

EDUCATION

LOCATION: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION HALL

NEW! The Butter Barn presented by Norco

WHEN: 9.15am, TBC daily

Step into the fascinating world of dairy and discover the journey from farm to food at The Butter Barn presented by Norco.

This hands-on activation invites children to become butter makers, food scientists and dairy detectives as they uncover how one of Australia's favourite foods begins its journey on the farm.

Through engaging demonstrations and activities, participants learn how milk from dairy cows is transformed into cream, and how cream can be churned into delicious butter using a combination of science, movement and teamwork.

Along the way, children explore the important role dairy farmers play in caring for their animals and producing high-quality milk. They learn that milk is made up of several components, including water, protein, vitamins and fat, and discover that it is the milk fat found in cream that makes butter possible.

The highlight of the activation is the opportunity for participants to make their own butter.

Strawberry Sundae Lane

Strawberry Sundae Lane is an exciting hands-on education experience celebrating one of the Ekka's most iconic treats, the famous strawberry sundae.

A beloved tradition since the 1950s, the strawberry sundae is more than just a Show favourite—it's a celebration of Queensland produce and farming. Behind every scoop lies a story of agriculture, and at Strawberry Sundae Lane you can explore the journey from field to fair.

Through interactive activities, children and families will discover how strawberries are grown, how milk becomes cream, how sugarcane is processed, how wheat is turned into flour, and how all these ingredients come together to create an Ekka classic.

NEW! Education Stage: Meet a Farmer

Strawberry Sundae Lane will also feature "Meet a Farmer" talks throughout the day. These sessions will help students and families learn directly from farmers, growers and industry representatives about where our food comes from and how Queensland agriculture supports everyday life.

There are plenty of fun photo opportunities along the way, plus kids can enjoy a taste of the Ekka's famous strawberry sundae ice cream and a juicy, fresh strawberry for themselves. Thanks

to Lick Ice Cream and the Queensland Strawberry Growers Association who've purchased 30,000 strawberries directly from farmers, with support from Berries Australia and the Department of Primary Industries.

Wool Workshop presented by Toy Farm

WHEN: 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm daily

Step into a woolly wonderland at the Wool Workshop presented by Toy Farm, where kids can discover how fluffy fleece is transformed from sheep to yarn.

Little learners will roll up their sleeves and follow the wool-making journey, meeting the sheep, sorting fleece and trying hands-on activities along the way.

They'll have a go at carding and spinning, then learn the basics of weaving on a hand loom as they see this natural fibre come to life.

To wrap up the fun, children will braid their own colourful wool bracelet to take home as a special keepsake.

Cluck and Collect – Egg Collecting

Children are invited to become little farmers and rule the roost at Cluck and Collect, a hands-on egg-collecting adventure.

Children will gently reach beneath imitation hens to gather their egg-cellent finds, then sort them for delivery to the market, supermarket or home — discovering along the way that eggs don't just magically appear on shelves.

Kids Get Cooking! Presented by Australian Eggs

WHEN: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, & 5pm daily

Young chefs can crack into the fun at Kids Get Cooking! Presented by Australian Eggs, a hands-on experience that introduces children to the important role eggs can play in a healthy, balanced diet.

This much-loved activation invites kids to roll up their sleeves and create a simple, tasty open sandwich, mixing different ingredients to make a meal that is uniquely theirs.

Along the way, they'll discover the nutritional benefits of eggs, including their protein, vitamins and minerals, and how they help fuel growing bodies.

Giant Pineapple Display by Tropical Pines

Pineapples are once again taking centre stage at Ekka with a towering 3-metre-high display built from 200–300 real pineapples.

The display celebrates Queensland's proud horticultural heritage while shining a light on the pineapple industry, the economic challenges facing the sector, and the growers behind this tropical favourite.





Inspired by the impressive fruit displays of 1906 and 1909, the 2026 installation brings together history, flavour and industry storytelling in one bright, juicy showcase.

Queensland Beekeepers' Association Stand

WHEN: Live Bee Displays at 10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm & 2:30pm daily, 'How To' Demonstrations at 12pm & 3pm daily

Discover the buzz of beekeeping and the vital role bees play in agriculture at the Queensland Beekeepers' Association Stand.

Visitors can learn why bees are often called Australia's littlest livestock and how these tiny workers help support healthy crops, gardens and food production.

Get up close to real bees during daily live displays, see how honey is extracted straight from the frame, and gain a closer look at the fascinating teamwork inside a hive.

Canegrowers Sugarcane Stand

Did you know sugarcane is much more than the sweet stuff in your morning coffee?

Every year, Queensland growers produce around 30 million tonnes of sugarcane, supporting regional communities and creating products that touch our everyday lives. From raw sugar, livestock feed and garden mulch to renewable electricity, ethanol, and the sustainable fuels of the future, sugarcane is one of Australia's most versatile crops.

Visit the stand to discover the journey from paddock to product. Pick up one of our popular CANEGROWERS calico bags, complete with a low GI sugar sample and our special Ekka magazine filled with grower stories, fun facts, careers information and classroom posters.

Come and discover why sugarcane is one plant with endless possibilities.

BotBuilders Robotics

BotBuilders Robotics is a not-for-profit community team from Geebung, giving students aged 10–18 a safe and inspiring space to explore STEM, creativity, and robotics.

