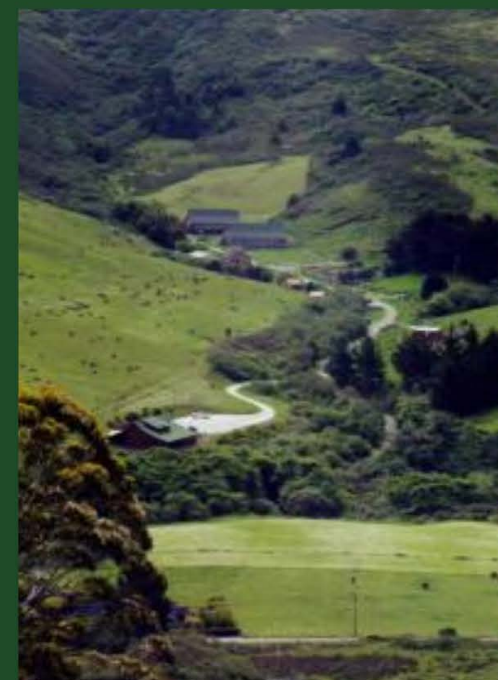## Conference Center

The onsite 4,400 square foot educational and conference facility is available for daytime retreats, meetings, and workshops. The commercial kitchen is available for onsite meal preparation or catering. Accommodates 60-75 guests.

"It has been enjoyable, educational, stimulating, and as unique an experience as our students will ever have in their young lives. I've organized this trip for years now."

-Elementary School Teacher

About Us

Elkus Ranch Environmental Education is located on 125 acres of coastal grassland just south of Half Moon Bay and has been providing environmental education programs to Bay Area youth since 1975. Educational programs were created specifically to connect the public to the work of the University of California and involve much more than a farm experience. Collectively, UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) offers a myriad of educational services through several programs, all of which are based on research conducted by the university and its partners.

"We live close to the ocean yet many of our children have never visited it. Elkus Ranch is a great opportunity for these young children to touch, see, hear, smell, and even taste and learn about nature from expert leaders. Elkus Ranch has been their favorite field trip–bar none!"
-Elementary School Teacher

Contact Us!

Leslie Jensen Program Coordinator
lkjensen@ucanr.edu or
elkusranch@ucanr.edu

(650) 712-3151

http://elkusranch.ucanr.edu
1500 Purisima Creek Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

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Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center
Environmental Education Through Hands-On Learning
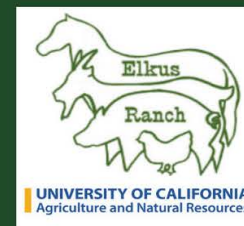
Hands-On Education

Elkus Ranch serves young people with meaningful and enriching learning experiences that provide opportunities for growth and development. Livestock, gardens, and acres of open space create a unique outdoor classroom for children and their adult chaperones. Individuals and groups can participate in day and overnight field trips, camps, community service projects, internships and volunteer opportunities.

"Coming from a city, the kids have very limited exposure to animals, fresh foods, and open space. It's a treat for us to escape the cramped spaces of the city to enjoy the outdoors and learn more about animals and plants."
-Elementary School Teacher

Environmental Education Tours

The Environmental Education Programs at Elkus Ranch teach PreK-12 students about the production of food and fiber, the inter-relationships of plants and animals in their natural habitats, and the importance of environmental stewardship.

Learn about PLANTS
- Plant a Seedling
- Describe the Functions of Plant Parts
- Taste a Flower
- Learn about Seed Dispersal & Composting
- Identify Pollinators

Learn about ANIMALS
- Meet our Goats, Sheep, Donkeys & Chickens
- Explore our Bone & Fossil Collections
- Learn about Adaptations, Predator/Prey Relationships & Food Chains

Lunch at the Ranch

This nutrition program leads children into the garden to harvest fresh produce and then to our commercial kitchen to prepare an entire meal. After preparing vegetable-topped pizzas, salad and dessert, adult chaperones and students enjoy their meal, served family style, complete with linens and a floral centerpiece. This farm to table experience is a great opportunity for children to discover new ways to eat their favorite vegetables while being introduced to a few new ones, too.

Summer & Winter Day Camps

Children ages 6-11 years old can spend the day at Elkus Ranch learning about livestock husbandry, gardening basics, environmental science and nature, and much more!

Family Events

SHEEP TO SHAWL
2nd Saturday in June
- Watch Mr. Wool Shear our Flock of Sheep
- Observe Wool Spinners
- Dye Wool Samples

PRESCHOOL DAYS
Fall & Spring
- Tour Stations Around Ranch Specifically for Pre-K Age
- Plant a Seed
- Visit the Animals & Gardens
- Make a Craft

"What an awesome experience! Not only for our children but also the parents!"
-Visiting Parent Chaperone