

# INTERACTIVE ANIMAL EXHIBIT

## Barnyard Adventures teach families about food and Agriculture

### Interactive exhibit allows hands-on fun

An exhibit for the whole family, Barnyard Adventures invites fair attendees to play farmer at the Umatilla County Fair.

Tammie Ryan of Super Science, a Central Oregon company that travels to fairs around the Pacific Northwest, said the exhibit teaches as it entertains.

“At Barnyard Adventures families can collect eggs from artificial hens, dig for potatoes, play

in a corn bin full of dried corn kernels, read fun facts about vegetables, milk a (fake) cow and even sit on her!” Ryan said.

Fun facts on the exhibit’s discovery boards ask questions like, “What was the first vegetable grown in outer space?” and “What is healthier, fresh or frozen vegetables?”

Puzzles with farm animals and the different state’s agricultural commodities engage kids while teaching them where the food comes from. Another teaching



yet fun learning activity has children line up magnets with pictures of food items under their proper categories — meat, dairy, vegetables and fruit.

While the kids are learning in a giant, safe play space, Ryan said there are plenty of photo opportunities throughout. Stick your head above the wooden cut out of a farmer, a potato, an ear of corn, a chicken or even a head of broccoli.

For tiny tots, there are even push rocking horses to ride.

Ryan said she was an educator with a museum before she and

her husband, Patrick Wood, started Super Science 14 years ago. Wood was a fair manager and has worked as a musician and entertainer his entire life and Ryan said she grew up in a horse 4-H club while her children raised 4-H swine. Taking science and agriculture education on the road was a natural enterprise for the couple.

Barnyard Adventures is one of four exhibits with which the family travels to fairs in Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho. The others are Fun with Physics, Puzzlemania and The Backyard.

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The Barnyard Adventures exhibit gives children and their parents an opportunity to learn about where their food comes from with interactive games and puzzles