



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Everyone knows that Old MacDonald had a farm with lots of animals that make lots of fun sounds. Small children not only love the song, but also would love a party theme crafted around animals, farm games, and a hoedown menu. If you have a little farmer in your house, take inspiration here to throw an unforgettable farm party.

Note:

This is a perfect party theme to throw at a local farm or petting zoo. Small children will love to pet the animals, enjoy a hay ride, and run around together. Alternatively, this is a great party for your backyard, especially if you invite some farm animals to attend as entertainment.

Using heavy brown cardstock, trace and cut out pony invitations. Gussy them up by tying small red bandanas around the necks and using yarn to make pony tails. Write all of your party details on the invitation pony and place into an extra large envelope. For added fun, place a few pieces of straw in the envelope with your invitation.

Alternatively, using red heavy cardstock, trace and cut out barn invitations. Glue large black doors onto the barn and allow them to flap open to reveal the party details.

Use thematic language:

Y'all come round to the back gate. Fun to be had, animals to feed, human chow too. For your RSVP, Neighs Only! Don't forget to wear your farmer duds, as there may be some mud!

DECORATIONS

Tip: If you host your party at a local farm or petting zoo, make sure to check with the venue to see if you can bring some decorations with you to set up your party area. If you are hosting the party in your own backyard, turn it into a farm-scape.

To create a farm atmosphere in your backyard:



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Make a scarecrow

Place picnic blankets around the party area for some free play activity and to eat on

Bushel baskets

Potted flowers

Bales of hay, place some at the front entrance to the party too

Old fashioned milk jugs

Make a barn out of a large cardboard box that you can ask for at a local appliance store. Paint the box with red paint and decorate with farm animals and cut out barn windows.

Make large farm animals out of poster board and attach to wooden sticks to place in your yard or set up against your fence.

Create a chicken coop by cutting three sides out of a medium box and painting it brown. Staple chicken wire to the inside of the box and place a layer of hay on the inside of the box. Add chocolate eggs and Peeps® candies to the box.

Use red and white balloons to decorate the party area. Draw large black spots on the white balloons to make cow balloons. A few animal Mylar® balloons around the party table would add fun. Tie bunches of the balloons together using red bandanas.

Use a pair of farm boots and place bright, bold sunflowers in them for a party table or buffet centerpiece.

Use a checkered tablecloth for your party table. Use red and white tableware for your cups, plates, and napkins. Place buckets on the party table with each of the kids' names on them; either write their names with a marker or use letter stickers. Place stickers into the buckets and the kids can further decorate their buckets while at the party table. These holders can also be used as the goody holders.

Additional party table or buffet decorations include: mini hay bales and flower pots to hold utensils.

Place small milk cartons on the party table with their tops cut off and place crayons in them for the kids to color the cups and napkins while the meal is being prepared.

Play bluegrass/country music during the party.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Upon the kids' arrival, provide them each with a straw hat and a bandana. Have the kids decorate their straw hats upon arrival into the party with animal cutouts, hay, flowers, etc.



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While waiting for all of the guests to arrive, have the kids decorate milk pails. Find small metal or plastic pails and have barnyard/farm stickers for the kids to decorate them with.

Play classic party games themed for a farm party:

- Pin the Tail on the Cow or Pig
- Hot Pumpkin or Squash
- Animal Charades
- Stick Horse Races
- Duck, Duck, Goose

Hold a Hay Treasure Hunt. Hide small prizes in the bales of hay and the kids must hunt them out.

Animal Play. Ask the kids to pretend to be their favorite farm animals. Encourage everyone to prance, jump, graze, waddle, and horse around the farm.

Egg Hunt: Collect eggs (plastic Easter eggs) that the farm chickens have laid about the yard. Use the milk pails that they decorated when they arrived to collect them.

Egg Toss. With the eggs they collected in their hunt, have the kids toss them into bushel baskets of hay.

Hay Wagon Races. Do you have two red wagons? If so, you have enough for a wagon race between two teams. Place hay in your wagons, and have the kids pull the wagon from one end of the party area to the other and back. First team done wins! An adult helper can also give wagon rides to the party guests.

Pig Races. Blow up several large pink balloons and attach a curly pink ribbon to one end and draw a pig face on the balloon. Divide the kids into two teams and provide each with flyswatters to swat at the pigs to move them from one end of the party area and back again.

Toss the Pig. Similar to a water balloon toss, but use pink balloons and tie a curly ribbon at the end to resemble a tail. Pair up the kids in teams and see which team can keep their water pig in the air the longest without dropping the pig.

Duck Feeding. Fill a small plastic pool with water and small rubber duckies. Write numbers on the bottoms of the ducks and when the kids pick out their ducks, provide a prize that corresponds to the number.

Animal Sounds. Have each party guest take a turn being a particular animal. Other kids must guess the sound as soon as they hear and know it. Give everyone multiple chances to make the sounds.



PARTY MENU

Pigs in a blanket
 Straw, potato chip sticks served in a basket
 Sandwiches cut out with farm animal cookie cutters
 Hard boiled eggs
 Baked beans
 Corn on the cob
 Corn bread
 Animal crackers
 Animal gummies
 Baby carrots
 Granola bars
 Chocolate milk

Make a batch of cupcakes and decorate to look like farm animals:

Pink cupcakes with pink frosting and piggy face made with Necco® wafers
 Chocolate cupcakes with white frosting and Oreo® cookie cow faces
 White cupcakes with white frosting and sheep cereal shapes atop

PARTY FAVORS

Place your farm goodies into the little bucket that the kids decorated when they first arrived at the party. Goody ideas include:

Farm animal Beanie Babies
 Animal stickers
 Small plastic farm animals
 Farm Pez® candy holders
 Chocolate farm animals
 Clear soap with a farm animal

Other goody holder ideas include:

Lunch bags painted with cow spots on them
 Red bandanas tied up into a pouch
 Farm hats

Make sure to take pictures of the party guests sitting on a bale of hay with the birthday farmer during the party and include these pictures in your thank you notes.

