



FARM VISITOR FAQS

Read This First: How Visits Work at Howe Ranch

We are not a public petting zoo.

Howe Ranch is a private working farm operating under strict liability and animal-care regulations.

Visits are limited to guests who respect and follow all farm and community rules:

- 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're transitioning our farm to Montana in 2026, thus plan only short windows.

- As a working farm we do not have the capacity to answer questions about information shared here already.

Please review all FAQs, guest reviews, photos, the farm policies, and the farm calendar 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 system originated.

We can't just stop by to see the cows?

No. 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 street 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**.

Why is the Open Farm Day experience priced the way it is?

Your **Open Farm Day — Discover the Magic** pass is for an experience that includes all hands-on animal encounters, activities, education, elaborate themed environments, prizes and concessions. The visits 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! To support community access, limited "Pay by Hay" spots are available on select **Open Farm Days**. Guests bring one bale of alfalfa hay per guest instead of a pass. Advance registration required. Pay by Hay is not available for private Mini Moo Experiences and other specialty experiences.

So, the 2 of us can't just visit without a reservation? It's \$350 for a private experience, even just for 2 guests?

Correct, 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, staff and guests, any **unauthorized entry is trespassing and will be prosecuted**. We're a private, working farm on a private street and are only **open by appointment — never same day**. All available, staffed activities are **posted on our website, TheHoweRanch.com, on our farm calendar and must be booked with a signed visitor waiver online** — not by phone, message or email. For more, see **FAQs # 1 and #2**. Private Mini Moo Experiences are **facilitated by a trained facilitator** and are **\$350** as posted. You can visit on Open Farm Day with a pass per guest, alternatively.

When will you post new Open Farm Days online?

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 hosting scheduled guests, and **can't respond to availability requests** by phone, text, or DM. We rely on our guests to check the website calendar for future openings. We are transitioning our operations to Montana in 2026. **Please do not call/email about future dates. There is no waitlist for passes.**

We are 12 for our tour, can we pay extra for the 2 guests over 10 for our Private Mini Moo Experience?

No. Private Mini Moo tours are limited to small groups with one trained facilitator under our strict liability guidelines. **For groups larger than 10 (1 YO+), we offer the following options:**

1. A **Private Mini Moo Party** or Mini Moo Express Party — great for birthdays and celebrations, with more time and flexibility.
2. Schedule a **second Private Mini Moo Experience** (\$350) at the same time, with a second facilitator, so everyone is included. This way, everyone gets the full experience without liability concerns. There is no “bundle discount” to staff a second facilitator.
3. **Book a Field Trip.** See FAQ about Field Trips below.

Do you offer field trips?

Yes. We offer a fun, enriching field trip experience for schools/organizations/big groups (10+):

Educational Farm Tour and Animal Cuddle Experience (\$45/guest) —Participants learn about animal care and sustainable farm practices, interact hands on with all farm animals, including opportunities for brushing, feeding, and group photos in front of themed farm backdrops.

Experience length: 90 minutes for groups 11 – 50, 120 minutes for groups 51 – 99.

Can I get a refund or push back my visit if needed?

The moment you book an experience, your time slot is blocked for other guests and our staff and resources are committed. Therefore, experiences at Howe Ranch are **non-refundable** and **non-reschedulable**. Experiences/Passes may be transferred **only in the case of a true emergency**, and only by emailing us the replacement guest’s name. **Open Farm Day passes cannot be purchased for someone else**, and we do not have the capacity to manage non-emergency guest-to-guest transfers. All experiences are offered equitably. No exceptions.

We want to spend time with the animals. Is open farm day a shared experience? Can you help us pick?

Open Farm Day is a shared, facilitated group experience with other animal lovers onsite. All experiences at Howe Ranch are thoughtfully centered around hands-on time with our micro and miniature Highland calves, along with our other farm animals, and guests snap photos along the way. **For liability and capacity reasons, we’re unable to recommend or select an experience on behalf of guests.** We ask all visitors to carefully **review the experience descriptions, FAQs, farm policies, guest reviews, and photos** available on our website before booking: <https://www.thehoweranch.com>. This helps ensure expectations are aligned and that Howe Ranch is the right fit for your group.

Is the farm accessible?

Howe Ranch is a working farm with uneven dirt and sand terrain in animal areas. We encourage guests to carefully review our photos and guest reviews on our website to determine whether the environment will be a good fit for their individual needs: <https://www.thehoweranch.com>. 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 located in the farmhouse.

Can you add guests to my Open Farm Day reservation?

We are unable to add guests to an existing reservation. If additional passes are still available, they must be purchased directly by you or the additional guest through the website. If the Open Farm Day is sold out, we are unable to reopen or expand capacity due to the strict liability regulations we operate under. Guest counts are capped due to our insurance, staffing, and animal-care regulations.

My son is 14 months old — do they count as a guest?

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**.

Can we arrive early for better parking on Open Farm Day?

No. **Early arrivals violate farm safety regulations and 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.

Since early arrival is prohibited, can we wait outside the gate?

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.

What should we wear and bring? May we bring food?

Closed-toed shoes are required; sunscreen, long pants and hats, and water for hydration are highly recommended. Guests must **not bring any food** for the animals. They are all on special diets we provide, some can die from choking or eating food that is unsafe for them. Guests cannot bring any food into animal areas.

Can we rent a mini cow for a party or wedding?

No. At this time, we do not have the setup to safely transport our animals without causing them undue stress, so our animals do not travel off the farm. [Bougie Cattle Co](#) has offered traveling services and may be a good resource to check with. We also invite you to explore the boutique, on-site experiences and scenic spaces we offer at Howe Ranch: <https://www.thehoweranch.com>

Any options to see animals without paying for a pass?

Feel free to [inquire](#) about the “Pay by Hay” program: Each **Open Farm Day** (only) we offer a limited number of in-kind passes. With this option, a guest brings a bale of Alfalfa hay (1/visitor) instead of paying for the pass. Registration required. **Not for private and other experiences.** Alternatively, there are many farms and petting zoos in Southern California, including DeJong’s Dairy Farm (which offers a free petting zoo), and guests also enjoy visiting [Bougie Cattle Co](#).

What is your 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. Our premium experience areas all offer shelter and indoor respite areas.

Can we include a birthday or celebration during our visit?

No. **Celebratory elements are not permitted** during Open Farm Days, Private Mini Moo Tours, or any instant-book experiences. This includes decorations, cakes, candles, gifts, party supplies, and outside food or food consumption on the premises, which is not permitted due to health and safety regulations. Birthdays and celebrations are only permitted as part of:

- Mini Moo Express experiences, or
- Planned Private Gatherings / Private Events arranged in advance (not instant-book)

This policy protects animal welfare, guest safety, and ensures a consistent experience for all visitors. **Requests to add celebrations to non-event experiences cannot be accommodated.**

Can we collab for a free visit for social media content?

Because we’re a small operation focused on animal care, we’re unable to offer complimentary visits, collaborations, or content sessions. All visits must be reserved in advance through our Farm Calendar. We host two dedicated Media Days each year and share those dates in advance.

Can we bring our small dog?

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.