



# FARM VISITOR FAQs

**Read this first: How Visits Work at Howe Ranch**

**We are not a public petting zoo. We are a private farm operating with strict liability regulations. We can only welcome guests who respect and follow our community's and farm's rules and regulations:**

- All farm visits are facilitated boutique experiences, by advance reservation.
- **All available experiences are posted** on our [WEBSITE CALENDAR](#), and **must be booked in advance online** (*NOT* by phone/text/email). IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A DATE, IT IS NOT AVAILABLE. We are transitioning our operations to Montana in 2026. Please do not call/email about future dates.
- **We do not have the capacity to answer phone calls, texts, or DMs about dates that are not available and information shared here already.** Please check the [farm calendar](#) and read all FAQs here before booking to see if the farm is a good fit for your group.
- **No walk-ins, drive-bys, gate knocks, or drop-ins. *Unauthorized entry is trespassing and will be prosecuted.*** Our private road is monitored and shared with other farms; stopping on the road is strictly prohibited.
- **To book: Choose an experience on the website, [TheHoweRanch.com](#), complete the waiver, and pay online. Confirmation is sent by email.**

**Schools, groups for private gatherings, and accessibility inquiries may email  
[HoweRanchServices@gmail.com](mailto:HoweRanchServices@gmail.com)**

## 1. Why can't we just stop by to see the cows?

**A:** Howe Ranch is a small, private boutique farm specializing in facilitated encounters with luxury livestock, not a public petting zoo. For safety, security, insurance, and animal-training reasons, we are open only during scheduled, staffed experiences booked in advance through our website. Unauthorized entry is trespassing and will be prosecuted. We raise **selectively bred, professionally trained micro and miniature Highland cattle** and other gentle animals to create **restorative experiences in [magical seasonal settings](#)**. We operate under **rural residential regulations** with strict liability management regulations.

Each visit supports **animal husbandry, expert care, training, staff, insurance, educational programming, activities, and the seasonal farm sets** we build year-round — but above all, the **substantial investment required to produce and raise these designer miniature cattle**.

## 2. Why are Open Farm Day passes more than some petting zoos?

**A:** Your **Open Farm Day — Discover the Magic** pass is for a 2-hour experience that includes all hands-on animal encounters, activities, education, prizes and concessions. The passes help offset, but don't fully cover, the cost of **staffing, animal training, insurance, workshops, seasonal décor, crafts and prizes, sanitation, farm games, and complimentary drinks and treats** — everything is included in your visit!

For **guests who need a budget friendly alternative**, we offer limited “Pay by Hay” spots each **Open Farm Day** (Bring a bale of alfalfa hay/guest instead of a pass — [advance registration required](#)) — passes are limited. ***This program is not for any other farm experiences.*** *Please do not request a private “pay by hay” experience. Thank you.*

## 3. So, the two of us can't just visit without a reservation? It's \$350 for a private mini moo experience, even if we are just two guests?

**A: No, you cannot visit this farm without advance registration due to regulations we operate under. Howe Ranch is not open to the public. For the safety of our animals, family, staff and guests, any unauthorized entry is trespassing and will be prosecuted.** We're a private, working family farm on a private street and are only **open during scheduled activities by advance reservation — never same day**. All available, staffed activities are **posted on our [website, TheHoweRanch.com](#), on our [farm calendar](#)**. All farm experiences must be booked with a signed visitor waiver through our [website](#) — not by phone, text message or email. For additional information, see **FAQs # 1 and #2**. Mini Moo Experiences are **facilitated by a specially trained facilitator** and are **\$350** as posted on our website.

## 4. Can I call about dates not shown online?

**A:** No. Farm **all visits we can staff are already posted** on our website and farm calendar. Our team is dedicated to animal and facility/grounds care and can't respond to availability requests by phone, text, or DM. Please check the [website calendar](#) for openings. We are transitioning our operations to Montana in 2026. Please do not call/email about future dates.

## 5. Can we bring our small dog?

**A:** No. For the safety of our guests, staff, and animals, **dogs are not allowed**. Our animals are prey species and will **startle or panic around dogs**, which creates a **dangerous situation** for all. Our trained livestock guardian animals also treat unknown canines as a threat.

## **6. My child is only 2 years old — do they count as a guest?**

**A:** Yes, all children 1 year of age and older must be registered pass holders. **Children are active and unpredictable around livestock**, generally **requiring more staff attention and safety oversight** than adults. For this reason, we have **strict guest caps for all farm visits**.

## **7. We are 13 for our tour, can we pay extra for guests over 10?**

**A:** Our Private Mini Moo tours are designed for **1 to 10 guests**, since they're meant to be small-group experiences with one facilitator, regulated by our liability guidelines for these experiences. **For groups larger than 10, we have two options:**

1. A [Private Mini Moo Party](#) or Mini Moo Express Party — great for birthdays and celebrations, with more time and flexibility.
2. Or, we can schedule a **second private tour** at the same time, with a second facilitator, so everyone is included. This way, everyone gets the full experience without liability concerns. A second experience is as much as the first one. There is no “bundle” to staff a second facilitator.

