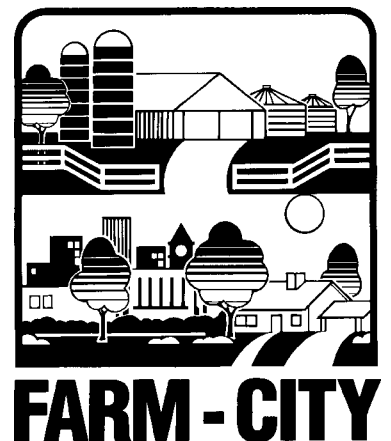


**Tips, tools  
and ideas  
for  
organizing  
a  
successful,  
local  
farm-city  
program**



## Petting Zoo/Farm Animal Display

This exhibit operates primarily by itself but is always very, very popular, particularly among younger visitors. It is an event that can be put on at a city or rural site.

- Make sure a tent or shaded area is provided.
- Whomever brings in the animals should make arrangements for wood shavings, straw or other type of bedding on the ground area. They should also be responsible for “cleaning up” after the event. Also suggest that they bring water from home for their animals as many will not drink water that is strange to them.
- Make sure there are always adults present, particularly the animal handlers.
- The orange construction fencing makes an excellent fence to keep animals in and kids out,
- The Petting Zoo is usually located away from the host farm’s animals. This way the activities of the children are away from an area where they could scare or excite the regular farm animals.

*Suggestion:* Have baby wipes or some other type of wet ones available for kids and adults to wipe their hands after leaving the petting zoo since they might want food or whatever. Be

sure to have trash barrels nearby for disposal of the wipes. Portable hand-washing stands are also recommended.



- Ask a local 4-H club to coordinate with whomever is bringing in the animals so signs can be prepared telling about the animals, i.e. age, breed and other relevant information. This way visitors will leave the area having learned about the animals.
- Make sure there is pre-event communication between the host family and the persons bringing in animals for the petting zoo. This way both parties will feel comfortable about having strange animals on the host farm. You might ask the host family to recommend someone they would like to see handling the petting zoo.