Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

INFORMATION BOOKLET

RURAL DISCOVERY DAY



Foundation - 6

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

This excursion information booklet has been developed to assist educators in completing school excursion consent forms and risk assessments. It provides important details regarding proposed activities, day schedules, teacher/educator supervision, transport, dress code, medical and personal information, and excursion costs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the representatives listed under 'Important Contacts'.

EXCURSION DETAILS

Event: Rural Discovery Day
Dates: Monday 19 – Friday 23 April 2027
Arrival: 9am - 9:30am
Departure: 2pm
Location: The Pavilion – Entry via Gate 5, 48A O'Connell Terrace, Bowen Hills, Brisbane Showgrounds



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Rural Discovery Day Enquiries

Naeve Kennedy | Competitions & Events Planner
NKennedy@rna.org.au

Education Content Enquiries

Emily Holden | Entertainment & Education Planner
EHolden@rna.org.au

RURAL DISCOVERY DAY WORKSHOPS

Rural Discovery Day includes six curriculum-aligned, immersive agricultural activities with accompanying classroom resources provided to support learning before and after the event.

**Please note these activations may be subject to change.



QLD Beef Up Close Workshop

Students will explore different cattle breeds, gain insights into farming practices, and enjoy hands-on opportunities to connect with the animals and the people in the industry.



Bees - Foundation of Agriculture Workshop

Students will discover the vital role bees play in pollination, sustainable honey production and healthy ecosystems. They'll meet working beekeepers, observe live (safely contained!) bees, explore their roles in the hive and taste delicious honey.



Butter Barn Workshop

Students will explore how milk from dairy cows is transformed into delicious dairy products through five interactive activities, before churning, shaping and creating their own fresh butter.



Funny Food Workshop

Students will explore food production, healthy eating and food waste, discovering the importance of reducing waste, making sustainable food choices and embracing imperfect fruit and vegetables.



Sheep Dog Mustering Workshop

Students will discover the important role working dogs play as skilled sheep dogs demonstrate their natural instincts, mustering sheep through exciting challenges and showcasing how farmers and their dogs work together to manage livestock.



Sugarcane Workshop

Students will explore the sweet journey of sugar, from paddock to packet-tasting, touching, and discovering how sugarcane is grown, processed, and reused. They'll learn how every part of the plant is valued and plant their own sugarcane.

RURAL DISCOVERY DAY SNEAK PEEK

Come with us on an exciting ag-venture! Our Ekka TV from the 2025 and 2024 Rural Discovery Day showcases the amazing, sensory opportunities for students at this excursion.
Please Note: the sessions change year on year!

Milking a Cow: Dairy & Cream Edition 🐄🥛✨



Students Build a Scarecrow 👩‍🌾



Students Learn About Agriculture / Ekka TV Rural Discovery Day



#2027EDU02

EXCURSION DAY SCHEDULE

Rural Discovery Day includes six curriculum-aligned, immersive agricultural activities.

Each activation has been thoughtfully designed to provide students with hands-on opportunities to engage, touch, smell, make, feel, and taste where appropriate. These experiences support key learning outcomes, helping students build strong connections between the importance of food and fibre and their everyday lives.

9:00AM - 9:30AM	30 MINS	BUS ARRIVAL
9:30AM - 9:45AM	15 MINS	SAFETY BRIEFING & INTRODUCTION
9:45AM - 10:15AM	30 MINS	SESSION ONE
10:15AM - 10:20AM	5 MINS	CHANGEOVER
10:20AM - 10:50AM	30 MINS	SESSION TWO
10:50AM - 11:10AM	20 MINS	MORNING TEA
11:10AM - 11:15AM	5 MINS	CHANGEOVER
11:15AM - 11:45AM	30 MINS	SESSION THREE
11:45AM - 11:50AM	5 MINS	CHANGEOVER
11:50AM - 12:20PM	30 MINS	SESSION FOUR
12:20PM - 12:50PM	30 MINS	LUNCH
12:50PM - 12:55PM	5 MINS	CHANGEOVER
12:55PM - 1:25PM	30 MINS	SESSION FIVE
1:25PM - 1:30PM	5 MINS	CHANGEOVER
1:30PM - 2:00PM	30 MINS	SESSION SIX
2:00PM	-	DAY CONCLUDES

Ekka-assigned Group Leaders will guide the movement of students between activations (during changeover), and a bell will signal the end of each session as well as all meal breaks.



TRANSPORT

Schools are required to organise their own transport. Buses will be able to drop off students via Gate 5, located at 48A O'Connell Terrace, Bowen Hills QLD.

Vehicles will be able to park onsite for the duration of the day with more details provided upon request.
Map: https://www.brisbaneshowgrounds.com.au/visitors/map/





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TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

While Ekka staff support the delivery of activities and assist with group coordination, **teachers remain responsible for student supervision at all times**.

To help ensure each school group's experience at Rural Discovery Day is safe, well-organised, and engaging, we kindly ask teachers to:

- **Accompany their allocated group** when moving between activity stations and support smooth transitions.
- **Monitor and support student behaviour and engagement** throughout all activity sessions.
- **Float between split groups**, if required, to maintain appropriate supervision.
- **Supervise students during recess and lunch breaks**, ensuring safety and appropriate conduct.

DRESS CODE & PRECAUTIONS

- **Uniform**: School or sports uniform recommended.
- **Footwear**: Closed-in shoes only.
- **Sun Safety:** Hats and sunscreen are required.
- **Food**: Students must bring their own lunch and water bottle. **No refrigeration available.**
- **Water Refill Stations**: Available at venue.
- **Valuables:** Students are discouraged from bringing unnecessary items. The Ekka takes no responsibility for lost property.



