

CENTENNIAL FARM AT THE OC FAIRGROUNDS

MEDIA GUIDE



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MEDIA GUIDE

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CONTACT INFORMATION

For Media/Press

OC Fair & Event Center Communications Department

commdept@ocfair.com

(714) 708-1543

Press Releases: ocfair.com/newsroom

Photos: ocfair.com/centennial-farm/photos-and-videos/

For the General Public

ocfair.com/centennialfarm

centennialfarm@ocfair.com

(714) 708-1619

Facebook.com/centennialfarmoc

Instagram.com/centennialfarmoc

For Donations

Centennial Farm Foundation (a 501(c)3 non-profit organization)

(714) 708-1618

PUBLIC HOURS & ADMISSION

January-June and September-December

Open 1-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays & Sundays

Closed on holidays and all-grounds events; extended hours available some weeks.

See ocfair.com/centennial-farm/calendar-hours for updates.

Free admission and parking

July-August

Open during OC Fair hours

Free with OC Fair admission, \$10 parking

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ABOUT CENTENNIAL FARM

Created in 1989, Centennial Farm is a three-acre working farm at the OC Fair & Event Center that is designed to educate youth about agriculture and its importance to daily life. The Farm is home to fruit and vegetable gardens, livestock and Millennium Barn. Through the on-site educational programs and free public hours, the Farm welcomes more than 100,000 guests a year outside the Fair season.

Millennium Barn

Opened in 2000, this 76-foot-long, 60-foot-wide and 47-foot-tall red barn is the landmark building of the Centennial Farm. The 4,680-square-foot educational working barn includes a milking parlor, exhibit and demonstration areas, horse stalls, tack room, veterinary room and hay lofts. During school tours and the annual OC Fair and Imaginology events, the barn is the location for live cow milking demonstrations and agriculture-based exhibits and demonstrations. The barn is also a popular venue for private events including weddings and dinners.



Gardens

A variety of seasonal crops are continually growing in raised garden beds including broccoli, carrots, lettuce, cucumbers, radish, corn, grapes, sweet peas, squash, zucchini, basil, lavender, thyme, oranges, bananas and rare fruits. Harvested vegetables, fruit and herbs are available for taking from the produce bin outside the Silo Building for a cash donation. Guests are discouraged from picking crops directly from the beds or trees.



In partnership with Mesa Water District, a water-wise garden is available for guests to see a variety of plants native to the region that are low-water options for beautiful landscapes and décor.

Animals / Livestock

The feathered, furry and hooved residents of the Centennial Farm are the most popular “attractions” throughout the year. The Farm generally has pigs, goats, sheep, cows, chickens, rabbits and oxen. During school tours and the annual OC Fair and Imaginology events, guests can also interact with baby chicks and throughout the year there will be a litter or two of piglets onsite. Guests are discouraged from climbing into pens or reaching too far into pens to pet, touch or feed the animals.



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Hoss & Howie – The Farm’s Oxen Team

The Farm’s current oxen team, Hoss & Howie, is American Milking Devon cattle from Larkspur, Colorado. They were born in 2013 and joined Centennial Farm in 2016. American Milking Devon was the first purebred cattle in the U.S. and the favorite of President George Washington. American Milking Devon cattle average 1,100-1,600 pounds in weight, have coats that range from light to dark ruby red in color and don white horns with black tips. Hoss and Howie were a part of a 10-year conservancy breeding program that has produced more than 60 head of cattle in order to sustain the historic breed. As part of their permanent residency at Centennial Farm, Hoss and Howie will be featured as the Farm’s oxen team, educating the public about oxen through demonstrations during onsite school tours and at the annual OC Fair and Imaginology events.



School Tours

From September to June, the Centennial Farm hosts free school tours for local school and youth groups through two diverse programs. Both programs require pre-registration online.

Junior Farmer Tour (Grades Kindergarten to 3rd, Ages 5-9)
Guided 1.5-hour Group Tour
Weekdays 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Discovery Days (All Grades & Ages)
Self-Guided 3-Hour Period (Select Days, 9 a.m.-Noon)
Farm volunteers are stationed at various areas throughout the Farm.



The Ranch After School Program

Started in 2003, The Ranch is a free, 21-week afterschool program for select 4th, 5th and 6th graders from local elementary schools. Each week the schoolchildren participate in specially focused activities on livestock, gardening and other agriculture-based lessons.



Centennial Farm Foundation

Formed in 1991, the Foundation solicits, accumulates and distributes funds to operate Centennial Farm and other agriculturally and youth-related education programs and exhibits of the OC Fair & Event Center. The Foundation also works with community volunteers and the OC Fair & Event Center management and staff to support the planning, development and operations of the Farm.

