 8-22

**April 5-19** 

### **Special Events**

### **Sheep Shearing**

Watch the sheep being shorn of their winter coats. Enjoy wool spinning demonstrations, children's crafts, tractor-pulled wagon rides, pony rides, food, animal viewing areas, and more. Free shuttle service available at Wilburton Park & Ride and Bannerwood Sports Park. Please note: no pets allowed on shuttle bus or in the barnyard areas. No registration needed. Admission is free, costs vary for food and activities.



### **Guided Farm Tours**

Experience Kelsey Creek Farm with a tour designed specifically for groups. Choose from various year-round and seasonal themes. Guided farm tours are available weekdays and are approximately 45 minutes in length. Each tour includes time with a variety of farm animals and a group activity led by a member of our farm staff. Animals included in tour and group activities vary based on tour themes.

\*Please note animals available for interaction during the guided tour may change without notice based on individual animals' health and well-being.

Ages: most tours appropriate for children ages 2+ (see below for exceptions). Tour content is adjusted to accommodate the age of the audience. All tours can be adjusted for adult groups.

### Kids on the Farm Group Tour

Available year-round

Explore our historic dairy farm with hands-on fun as you meet our farm animals. Learn interesting animal facts and local history as you travel back in time to when Bellevue was mostly farmland and forest. Go into the animal barn to see where the animals sleep at night and work on barn "chores" with child-sized pails and rakes.

### **Fuzzy Farm Friends Group Tour**

Available year-round

Have you ever wondered where yarn and wool sweaters come from? How does a sheep give us a pair of warm wool socks? Meet the Kelsey Creek Farm sheep, watch a demo of wool carding, and learn about sheep and fiber processing. Children will create a fuzzy sheep craft to take home.

### Pioneers on the Farm Group Tour

Available year-round (recommended for ages 4+)

Imagine life in Bellevue in the 1880s. Children spend time looking around the Fraser cabin, built in 1888, and learning about what life was like for the pioneers when they arrived in the Bellevue area. Practice pioneer living history skills and go on a farm walk to learn how some of our farm animals would have been used by the pioneers.

### **Springtime in the Barnyard Group Tour**

Available mid-May-mid-June only

Welcome springtime in the barnyard with a hands-on tour among our favorite animals. Learn about their care, then get dirty in the garden planting and watering seeds.

### Fall on the Farm Group Tour

Available October only

Experience harvest season on the farm! Visit with some of our friendly farm animals and watch them eat a pumpkin treat. Then finish up by enjoying a story in our indoor off-the-vine pumpkin patch. Pumpkins are available for purchase for an additional fee.

### **Birthday Parties**

All party packages are approximately two hours long. Parties are offered from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.. Each party begins with an approximately 45 minute guided tour and group activity led by a member of our farm staff. Activities and crafts vary based on party themes. The guided activity time is followed by a one-hour room rental for cake and presents.

\*Please note: animals available for interaction may change without notice based on individual animals' health and well-being.

Room locations may vary, but all party locations are indoor and include:

- ◆ 3-4 preschool-height tables (6 feet long by 2.5 feet wide) with children's chairs
- ◆ A refrigerator/freezer, microwave
- Kitchen sink and trash cans
- ◆ A restroom with hand-washing soap and paper towels

Maximum capacity for all parties is 30 people (number includes adults and children). Please note that only 25 people may participate in farm tour and craft activities. All capacities have been set to respect facility codes, the safety and well-being of the animals, and to ensure guest enjoyment.

### **Farm Birthday Party**

Celebrate your child's birthday with a visit to our historic farm. Make memories meeting farm animal friends. Birthday party package includes an approximately 45-minute farm tour and farm-themed craft, followed by one hour of room rental.

Ages: 2-11

Fees: \$375 (R) \$450 (N)

### **Bunny Birthday Party**

Celebrate your child's birthday by visiting the farm and meeting our friendly bunny. Enjoy a farm tour, a bunny craft, and extra time visiting the bunnies. Birthday party package includes approximately 45-minute farm tour and bunny themed craft, followed by one hour of room rental.

