



THE BARNYARD BULLETIN

October 2026

September Recap

September flew by, bringing lots of farm fun and exciting new beginnings! We kicked off our Fall Program, welcomed new participants, and were thrilled to welcome school groups back to the farm for hands-on learning, animal interactions, and meaningful experiences.

We also held an inventory cleanout sale, and thanks to your support, we were able to make room for some exciting new merchandise coming soon!

Meanwhile, our golf committee was hard at work securing amazing donations and sponsors for our upcoming golf tournament. We are so grateful for everyone who continues to support our mission and help make these special experiences possible.

What a wonderful month it has been at Cooper Ridge Farm!



Name That Chick Fundraiser! October 4-11

Help us give our newest feathered friends their forever names! During this week-long fundraiser, you can submit the name of your choice for just \$5 per entry. At the end of the fundraiser, the name with the most entries for each chick will officially become that chick's name! Check out our Facebook page for more information!



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<https://www.facebook.com/CooperRidgeFarm>



<https://cooperridgefarm.org/>



<https://shorturl.at/zSiL1>



October 2026

NEWSLETTER

What's Happening at Cooper Ridge?

Looking Ahead

October is here, and we are looking forward to a month filled with fun, excitement, and plenty of special memories! Our team is busy planning and putting the finishing touches on two of our biggest upcoming events: Family Fun Day and our Golf Classic. We are working hard behind the scenes to make both events a success!

With cooler weather finally approaching, our animal partners are loving life on the farm! The refreshing temperatures give them more time to relax and enjoy the outdoors, which means even more opportunities for us to spend quality time with them.

We have also kicked off rehearsals for our live animal demonstrations at Family Fun Day! A few of our participants will have the exciting opportunity to showcase some of the amazing skills and activities they have been working on during their sessions. We can't wait for everyone to see all the wonderful things happening at Cooper Ridge Farm!

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.

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.

Volunteers Needed!

We need YOUR help to make both of these events a success! Whether you can lend a hand with setup, help guests sign in, hand out prizes, or assist with anything in between, we would love to have you join us! Every helping hand makes a difference, and we are so grateful for our amazing community of supporters.

If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to us at friends@cooperridgefarm.org. We can't wait to work alongside you!

Success Story

One of the most rewarding parts of what we do is watching our participants find their voice and grow in confidence. One of our participants who once struggled to verbalize his thoughts and communicate his needs has made incredible progress! He now helps us understand what he needs! We are so proud of the growth he has shown and look forward to seeing him continue to build his confidence and communication skills. Every new word and every moment of self-expression is a reminder of the power of patience, encouragement, and the human-animal bond.

"No one loves you as unconditionally as your beloved pet."
—Cynthia Dobesh

Did you know?
Geese have a special oil gland near their tail that they rub on their feathers that make them "waterproof".

How Can I Help?

Donate Now!



<https://cooperridgefarm.org/donate>

Corporate Sponsorships



<https://cooperridgefarm.org/corporate-opportunities>



Amazon Wishlist

<https://shorturl.at/zSiL1>



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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!**



We're Expanding!

You may have heard us talk about our "other property" or the plans for our expansion via talking with us at the farm, social media or through our podcast. Below are some details explaining what is coming in the growth of Cooper Ridge.

Project Development Phases

Phase 1: Focuses on improving accessibility, safety, and infrastructure to support animal interactions and nature-based programming for individuals of all abilities. This includes lower pasture fencing, animal shelters, pond access improvements, water pump system to provide water to the animals, accessibility infrastructure, and covered areas for programming including a small metal building with 2 lean to overhangs providing protection for the weather.

Phase 2: Prepares the upper portion of the property for agricultural and educational use. This phase includes constructing a road to the upper section of the property for the development of program facilities (therapy/teaching barn) and expanded community programming areas. The area will also be developed with fenced pastures for livestock management and hands-on learning. In addition, a new well will be drilled to provide a reliable water source for the barn, animals, and surrounding pasture areas.

Phase 3: This phase includes installing predator-proof perimeter fencing around the upper property to ensure the safety and security of animals and facilities. In addition, sections of the forested area will be selectively cleared and marked to create a network of trails. These trails will support nature-based educational programs, allowing students and visitors to explore the forest ecosystem while learning about conservation, wildlife habitats, and sustainable land stewardship.

We're also proud to announce that in August 2026 Cooper Ridge was awarded a \$50,000 grant by Georgia Rehabilitation Institute in support of Phase 1 of the expansion. This is the first step in starting our next chapter and we look forward to sharing it with all of you.

Podcast Link

Spotify:

<https://shorturl.at/OXO2O>

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!



Spots Still Available!

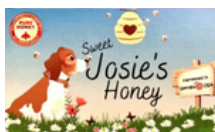
Register your team today and join us for a day of fun while making a positive impact!

What does your registration include?

- Player gifts
- Lunch & beverages
- On-course games and contests
- Access to raffles and a silent auction

Every team registration and sponsorship directly supports Cooper Ridge Farm by helping fund our programs and our expansion to a new property. Your participation makes it possible for us to continue providing meaningful animal-assisted services to those we serve.

Thank You Sponsors!



1304 Richland Avenue West, Aiken, SC
803.648.3875



Brad Rosenberg, CFP®, APMA™
Financial Advisor | Certified Financial Planner
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Golf Classic Info

Days Until The
Golf Classic:

60



Tickets/ Sponsors

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



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NEWSLETTER

Meet The Team



Participant Spotlight: Utley

Meet Utley! He has been coming to the farm for a couple of years and has grown so much during that time. He loves spending time with the animals, especially giving each and every animal their own snack. He loves to explore and is always ready and willing to try new things! We love when Utley comes to the farm and spreads his joy around to everyone (and animal) here!

Animal Partners: The Goose Troop

Meet the geese, also known as The Goose Troop! They are our farm's alarm system, always letting us know when something happens. They can also be found hanging around Charlie, one of our pot-bellied pigs, and have also been named "Charlie's Angels". They love to listen to Luke Bryan and often come over to us when they hear music playing.



Volunteer Spotlight: Michelle Humphries

Meet Michelle! She has been volunteering with us for many years and is always willing to lend a helping hand wherever she is needed. Even with a farm of her own to care for, she still makes time in her busy schedule to come out and volunteer with us! Michelle is also the wonderful donor of our beloved donkeys, Oliver and Diego, and she never misses an opportunity to visit them when she comes to the farm. We are so incredibly grateful for Michelle, her generous heart, and her willingness to jump in and help with whatever needs to be done. She always shows up with a smile on her face and a heart ready to serve, and we are so lucky to have her as part of our Cooper Ridge Farm family!



Upcoming Events

October 4-14
Name That Chick
Fundraiser

November 5-6
Farm Closed

November 7
Family Fun Day

November 30
Golf Classic



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