Cooper Ridge

THE BARNYARD BULLETIN

November 2026



October Recap

October was full of cozy moments and exciting things happening around Cooper Ridge Farm!

We enjoyed the cooler weather, spent extra time snuggling with our beloved animal partners, and hosted our *Name That Chick* fundraiser, raising an amazing **$234** thanks to your generosity!

Behind the scenes, we also continued preparing for our upcoming Family Fun Day, Santa Drop-In Event, and Cooper Ridge Farm Golf Classic. We're so grateful for our wonderful community and can't wait to share all the exciting things ahead!

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"Adopt" An Animal

Know someone who loves animals? Give a gift with a purpose! Symbolically adopt one of our beloved animal partners at Cooper Ridge Farm! Every dollar raised goes right back into supporting our mission and helping us care for the incredible animals who make our programs so special. Give the gift of connection, compassion, and a little farmyard love! **Animal Adoptions**

https://www.facebook.com/CooperRidgeFarm

https://cooperridgefarm.org/

https://shorturl.at/zSiL1

November 2026 NEWSLETTER

What's Happening at Cooper Ridge?

Looking Ahead

We're preparing for a busy month filled with exciting events and special moments here at Cooper Ridge Farm! As the weather continues to cool down, we're looking forward to enjoying the crisp fall air, spending time with our animal partners, and making the most of this beautiful season on the farm.

We're also wrapping up our current speech services and want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. K for the time, care, and dedication she has shared with our participants. We're incredibly grateful for the progress and meaningful connections made through these sessions, and we hope to have another opportunity to offer her speech services in the future.

As we head into the holiday season, we're reminded of just how thankful we are for our wonderful Cooper Ridge community. Your continued support helps us grow, provide meaningful experiences, and make a lasting impact every day. We look forward to a wonderful November filled with connection, compassion, and plenty of farmyard fun!

Mark Your Calendars!

Family Fun Day

Our annual Family Fun Day will take place on November 7! This special event gives our farm families the chance to spend a fun-filled day together enjoying delicious food, games, activities, and making lasting memories on the farm.

Santa Drop-In

Santa is coming to the farm! Join us for a sensory friendly event on November 28 for our Santa Drop-In Event! This special event offers a relaxed, welcoming environment for individuals of all abilities to visit with Santa, enjoy a little holiday magic, and make special memories at the farm.

Golf Classic

On November 30th, we'll host our first-ever Golf Classic, a fundraiser supporting our programs and our upcoming expansion. This exciting event will not only help raise critical funds but also introduce more members of our community to the life-changing work happening at Cooper Ridge Farm.

Success Story

Sometimes, the most meaningful connections are formed without saying a single word. That is exactly what has happened between Qiwi and one of our participants! Qiwi and her special friend have developed a beautiful bond built on trust, comfort, and companionship. They love spending time together and have created a mutually safe space where they can relax, unwind, and simply enjoy each other's presence. A beautiful reminder that sometimes the best connections don't need words, just a little love and understanding.

"The greatness of animals is that they are just themselves."
Alice Walker

Did you know?
Cows have a great memory and can remember where things are, such as water and shelter!

How Can I Help?

Donate Now!

https://cooperridgefarm.org/donate

Corporate Sponsorships

https://cooperridgefarm.org/corporate-opportunities

Amazon Wishlist

https://shorturl.at/zSiL1

November 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!



Animal Behavior–What Our Herd Is Telling Us

One of the most common questions we hear at the farm is, "Why is that animal doing that?" We're going to explore some of the natural behaviors of cows, donkeys, and goats (also known as the herd), and how understanding those behaviors helps us create meaningful, safe, and respectful interactions during our sessions.

Cows

Cows are intelligent, social animals that form strong bonds and communicate through body language. They're naturally observant and use their surroundings to determine when they feel safe. For example, Penny Girl is much braver around people when her best friend, Qiwi, is nearby! During our therapy sessions, these interactions help participants practice patience, observation, and respecting the boundaries of another living being.

Donkeys

One of the biggest myths about donkeys is that they're stubborn, when in reality, they're thoughtful and observant. They take time to build trust and form strong bonds, like our donkeys, Oliver and Diego, who are rarely seen apart! Donkeys can also be sensitive to loud noises, fast movements, and new experiences, teaching our participants patience, self-control, and emotional regulation. Through these interactions, participants learn that slowing down and respecting an animal's boundaries can build trust.

Goats

Goats are naturally curious, playful, and social animals with unique personalities and herd dynamics. At Cooper Ridge, Zeus is the king of the goat herd, with Snowball and Nugget following his lead. Their individual personalities and behaviors create wonderful opportunities for participants to build confidence, practice problem-solving, and learn self-control. Goats also communicate through body language, such as raised hackles, which can signal excitement, stress or agitation. By learning to recognize these cues, participants practice emotional regulation, patience, and respecting an animal's boundaries. And with curious goats like Marybelle, there's never a dull moment!

Why Animal Behavior Matters

One of the most important things we teach at Cooper Ridge is that every behavior has meaning. Animals are always communicating with us. Instead of asking, "How do I get the animal to do what I want?" we encourage participants to ask, "What is this animal trying to tell me?" They can be incredible teachers to stop and listen to something that might not even be using words to communicate. Taking that lesson into the world can help build empathy with other human beings. Learning to recognize when an animal wants interaction, needs space, feels curious, or is simply resting teaches valuable life skills that extend far beyond the farm.

Podcast Link

Spotify:

https://shorturl.at/0XO2O

Apple:

https://shorturl.at/EiqAN





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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!



The Countdown Is On!

We are so close to our first ever Golf Classic and we're looking forward to a fantastic day on the greens! There's still time to be part of the fun, and we still have golfer spots available! Gather your friends, sign up your team, and join us for a day of friendly competition, memories, and making a difference. Every swing helps support our mission of connecting, nurturing, and healing individuals of all abilities through the human-animal bond. We can't wait to see you there!

Thank You Sponsors!

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Golf Classic Info

Days Until The Golf Classic:

25



Tickets/ Sponsors

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

November 2026 NEWSLETTER

Meet The Team



Participant Spotlight: Gabe

Meet Gabe! He recently joined us at Cooper Ridge Farm! He has fit right in and is already making special connections around the farm. His favorite animals are the dogs, and he especially loves spending time visiting all of our animal friends. We're so happy to have Gabe as part of our Cooper Ridge family and look forward to watching him continue to grow, learn, and make memories with us!

Animal Partners: Quinley

Meet Quinley! She is the mom to Qandy and the half sister to Qiwi. She actually came to Cooper Ridge after Qandy got here, and right when she got off the trailer, she immediately went back to her "mom" role of caring for her baby. Quinley is a quiet presence at the farm, and can often be found in the herd, snuggling up with Qandy or laying out in the sun!





Volunteer Spotlight: Brooks Kramer

Meet Brooks! He has been a wonderful part of the Cooper Ridge family, volunteering with us for multiple programs now. As a speech student at Augusta University, he brings enthusiasm, patience, and a willingness to jump in wherever he is needed. Whether he's helping with activities, lending an extra hand, or spending time with our participants, Brooks is always ready to help and does a fantastic job connecting with participants of all abilities! We are so grateful for volunteers like Brooks who share their time, talents, and hearts with our farm family. Thank you, Brooks, for being such a wonderful part of what makes Cooper Ridge special!



Upcoming Events

- **November 5-6** Farm Closed
- **November 7** Family Fun Day
- **November 16** Winter Registration
- **November 23-27** Farm Closed
- **November 28** Santa Drop-In
- **November 30** Golf Classic

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