

Barnyard Buddies Livestock Show

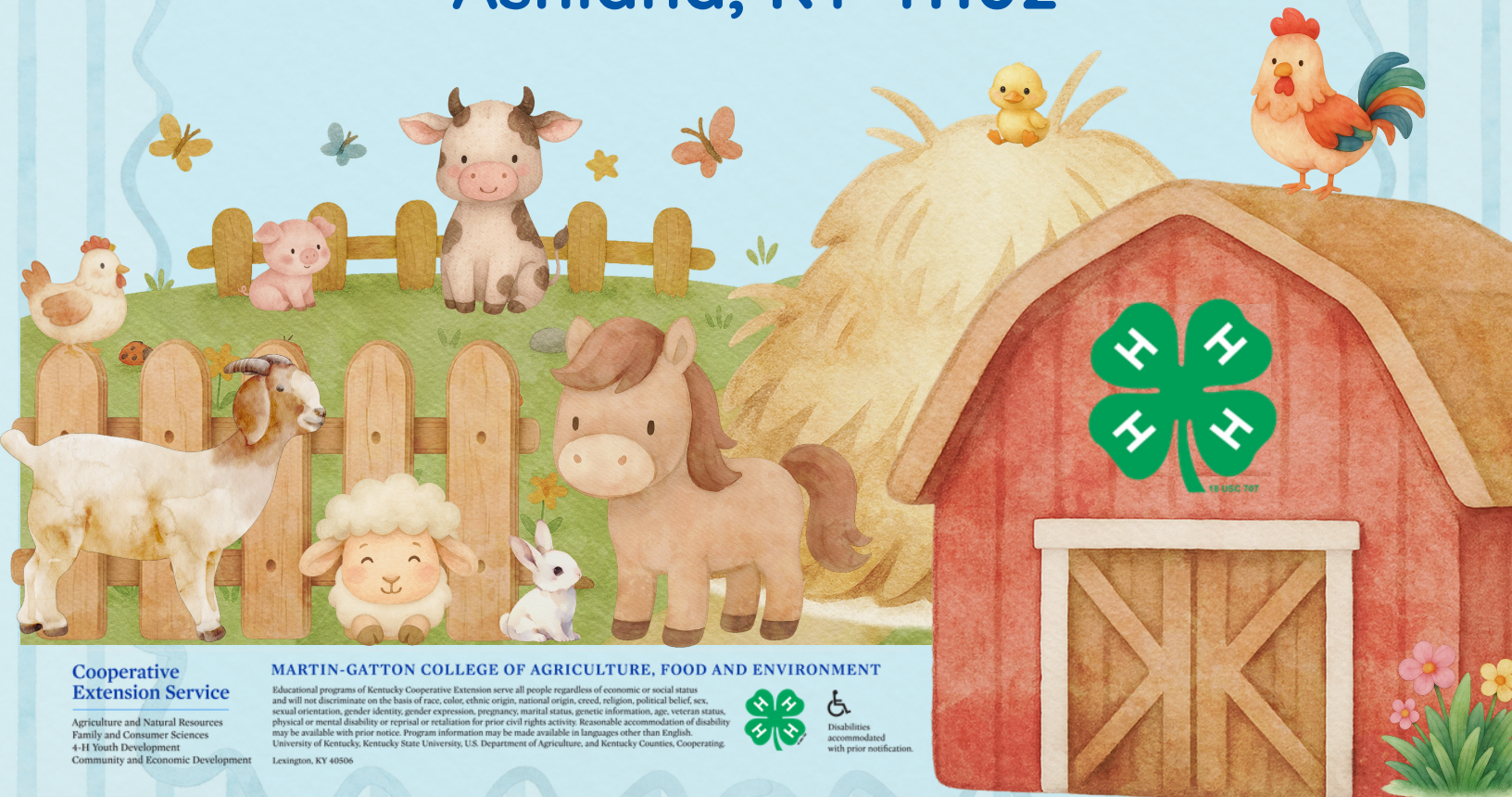


Tuesday, June 23

Boyd County Fairgrounds

1758 Addington Road

Ashland, KY 41102



Cooperative
Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Hello!

We are excited to offer the Barnyard Buddies Livestock Show, designed to give children with special needs the opportunity to experience showing livestock in a supportive, low-pressure environment. Our goal is to create a fun, encouraging experience where every participant feels comfortable, included, and proud.

How the show will run:

- Each participant will be paired with a 4-H member or volunteer (buddy) and a livestock animal.
- The buddy will stay with your child throughout the experience and assist as much as needed.
- Together they will enter the show ring and walk a short route similar to a traditional livestock show.
- The focus is on participation, confidence, and fun, not competition.

Meet the Animal & Grooming Time

Before the show begins, participants will have time to become familiar with their animal and buddy. During this time they may:

- Meet their assigned 4-H buddy
- Meet and spend time with the animal
- Help brush or groom the animal if they would like
- Ask questions and take pictures

This relaxed time allows children to become comfortable with both the animal and their buddy before entering the show ring.

Animals

Participants may be paired with animals such as:

- Sheep
- Goats
- Rabbits
- Chickens
- And other friendly animals that are available

All animals will be handled by experienced 4-H members and are accustomed to being around people.

Level of Participation

Children may participate at whatever level feels comfortable for them. For example:

- Walking beside the animal
- Helping hold the lead rope
- Standing with the buddy and animal
- Observing up close

There is no pressure to complete the entire activity, and children may step out at any time if they need a break.

Environment & Sensory Considerations

A livestock show environment can include a variety of sensory experiences. These may include:

- Animal sounds (bleating, squealing, mooing)
- Barn and livestock smells
- Announcements or music over loudspeakers
- Applause or crowd noise
- Dirt, sawdust, or uneven ground in the show ring

If your child benefits from supports such as noise-canceling headphones, sensory tools, or comfort items, please feel free to bring them.

Support and Safety

- 4-H buddies will guide and assist participants throughout the activity.
- Parents or guardians are welcome to stay close by or walk alongside if needed.
- Safety of both participants and animals is our top priority.

Recognition

Every participant will receive special recognition and a ribbon to celebrate their participation.

Helping Us Support Your Child

When registering, please let us know:

- Any sensory sensitivities
- Mobility considerations
- Communication preferences
- If your child prefers a certain type of animal
- Anything that helps your child feel comfortable in new environments

This information helps us match your child with the best possible buddy and animal so that they can have a positive and enjoyable experience.

Our goal is to make this a fun, supportive, and memorable day for every participant.

If you have questions or would like to discuss whether this activity would be a good fit for your child, please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to sharing this special experience with your family.