Ages: 2-11

Fees: \$375 (R) \$450 (N)

### **Pony Birthday Party**

Celebrate your child's birthday by visiting the farm and meeting one of our ponies. Enjoy a farm tour, pony craft, and special time with the birthday pony. Birthday party package includes an approximately 45-minute farm tour and pony-themed craft, followed by one hour of room rental. Please note: this party does NOT include a pony ride.

Ages: 4-11

Fees: \$375 (R) \$450 (N)





### **Rentals**

For more rental information including pricing and room specs, visit **BellevueWA.gov/kelsey**.

#### **Outdoor Rentals**

#### **Kelsey Creek Farm Picnic Shelter**

Rent Kelsey Creek Farm's Picnic Shelter for your next event! This covered picnic shelter has a capacity of 75 people and includes 6 picnic tables and 2 charcoal grills. To reserve visit our online catalog at <a href="Register.BellevueWA.gov">Register.BellevueWA.gov</a>. Questions?

Email kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov.



#### **Indoor Rentals**

Looking for space to host a party, class, or meeting? Kelsey Creek Farm features several indoor rental spaces including a farm house with a 760 square-foot community room and kitchen space as well as a 900 square-foot room in the historic 1943 barn. The unique farm setting makes these spaces perfect for memorable events.

Both rental spaces can be reserved seven days a week, and these spaces easily accommodate groups large or small with rooms for groups up to 30 people. To reserve, send an email with requested dates and times to kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov.



Kelsey Creek Farm Room (Education Barn)



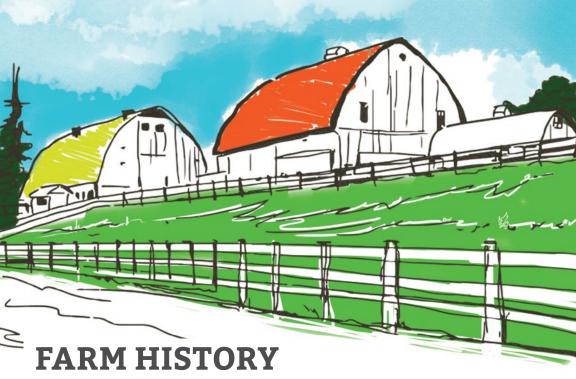
**Kelsey Creek Farm House** 

### **Scholarships**

Bellevue Parks & Community Services strives to make program opportunities available to all interested individuals who live in Bellevue, regardless of income. We provide financial assistance to those who might not otherwise be able to participate. Scholarships may be granted for the entire class fee or may provide a percentage discount, depending on individual circumstances.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/parks/programs/scholarships for information and application.





The farm's history began in 1921, when the Duey Family rented 190 acres and began delivering cream and butter stamped with the name Twin Valley Dairy. In August of 1933 the original barn burned. Mr. Duey, a skilled carpenter, along with some hired hands, rebuilt the barn in two weeks. Today, this barn is the smaller of the two barns and is called the Animal Barn. Mr. Duey also built the Red Barn, originally used as a milk house.

The second dairy barn was built in 1943–44 by Mr. Michaels, the new owner, (this is the north barn now known as the Education Barn) and the dairy herd was increased in size. After the end of WWII, he sold the farmstead to Ray and Nettie Fisher. The Fishers phased out the dairy operation and began raising Hereford beef cattle. They built the current farmhouse in 1954 and moved to live on the property.

In 1968 neighbors to the farm began a movement to petition the Bellevue City Council to purchase the property and secure it as a public park. The neighbors' petition succeeded, and the city negotiated with the Fisher family to purchase the 80 acres, including the farmhouse, barns and outbuildings. The Fishers sold their farm property to the City at a price much reduced from what they knew that they could get from developers. They did so because they believed in preserving the beauty and legacy of the agricultural buildings and the land.

In 1972 the oldest barn was modified to house an assortment of farm animals for public viewing. The other, larger barn, commonly referred to as the Education Barn, was remodeled inside and used to accommodate a variety of community programs, including children's day camps, art classes, and farm-themed classes, to name just a few.



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