

Rabbits

Rabbits have been a source of food and clothing for thousands of years. First, rabbits were hunted in the wild. Later, people realized that farming them would be easier and more productive. Today, rabbits have gone beyond farms and into homes as pets.

As cute and fluffy as rabbits are, they have some interesting habits. Like cows, rabbits eat grass and need to swallow their food more than once to fully digest it. However, rather than chewing cud as a cow does, rabbits eat their own droppings instead!



A costumed docent and rabbit fans.



Janet Norris

Cows

Farmers raise cows because they provide milk, meat, leather, and more. If you like cheese, yogurt, or ice cream, take a minute to thank a cow! Cow's milk is usually used to make these treats.

If you see a cow who looks like she is chomping on bubble gum, she is probably chewing cud. Cud is food that has been partially digested and then spit back up for more chewing. It takes a lot of chewing to digest grass and hay!



Naturalist Programs



If you would like to participate in farm chores, feedings and other activities, check out our naturalist programs on our website at ebparks.org/programs/naturalists.



Michael Short



LE Jones

School Programs

Ardenwood provides school programs in the farmyard throughout the year.

To find out more or to schedule a program, call us at 510-544-2797.



East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605
1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)
ebparks.org

Ardenwood Farm Animals

ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM
FREMONT

Ardenwood Historic Farm

34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont, CA 94555
510-544-2797 • awvisit@ebparks.org

Hours: Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or as posted.

Visitor Centers

Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont
510-544-2797, awvisit@ebparks.org

Big Break Regional Shoreline, Oakley
Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta
510-544-3050, bigbreakvisit@ebparks.org

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, Antioch
510-544-2750, bdvisit@ebparks.org

Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont
510-544-3220, chvisit@ebparks.org

Crown Memorial State Beach, Alameda
Doug Siden Visitor Center at Crab Cove
510-544-3187, ccove@ebparks.org

Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore
510-544-3146, svisit@ebparks.org
Open summer weekends

Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks, Hayward
510-544-3220 (Coyote Hills), chvisit@ebparks.org
Open summer weekends

Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness, Sunol
510-544-3249, svisit@ebparks.org
Open weekends

Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley
Botanic Garden: 510-544-3169, bgarden@ebparks.org
Tilden Nature Area/Environmental Education Center
510-544-2233, tnarea@ebparks.org



Regional Parks Membership:
ENJOY FREE DAY-USE PARKING, SWIMMING,
DOG PASS, AND MORE. 510-544-2220
REGIONALPARKSFOUNDATION.ORG



Welcome to Ardenwood Historic Farm!

We have many animals here. We take care of them, and in return they provide food, materials for clothes, and more. Let's go visit our farm animals and learn a little about what makes them special.

All our farm animals are friendly, so feel free to walk up and say hello! You are a visitor to their home, so be a respectful guest by approaching them calmly and gently.

Ardenwood's farm animals are fed regularly each day. You can help during our afternoon feedings, Thursdays through Sundays, at 3 p.m. Please do not otherwise feed the animals; too much food, or food that isn't on their regular menu, can make them sick.

Another important way to keep everyone healthy is by washing your hands after visiting the animals.

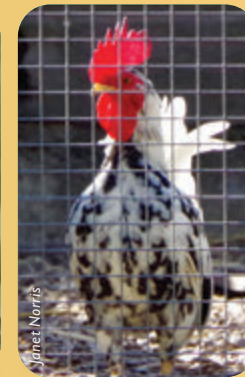


Meet the Animals

Sheep

Sheep have been around as livestock since long before Ardenwood was a farm. In fact, sheep were one of the first animals to be domesticated by humans about 11,000 years ago. From sheep we get milk, meat, and wool for blankets and clothing.

In one year, a sheep can grow up to 30 pounds of wool – 30 pounds is about the average weight of a three-year-old human! If a sheep is not shorn, its wool will keep growing. Too much wool on a sheep is uncomfortable and unhealthy, so our sheep appreciate their annual haircuts.



Chickens

We let the chickens out of their coop for exercise to keep them healthy. Can you find any of them? You might see some scratching and pecking the ground as they look for seeds and insects to eat.

Amongst the chickens we have both hens (adult females) and roosters (adult males). On a farm, chickens provide meat, eggs, feathers, and manure (poo!). Chicken manure is very good food for the plants we grow on the farm.



Pigs

Pigs are very organized animals. They divide their pens into separate living, eating, playing, and bathroom areas. And while pigs like frolicking in mud, being muddy is more than just messy fun. Mud helps keep pigs from getting sunburned and keeps them cool on hot days. In other words, if it weren't for mud on a hot day, our pigs would be "bacon"!

Speaking of bacon – pork, ham, and bacon all come from pigs. Growing to over 200 pounds by the time they are five months old, pigs provide meat on a farm.



Goats

Look out for that kid! That's right – just like young humans, young goats are called kids. Goats are sometimes called firefighters, too, because they eat the weeds and tall grasses that could otherwise burn in wildfires. The East Bay Regional Park District grazes goats at many of our other parks for this reason. Thank you, goats!

Worldwide, people drink more milk from goats than from cows. Goat milk is rich in minerals and vitamins, and it has a slightly sweet taste. Yum!