## **8. Can I get a refund if something comes up?**

**A:** No. Experiences at Howe Ranch are **transferable to other guests due to unforeseeable circumstances, but not refundable or reschedulable**. Our resources are perpetually at capacity, and we reserve staff, animal prep, and scheduling in advance. If you cannot attend due to an emergency, please email us your guest's name. All experiences are equitable— no exceptions.

## **9. Can we collab for a free visit for social media content?**

**A:** Because we're a very small operation and our time is devoted to caring for the animals, **we aren't able to offer complimentary visits, collabs, or free/fee based content sessions**. All visits must be reserved in advance through our Farm Calendar. We do **host two dedicated Media Days** each year for coverage opportunities and will share those dates ahead of time.

## **10. Can we switch to a different date after booking?**

**A:** No. Because we dedicate staff and animal care to each scheduled experience and your slot was blocked for others, rescheduling is not possible. Please be sure to book a date you can attend, or transfer your spot to another guest (must email name – not by phone).

## **11. Can we arrive early to “beat the crowds” on Open Farm Day?**

**A:** No. **Early arrivals are strictly prohibited** for any kind of visit to the farm. Arriving even 5 minutes early creates **safety risks** for guests, staff, and animals. **Guests who violate this critical farm safety rule will be denied access**. There are lovely coffee shops in the area.

## **12. Since early arrival is prohibited, can we wait outside the gate?**

**A:** No. The road to Howe Ranch is a private, monitored farm trail. Stopping, staging, or speeding is strictly prohibited and may result in loss of passes. Please drive slowly (**15 MPH max as posted**). If you're early, there are several lovely coffee shops, stores, and restaurants just down the street.

### ***13. What should we wear and bring?***

**A:** Closed-toed shoes are required; sunscreen, and hats, and water for hydration are highly recommended. Please **do not bring any food** for the animals. They are all on special diets we provide, some can die from choking.

### ***14. Can we rent a mini cow for a party or wedding?***

**A:** No. Our animals do not travel from our farm due to the stress transport causes them. We welcome you to explore the boutique offerings and scenic spaces our farm offers on our website.

### ***15. Do you offer field trips for schools?***

**A:** Yes. We offer two structured field trip options:

- **Educational Farm Tour & Animal Care Experience** (\$35/guest) –Students learn about animal care and sustainable farm practices, with opportunities for brushing, feeding, and group photos. 60 - 90 minutes depending on group size.
- **Private Petting Zoo Field Trip** (\$40/guest) – An extended tour with added recreation and programming. Two to three hours depending on group size.

### ***16. We want to see the special mini cows but can't afford the "Open Farm Day -Discover the Magic" passes. Is there another option?***

**A:** Yes! Feel free to [email](#) us about the "Pay by Hay" program: Bring a bale of Alfalfa hay (1/visitor) instead of paying for the passes – limited availability for Open Farm Day. Registration required.

### ***17. We don't want to pay for your farm experiences to see live animals. Are there other options to see live animals?***

We have many farms and petting zoos in Southern California. In fact, Dejong's Dairy Farm nearby offers a free petting zoo, which is open every day. Many of our guests have also enjoyed visits at [Bougie Cattle Co](#), which offers different experiences throughout the year.

### ***18. What is the weather policy?***

All experiences are offered rain or shine, except if extreme, unsafe conditions present (wildfire, severe storm, inaccessibility/flooding) we will offer an alternate date.

### ***19. Is the farm accessible?***

Howe Ranch is a working farm with uneven dirt and sand terrain in animal areas. Many guests using mobility or access devices have visited safely. Paved areas are available for concessions and photo backdrops, along with an accessible hand-wash station by the barn and a restroom with an accessible sink and toilet in the farmhouse.

### ***20. Can I propose, bring champagne, cake, decorations, or celebrate during a Private Mini Moo tour?***

No. A Private Mini Moo tour is a private, animal-focused farm visit. It is not a proposal package, birthday package, styled shoot, or private event rental.

To keep the experience compliant, safe, fair, and on schedule for our animals, staff, and guests, celebratory elements are not permitted during Private Mini Moo tours or any instant-book farm experience.

**Under this policy prohibited items/activities include proposals, champagne, cake, candles, decorations, gifts, party supplies, food, staged setups, surprise celebrations, birthday or milestone celebrations, or any planned event-style element.**

Personal photographers may document the experience as booked, but they may not direct, stage, pause, extend, or convert the visit into a proposal, styled shoot, milestone celebration, or private event.

All proposals, celebrations, styled shoots, and special events must be arranged in advance through the appropriate private event package (i.e. Mini Moo Express, Proposal Experience).

**Unauthorized celebratory elements or staged events may result in the immediate end of the experience without refund and a \$500 unauthorized event fee.**

Questions about private event options may be sent to [howeranchservices@gmail.com](mailto:howeranchservices@gmail.com).

If you have questions not answered above, or need assistance, please email us at  
**[HoweRanchServices@gmail.com](mailto:HoweRanchServices@gmail.com)**