Children can dive into the world of robotics through a range of free, hands-on activities for all ages including driving beginner level robots around an official game field, creating their own spin-art on a LEGO spirograph machine, battling it out in Robot Rumbles, testing their shooting accuracy against a moving basketball hoop, and watching full-size FRC competition robots carefully launch balls into the air.

Ekka Learning Trail

The Ekka Learning Trail is a self-guided adventure designed to immerse students in the world of agriculture and food production.

Armed with a special Learning Trail Passport Booklet, students

are encouraged to explore the Agricultural Education Hall and collect stamps from 10 interactive trail points.

Each stop offers a unique, hands-on experience and the trail is packed with opportunities to see, touch and learn, helping kids connect classroom learning with real-world agriculture in a fun and engaging way.

Learning Trail Passport Booklets can be collected from any Information Booth at the Ekka and the trail points include:

- **Goats**
- **Flower and Garden**
- **Little Backyard Farmer presented by Somerville House**
- **AgForce**
- **Wool**
- **Butter**
- **Cotton**
- **DPI**
- **Strawberry Sundae Lane**
- **Bees**

NEW! Ekka's Farm of the Future – AgTech Innovation Challenge

Ekka and STEMPunks Education are proud to present the 'Farm of the Future - AgTech Innovation Challenge', a state-wide STEM education and innovation program that empowers Queensland students to design real-world agricultural solutions.

This initiative brings together schools, industry, and the agricultural sector to address real challenges facing farmers and producers such as crop health, water efficiency, pest/disease detection, sustainability, and farm automation.

The Farm of the Future program is an 8-week challenge delivered across Queensland schools, culminating in a live Innovation Sports Showcase where students pitch their idea and prototype at the Main Stage on Tuesday 11 August from 9am to 11am.

LOCATION: FLOWER AND GARDEN PRECINCT

Little Backyard Farmers presented by Somerville House

Step into the world of urban farming at Little Backyard Farmers presented by Somerville House, a hands-on, educational experience designed to teach kids about growing their own food and caring for the environment.

The interactive activity features six engaging stations that explore the importance of sustainability, composting, planting, and

nurturing plants – all in a fun way.

Children will search for hidden eggs among hay and prop chickens in the Chicken Coop, where they'll learn about life cycles and the basics of hen-keeping.

From there, they'll explore the vibrant Flowers and Bees garden, collecting pollen discs and adding them to a giant beehive, discovering the role bees play in pollination and plant growth.

At the Planting Station, kids will dig into garden beds to plant seeds and learn how to care for young vegetables. There is also a Composting Station where kids will learn about worms.

Next, it's time to pick some produce in the Harvesting Zone, where children gather fresh props like lettuce, potatoes and carrots while learning how long different fruits and vegetables take to grow.

In the Fruit Orchard, children will water apple and orange trees and pick a piece of fruit for their basket. They'll also test their knowledge by identifying whether certain foods are technically fruits or vegetables.

From garden bed to basket, Little Backyard Farmers encourages kids to get their hands dirty while gaining a deeper understanding of where their food comes from.

Wings of Wonder

Let your creativity take flight at Wings of Wonder, a collaborative art installation where kids can fold, design and decorate their own piece of a butterfly wing using colourful origami.

Once complete, their creation becomes part of a giant butterfly mural – growing bigger and brighter each day of the Ekka.

Once their piece is added, kids can pose in front of the completed wings for a magical photo moment, capturing the memory of contributing to something beautiful and shared.

It's a hands-on way to engage children in art, nature and collaboration – one fold at a time.

Flower Crown Making presented by Somerville House

Celebrate nature and the beauty of flowers at Flower Crown Making presented by Somerville House.

This hands-on craft activity provides the young and young-at-heart with the opportunity to design and make their very own flower crown using fresh flowers and craft materials.

Perfect for little hands and big imaginations, Flower Crown Making presented by Somerville House encourages children to express their creativity and is a lovely way for kids to connect with nature.

LOCATION: LARGE ANIMAL PAVILION

Show Camp

Show Camp gives 20 Year 6 students the chance to step into the role of young journalists through a special partnership between Education Queensland and the Ekka.

Throughout the program, students will explore Queensland's largest event, capturing the people, places and stories that bring the Show to life, with many staying overnight onsite to fully experience the atmosphere.

They will build practical skills in researching, interviewing, news writing, photography and videography, with their work published in the Ekka Courier featuring around 40 stories.

Based on level 3 of the Large Animal Pavilion, the students' classroom will become a lively hub for creativity, learning and storytelling across the event.

Meat & Livestock Australia Stand

Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) Australian Good Meat Paddock to Plate virtual reality experience will take Ekka visitors on an immersive 360-degree tour of Australian beef and lamb production.

Journeying from paddock to plate, they'll learn about the world-leading Australian production systems that stand behind our safe, nutritious and delicious Aussie red meat. Visitors will also have the chance to chat with Ambassadors working in the red meat industry.

LOCATION: 7NEWS COMMUNITY PAVILION

Creative Demonstrations

WHEN: 10.45am, 11.45am, 12.45pm, 1.45pm, 2.45pm, 3.45pm & 4.45pm daily

Watch creativity come to life at the 7NEWS Community Pavilion, with live demonstrations each day showcasing a colourful mix of artistic skills and techniques.

From sewing and knitting to egg decorating, talented makers will demonstrate their craft while sharing the tools, materials and techniques that shape each finished piece.

The program also features the inspiring practice of foot and mouth painting, giving visitors of all ages an engaging look at the creativity, skill and patience behind every art form.

