



THE BARNYARD BULLETIN

May 2026

April Recap

We started the month by preparing for our Spring Veggie Plant Sale and thanks to all of our supporters, we raised over \$700! We also spent the day with some new friends, the USC Aiken Life Program who came out to volunteer with us! We cannot thank everyone enough for their time and energy into this project!

Shortly after the plant sale, we headed to NY for the Human-Animal Interaction Conference at Green Chimneys! This provided a chance to learn new ideas and approaches, collaborate with other professionals in our field, and meet the incredible animal partners at Green Chimneys!



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Corporate Sponsor

A huge thank you to ADP for becoming a corporate sponsor! Their support allows us to keep delivering our services while keeping costs low for the families we serve.

Interested in becoming a corporate sponsor? Click the link here to learn more: [Corporate Opportunities](#)



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<https://shorturl.at/zSiL1>



May 2026

NEWSLETTER

What's Happening at Cooper Ridge?

Welcome Home Marybelle!

We're excited to welcome the cutest LITTLE addition to the farm. Meet Marybelle!

Marybelle is an 11-week-old Pygmy goat who came to us from our neighbor down the road. She was born a twin, and when her mom wasn't able to care for her, it created the perfect opportunity for her to find a home here at Cooper Ridge. She's still enjoying her bottle, but each day she's nibbling more grass and exploring her surroundings. Full of energy and joy, Marybelle can often be spotted bouncing through the air in excitement! Stay tuned for more updates because with a face this sweet, she's sure to become a fan favorite.



Looking Ahead

We're gearing up for another busy and exciting month ahead! On May 9, Cooper Ridge will be hosting a special private event for Upside of Downs, welcoming individuals with Down syndrome and their families to experience the farm. We're looking forward to sharing our space, meeting new friends, and creating a memorable day together.

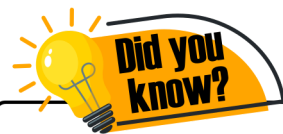
Want to learn more about Upside of Downs? Click here: [Upside of Downs Augusta](#)

On May 18, registration for our Summer Program opens! Please note that our summer sessions follow a different schedule. They will be 75 minute sessions held at 8:00AM, 9:30AM and 11:00AM, Monday-Friday.

Success Story

This success story comes from a long-time participant who has been with us since the "barn doors" first opened. She began her journey a bit reserved, but over time has grown into a kind and compassionate individual who makes a point to include everyone around her. During a recent session, she proudly showcased her progress by putting on a "dog show" for the group, guiding the dogs through an obstacle course and showing off their tricks. But what made the moment truly special was what came next. When her younger brother wanted to join in, she didn't just allow it...she encouraged him! She handed over the "rope", joined the audience, and cheered him on with pride as he completed each activity. Moments like these are why we do what we do. We're grateful for a front row seat to such meaningful connections...both with animals and with each other.

"Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem."
-A.A. Milne



Pigs have very few sweat glands, which is why they love to roll in mud, a natural sunscreen and cooling agent!

How Can I Help?

Donate Now!



<https://cooperridgefarm.org/donate>



Amazon Wishlist

<https://shorturl.at/zSiL1>



May 2026

NEWSLETTER

Beyond The Barn

In this section you'll gain an inside look at Cooper Ridge and the world of Animal Assisted Interventions, while learning how our work creates meaningful change through education and outreach.

**Have you listened to our latest podcast episode yet?
Click the link to the right to listen now!**



Herd Studies: Learning Through Observation

At the heart of our farm experience is a practice we call Herd Studies. This is a meaningful opportunity to slow down, observe, and truly understand our animal partners.

What Is Our Participant's Role?

During Herd Studies, participants step into the role of observers, spending time watching how our animal partners interact with one another, as well as with us. Rather than directing or interrupting, we focus on noticing: Who tends to lead the group? Which animals prefer space, and which seek connection? How do they communicate through movement, posture, and sound?

These moments reveal that every animal has a unique personality and role within the herd. Some emerge as natural leaders, guiding others with confidence, while others have calm demeanors or playful energy. By observing these dynamics, participants begin to recognize patterns of behavior and social structure which are skills that deepen both understanding and empathy.

Benefit of Herd Studies

Herd Studies encourage mindfulness and patience. In a world that often moves quickly, this time invites us to slow down, be present, and connect with the environment around us. Participants learn that sometimes the most powerful interactions happen not through action, but through quiet awareness.

Our animal partners may choose to engage, by approaching for a closer look, standing nearby, or responding to a familiar presence. These interactions are especially meaningful, as they are rooted in trust and mutual respect.

Through Herd Studies, we're not just learning about animals...we're learning FROM them. Their behaviors offer insight into communication, boundaries, social connection, and emotional awareness, all of which can be carried far beyond the farm.

Podcast Link

Spotify:

<https://shorturl.at/OXO2O>

Apple:

<https://shorturl.at/EiqAN>





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NEWSLETTER

Golf Classic Information

Come along with us as we tee up for an incredible event that will support the individualized therapy programs that we have here at Cooper Ridge!



Swing To Support

Supporting or attending our golf tournament is more than just a day on the course. It's an opportunity to make a meaningful impact in many ways. Every swing, sponsorship, and shared moment helps us continue providing enriching programs, caring for our animals, and creating a space where connection, growth, and community thrive.

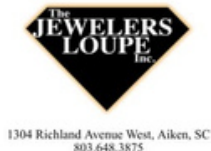
Whether you join us to play, volunteer, or cheer others on, you're helping drive our mission forward while enjoying a fun and memorable day with friends!

We Need Sponsors!

We are looking for business sponsors to partner with us for this exciting event. All proceeds from the golf classic will directly support our programs and the incredible participants who benefit from them.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in partnering with us, please send us their information, or share this link with them for more information: <https://cooperridgefarm.org/golf-tournament-2026>

Our Sponsors:



Golf Classic Info

Months Until
The Golf Classic:

7



Tickets/ Sponsors

<https://cooperridgefarm.betterworld.org/events/1st-annual-cooper-ridge-farm-gol>



May 2026

NEWSLETTER

Meet The Team



Participant Spotlight: Aidan M.

Meet Aidan! He is a seasoned veteran, having been coming to the farm for years! He even worked with us as a farmhand for a little over a year. Aidan's favorite things at the farm are grooming Jenny and the pigs. He also loves tackling farm chores throughout his session.

Animal Partner: Charlie

Meet Charlie! This 12–13 year-old pot-bellied pig is the leader of his group. As he's gotten older, Charlie has become more social, often the first to wander over for a cozy belly rub on a blanket. He's also found his voice over the years and is usually the loudest (and highest-pitched) when it's time to beg for dinner.



Volunteer Spotlight: Kristyna A.

Meet Kristyna! She has been volunteering with us for 8 months and brings an infectious smile to the farm every time she visits, spreading joy and laughter wherever she goes. Kristyna is an incredible resource, sharing her extensive knowledge of animal health with both our team and participants. She's channeling that passion into her future career, working toward becoming a veterinarian. We are so proud of her dedication to her studies and can't wait to continue cheering her on in all she accomplishes.



Upcoming Events

May 9
Upside of Downs
10:00–12:00

May 14
CFCSRA Non-Profit
Summit

May 18
Summer Program
Registration

May 25–29
Farm Closed

June 1
Summer Program
Begins

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[RidgeFarm](#)

 cooperridgefarm.org

