



THE BARNYARD BULLETIN

September 2026

August Recap

August may have flown by, but there was no shortage of fun around the farm! We wrapped up our Summer Program and took a little time to catch our breath, give the animals some extra attention, and get ready for our Fall Program kicking off in early September!

Safety is always part of our farm routine, so the Cooper Ridge crew also renewed their CPR certifications to help keep our participants, volunteers, staff, and animal partners safe and healthy.

With many of our school-aged participants heading back to school, we've also been busy in the planning barn, preparing for a full lineup of fall events and activities.

Summer may be winding down, but we're already kicking up our heels for fall and crossing our fingers for cooler weather!



Inventory Clean Out!

It's time to clear the barn shelves and make room for some new Cooper Ridge merchandise! From September 8-18, shop our special online inventory clean out sale!

Local pickup: September 19 at our new property!

Grab your favorites before they're gone because we need to make room for what's coming next!

[Inventory Clean Out Link](#)



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



<https://cooperridgefarm.org/>



<https://shorturl.at/zSiL1>



September 2026

NEWSLETTER

What's Happening at Cooper Ridge?

Looking Ahead

September is bringing a fresh season of growth to Cooper Ridge Farm! We're kicking off our Fall Program, welcoming school groups back to the farm, and spending plenty of time learning, growing, and making memories with our animal partners. As we cross our fingers for cooler weather, we're looking forward to more time outdoors, fall farm activities, and all the fun that comes with a new season at the farm. There's always something growing at Cooper Ridge...and this month is no exception!

Mark Your Calendars!

Fall is our busiest time of the year, so make sure to mark your calendars for some very important upcoming events!

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! It's a fun and interactive way to support the farm while becoming part of our newest animal partners' story. Stay tuned to our social media for more information!

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.

Success Story

Sometimes, the most meaningful connections grow in the most unexpected ways, and this month's success story is proud of that! Two of our participants came to Cooper Ridge Farm with challenges surrounding social skills and building connections with others, but have built a friendship during their time spent together at the farm. Whether they're working side-by-side in the garden, playing a game, caring for the animals, or simply enjoying each other's company in a peaceful setting, these two have discovered that the farm is a place where they can connect. Their friendship has created opportunities to practice communication, cooperation, turn-taking, and problem-solving in a natural and meaningful way. What started as two participants sharing a session has blossomed into a friendship, and it's a beautiful reminder that sometimes the greatest growth happens when we simply give people a place to belong and a chance.

"Training often fails because people expect way too much of the animal & way too little of themselves."
-Bob Bailey

Did you know?
Pigs are very social! They prefer to live in groups, recognize each other, and sleep nose-to-nose!

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!**



Training With A Purpose

At Cooper Ridge, animal training isn't just about teaching our animal partners a new cue. It's about building trust, providing enrichment, and helping them feel comfortable participating in their own care!

How We Train Our Animal Partners

Many of our animals participate in touch training, where they learn to target or touch a specific object or hand with their nose, head or foot. This simple skill can be incredibly useful when we need to safely and calmly examine an animal, move them to a different area, or complete routine health checks.

Our chickens learn through clicker training, which uses positive reinforcement to help them understand exactly which behaviors earn a reward. It provides mental stimulation, encourages problem-solving, and gives our chickens an opportunity to actively participate in their environment.

Our bunnies practice stand training, teaching them to calmly stand in a specific position. While it may look simple, this skill can make routine care, such as grooming, nail trims, and health checks, much easier and less stressful for both the bunny and the humans caring for them.

The Purpose of Training

The skills we teach serve a real purpose! Training becomes a form of enrichment that can also prepare our animal partners for veterinary visits, grooming, handling, and everyday care. Instead of simply asking an animal to tolerate these experiences, we can teach them skills that allow them to participate more willingly and confidently.

For us, training is all about choice, trust, and positive experiences. When our animal partners learn that working with their humans can be fun and rewarding, something as ordinary as a health check can become another opportunity to build their bond with us.

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!



West Lake Country Club
November 30, 2026

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.

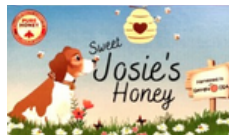
We Need You!

The Cooper Ridge Farm Golf Classic is quickly approaching, and we need you! We're actively looking for sponsors, volunteers, and donated items, and every contribution makes a difference. There's still time to get involved, but we need your support now to make this event a success!

Thank You Sponsors!



1304 Richland Avenue West, Aiken, SC
803.648.3875



Waves of Care, LLC

Signarama



Golf Classic Info

Days Until The
Golf Classic:

90



**Tickets/
Sponsors**

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



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NEWSLETTER

Meet The Team



Participant Spotlight: Jake

Meet Jake! He has an incredible memory for animals and can name just about any animal he's learned about. His favorites at the farm are the pigs and baby chicks, but his curiosity doesn't stop there! Jake loves learning about new animals from around the farm and around the world, and he's even fascinated by prehistoric and mythological creatures!

Animal Partner: Pumpkin

Meet Pumpkin! She is our youngest pig, first coming to us as just a little piglet, and is always on the move. But don't let that sweet, innocent face fool you...Pumpkin can be a troublemaker! We've caught her more than once purposefully trying to "annoy" the other pigs. And yet, for all her mischievous ways, Pumpkin has a soft side. You can almost always find her snuggled up with her brother, Earl.



Board Member Spotlight: Justin Fuller

Meet Justin, the man behind the scenes of Cooper Ridge. Whether he's putting up new fencing, building animal housing, maintaining the pastures, or fixing farm equipment, signs of Justin are everywhere on the farm.

Justin single-handedly saves Cooper Ridge thousands of dollars each year by taking on countless projects himself rather than hiring contractors. But his talents don't stop there. He also provides basic medical care for our animal partners, including the specialized care needed by our goat, Zeus. He even keeps everyone's hooves trimmed too!

There's nothing Justin loves more than learning a new skill and figuring out how to get the job done. He's always willing to tackle whatever challenge comes his way—and he never wants to be in the spotlight. But this time, Justin, we got you! We're shining the spotlight on the man who does so much behind the scenes to keep Cooper Ridge running. Thank you, Justin, for all that you do!



Upcoming Events

**August 24– Sept 7
Farm Closed**

**September 8
Fall Program Begins**

**September 8–18
Inventory Sale**

**September 19
Sale Pickup Day**

**October 4–14
Name That Chick
Fundraiser**



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