Docents & Volunteers

Most of the Centennial Farm’s programs (tour days and oxen demonstrations) would not be possible without the support of docents and volunteers. Volunteers receive training prior to working on the Farm. For information on becoming a volunteer, email centennialfarm@ocfair.com.

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HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1989 Centennial Farm is founded.
- 1991 Centennial Farm Foundation is formed to fundraise for programming at the Farm and the OC Fair & Event Center.
- 1996 Centennial Farm's first oxen team, Bill & Bob, arrive from Missouri.
- 2000 Millennium Barn opens for use.
- 2003 The Ranch After School Program is started in a partnership with the Davis Education Center and the City of Costa Mesa.
- 2007 The Centennial Farm's new oxen team Freckles & Patches arrive from New Hampshire.
- 2014 Centennial Farm celebrates 25 years with a free public party at the Farm.
- 2016 Hoss & Howie, an American Milking Devon oxen team from Colorado, join the Farm.
- 2019 Centennial Farm celebrates 30 years with a free public party at the Farm.

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PHOTOS

Animals

The Farm generally has pigs, goats, sheep, cows, chickens, rabbits and oxen. Guests are discouraged from climbing into pens or reaching too far into pens to pet, touch or feed the animals.



Young Chickens (Chicks)



Young Pigs (Piglets)



Dairy Cow



Young Goat (Kid)



Rabbits



Sheep



Angora Goat



Hoss & Howie – Centennial Farm's Oxen Team



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Gardens

A variety of seasonal crops are continually growing in elevated garden beds including succulents, vegetables, herbs and fruits. The Farm's gardens highlight a large number of California specialty crops. Guests are discouraged from picking crops directly from the beds or trees.



Three acres of crop beds with seasonal items growing daily.



Rows of lettuce capture the afternoon sun.



Lavender and other herbs are grown year-round.



A growing tomato in a special cage are on display for guests.



Succulents of various shapes and types showcase low-water gardening options.



Colorful carrots fresh from the Farm in the produce bin for a donation.



The water-wise garden provided by Mesa Water District.



Colorful flowers fill a garden bed.



Colorful corn is ready for guests in the produce bin.

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School Tours

From September to June, the Centennial Farm hosts free school tours for local school and youth groups through the Jr. Farmer Tours and Discovery Days.



A volunteer Jr. Farmer Tour guide leads local schoolchildren through the gardens.



A young guest is delighted to meet a chick during the chick petting learning experience of the Jr. Farmer Tours.



Tour participants carefully measure soil during the radish seeding planting activity of a Jr. Farmer Tour.

The Ranch After School Program

The Ranch is a free, 22-week afterschool program for select 4th, 5th and 6th graders from local elementary schools.



Participants of The Ranch program proudly show their prize ribbons.



Two young participants of The Ranch hold produce from their class garden.



A young Ranch participant gets to work on cleaning livestock pens.

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OC FAIR & EVENT CENTER MEDIA GUIDELINES

The following guidelines apply to the Centennial Farm and any administrative/organizational functions regarding the OC Fair & Event Center (32nd District Agricultural Association) and are to be observed at all times. Events held at Centennial Farm by an outside promoter are at the discretion of that promoter.

These guidelines have been established for the safety and comfort of our guests, staff and volunteers.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Media Escort Required

All media representatives with video and/or TV, photo or radio equipment must be escorted by an assigned representative of the OC Fair & Event Center's Communications Department at all times while on the OC Fair & Event Center property. Unescorted access will only be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Communications Department. Please contact the department at least one work day in advance to setup your visit.

Permitted Areas for Media

All photo/video/TV media representatives are to remain in general public areas and are not allowed in any restricted, staff-only or special ticketed areas. Exceptions are for pre-authorized special permission and/or by escort by the Communications Department.

Photo & Film

Taping, filming and photographing in the Centennial Farm is only allowed with special permission from the Communications Department.

Interviews

Media Representatives may interview Centennial Farm and OC Fair & Event Center staff and volunteers only with pre-consent of the Communications Department and the staff member/volunteer. Please contact the department to setup an interview time.

Guests/Public

Media representatives and all associated production activities should not inconvenience Centennial Farm attendees or regular business activities in any way by blocking access or filming an individual without consent.

Press passes are for working media only and any member of the media found using press passes for non-working access will have their privileges revoked.

The OC Fair & Event Center reserves the right to deny access to anyone who does not respect and comply with these guidelines.