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SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) is committed to providing a safe environment for all participants. Rural Discovery Day operates under the RNA's comprehensive risk management framework and Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy.

Safety measures include:

- Dedicated event staff and volunteers
- Traffic management plans and supervised bus drop-off zones
- Temporary fencing and controlled access points
- Onsite security and CCTV monitoring
- Designated handwashing stations
- Regular site inspections and hazard checks
- Emergency management and evacuation procedures
- Blue Card compliance requirements for relevant personnel working with children

RISK ASSESSMENT

Rural Discovery Day is considered a **medium to low risk excursion**. Key risk controls include:

- **Animal Interaction:** All animals are supervised by trained handlers. Animals used are domesticated and comfortable with interaction.
- **Environmental Exposure:** Handwashing facilities are provided.
- **Biosecurity:** In line with Queensland Health directives, hand washing and sanitising is mandatory before and after animal contact.
- **Medical Emergencies:** A paramedic is onsite throughout the event.
- **Allergy Management**: Sessions may involve grains, hay, egg, soil, and animal allergens. Ensure students carry medication and avoid relevant triggers.

CHILD SAFETY

The RNA is committed to creating child-safe environments where children feel safe, respected and protected from harm. All personnel involved in child-related activities are required to comply with the RNA Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy.

Key child safety measures include:

- Blue Card screening where required
- Open and observable interactions with children
- Clearly defined supervision requirements
- Child-safe reporting procedures
- Staff and volunteer training relating to child safety responsibilities



ANIMAL CONTACT & BIOSECURITY

Several Rural Discovery Day activities involve interaction with agricultural animals and animal products. To minimise risk:

- Students must follow all instructions provided by presenters and teachers.
- Students must wash their hands after handling animals or related materials.
- Students must not enter animal enclosures unless instructed.
- Designated exclusion zones and barriers will be maintained around livestock displays.

All animal exhibitors are required to comply with RNA biosecurity requirements to protect animal welfare and minimise disease risk.
For school-based risk assessment templates, please refer to the CARA guidelines from Education Queensland: Animal Observation and Handing Guidelines

MEDICAL & PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Students with asthma, allergies, diabetes, or other medical conditions must bring any required medication (e.g. inhalers, EpiPens) and relevant Medical Action Plans in accordance with school requirements.
- Medical Action Plans should be shared with supervising teachers and relevant Ekka staff prior to attendance.
- Several activities involve interaction with agricultural products and environments, including animals, grains, hay, wool, dairy, soil, compost, bees, and food ingredients. Schools should assess any known allergies or sensitivities before attending.
- A qualified paramedic will be onsite throughout Rural Discovery Day to provide emergency medical support.
- Students must not share food and should only consume food packed by their parent/guardian or approved by their school.

In the event of illness or injury:

1. The student will be assessed by onsite medical personnel.
2. The student's teacher or supervising adult will be notified immediately.
3. Appropriate treatment or escalation will occur as required.
4. Parents or guardians may be contacted by the school where necessary.



ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

Rural Discovery Day aims to provide an inclusive learning experience for all students. The event is conducted on accessible pathways within the Brisbane Showgrounds, with access to toilet facilities and designated seating areas where required.

Schools are encouraged to notify the Rural Discovery Day team in advance of any students who may require additional support, including:

- Mobility requirements
- Medical conditions
- Sensory sensitivities
- Additional supervision needs
- Dietary or allergy considerations

The Rural Discovery Day team will work with schools wherever possible to ensure all students can safely participate in activities.

SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS

Each activity session is designed for groups of **50-60 students**, and we recommend that at least one teacher supervises each group. The Ekka Education Department coordinates all group allocations, and while we always aim to keep individual school groups together, **sessions may include students from multiple schools.**

Additional teachers are welcome to attend, and the final student–teacher ratio will be confirmed upon booking. Each activity session will also be supervised by at least one Ekka staff member, along with the educators delivering the activities.

While there are no specific educator-to-child ratios for excursions, the National Regulations require that minimum supervision needs are considered with respect to the age of the students and type of activity involved. If the activity conducted away from schools may increase risks, then the standard of care required must therefore reflect the increase in identified risks, causing the required ratios to be higher than the minimum.

Please refer to the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority Policy for further guidelines.



EXCURSIONS COSTS

Rural Discovery Day is **$21.95** per student. Entry for teachers/carers is free of charge.

The Ekka is not liable to give a refund or exchange the Ticket for cancellation of any reason. Once numbers have been confirmed and payment is received, no changes can be made to a booking.

For more information please contact our Event Planner Naeve Kennedy at nkennedy@royalqueenslandshow.com.au

Don't miss out! Complete your Expression of Interest today via www.ekka.com.au/education/rural-discovery-day/

Expressions of Interest Close on Friday 19 February at 4pm.



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ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

DISCOVER QUEENSLAND'S BIGGEST CLASSROOM

Join schools from across the state bringing learning to life through the Ekka experience.



Scan here to get involved!

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ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) is recognised for its excellence, over many years, by winning numerous awards at the International Fairs & Expos (IAFE) Awards.

IAFE has more than 1,000 members representing agricultural fairs from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

These awards represent the continued dedication the Ekka plays in bridging the country city divide, and educating the next generation on the essential role farming and agriculture plays in their everyday lives.



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