



# Family Day at the Ranch

Created by Rebecca Been for the Kern County CattleWomen  
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Due to the distance of our family's cattle ranch to Bakersfield, we can't have bus field trips to the ranch. Instead we have hosted a family day at the ranch each year. Students and their families are invited to join us on a Saturday for a fun day of getting to know each other and learning about ranch life.

## **Sample Schedule:** Kindergarten

10:00 - 10:20 Families arrive at the ranch and play on the lawn

Things to Play: roping dummy, plastic horseshoes, stick horses, various balls, sidewalk chalk

10:20 - 11:10 Split into two groups - families stay together

Group 1 - Visit the Horses

Learn about horse body parts and breeds

Watch how to saddle a horse

Take pictures on horse (with ranch cowboy hat)

Group 2 - Visit the Farm Animals

Feed the baby animals and others

Quick info about each animal

Each group spends about 20-25 minutes at each location and then switches to the opposite location.

11:10 "See What the Cows See"

The kids walk through the corrals and chutes. Then we end up in the cattle scales.

We weigh the kids as a class, the parents, and a horse. The students guess which will be more / less. This also lends itself to great follow up math lessons in class.

12:00 - 2:30 Haywagon ride to the meadow for a beef barbecue

\*\*Depending on the size of the group, the parents and siblings may go on the first wagon, while the students stay behind and paint a horseshoe memorabilia or do an art project.

In the Meadow:

Meal - We provide the burgers/drinks/paper goods and ask each family to bring a side dish.

Activities - Horseshoes and Bubbles (it is windy, so the kids don't even have to blow)

Dessert - S'mores

2:00 Back to the ranch and head for home.

## **Sample Schedule:** Third Grade

Third grade is a similar schedule, however, instead of visiting the horses and farm animals, we go on a hike and talk about the local regions, natural resources, Native American history, and personal family history related to westward movement and gold rush.