

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CHILDREN'S FARM

Children who live in the suburbs know about farm animals from books they read at the library and at school. And they often observe animals from afar when passing by a farm.

During the 2006 Wild Western Prince William County Farm Tour on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1., children will have a chance to see, hear and touch and learn about animals including calves, sheep, goats, llamas, a potbelly pig and "barnyard" fowl such as ducks and chickens at the Prince William County Children's Farm next to the Prince William County Animal Shelter near Independent Hill.

Do cows really moo? Is oink-oink the sound a pig makes?

The animals at the Children's Farm are comfortable around children. They were hand-raised; many children and their families and school groups visit the Prince William Children's Farm each year; and the animals often appear at events where children may interact with them such as at the Prince William County Fair and Prince William Soil & Water Farm Conservation Service's annual Farm Field Days.

The name of each animal at the Prince William County Children's Farm is easy for kids to remember, according to Suzette Kapp, an animal caretaker with the county's animal control bureau who manages the children's farm operation. For example, they can meet Peppermint and Valentine.

Those who are interested in domestic animals may also check out the county animal shelter, which will be open on Saturday, Sept. 30, during the 2006 Farm Tour, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Prince William County Children's Farm, at 14807 Bristow Road, can be reached at 703-792-6465.

