



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.

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 properties; stopping on the road is strictly prohibited.
- **No reschedules, no refunds, no celebratory elements during farm tours/other instant book experiences (must book celebration package instead)**
- **To book: Choose an experience on the website, TheHoweRanch.com, complete the waiver, and pay online. No booking available via phone/messenger/email. Confirmation is sent by email.**

Schools, groups for private gatherings, and accessibility inquiries may email HoweRanchServices@gmail.com

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 **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.**

Each visit helps offset 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, Howe Ranch is not a traditional petting zoo where guests walk in to casually view animals.

We are a private, working luxury farm that offers curated boutique experiences centered around meaningful interaction, guided encounters, photo opportunities, and restorative time with our specially trained animals.

Our pricing reflects the **extraordinary cost involved** in responsibly **breeding, acquiring, raising, training, insuring, staffing, and caring** for **specialty micro and miniature cattle** and other gentle therapy-style animals. Most of our animals come from highly specialized breeding programs and receive extensive daily handling and training to safely participate in guest experiences and restorative programs.

Throughout the year, we also offer limited-capacity seasonal events and Open Farm Days with per-guest passes for magical farm experiences and professional-style photo opportunities. Guests

come here to slow down, unwind, and experience meaningful one-on-one interactions with exceptional animals in a magical, thoughtfully designed setting.

All available, staffed activities are **posted on our [website, TheHoweRanch.com](https://www.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***.

For the safety of our animals, staff and guests, any **unauthorized entry is trespassing and will be prosecuted**.

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.

When will you post passes for seasonal holiday events 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 or when future dates will be posted. If they are not posted we do not speculate. 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 Experience](#) for 15 Guests – offered on weekends
2. A [Private Mini Moo Party](#) — great for birthdays and celebrations, with more time and flexibility.
3. [Book a Field Trip](#). See FAQ about Field Trips below.

Do you offer field trips? And can you offer a discount for our non-profit organization?

We do offer a fun and enriching field trip experience for schools, organizations, and larger groups (10+ guests):

Educational Farm Tour & Animal Cuddle Experience — \$45/guest

Guests learn about animal care and sustainable farm practices while enjoying hands-on interaction with all farm animals, including brushing, feeding, and group photos at themed farm backdrops (90 minutes for groups of 11–50 or 120 minutes for groups of 51–99)

At this time, we do not offer discounted rates, as all experiences are priced equally for every group. Pricing directly supports the specialized breeding, raising, training, staffing, and care of our micro miniature cattle and other gentle animals, while allowing us to continue offering these immersive programs to our mini cow loving community.

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. Can you help us pick?

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 seasonal event reservation. If additional passes are still available, they must be purchased directly by you or the additional guest through the website. If the experience 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?

Yes! We have beautiful, socialized babies available to travel to a private function hosted by you. Check out our VIP Social offerings at: <https://thehoweranchregistration.com/vip-mini-moo-social>

Any options to see animals without paying?

Our farm is not open to the public. We offer only by appointment boutique experiences. But 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. Please download our [Weather Policy](#) for details.

Can we include a little celebration in our Private Mini Moo?

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 or do you offer sponsorship passes?

Because we're a small operation focused on animal care, we're unable to offer complimentary visits, collaborations, sponsored visits for auctions/causes/etc., 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.

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