

EDUCATION



AG EDUCATION HALL (H-14)

NEW - EKKA EDUCATION STAGE PRESENTED BY PODSQUAD

The new Ekka Education Stage presented by Podsquad, an initiative of Health & Wellbeing Queensland, will feature many educational presentations for children.

From learning about healthy and nutritious food to pollination and gardening, the stage is sure to be popular with families exploring what Queensland's largest classroom, the Ekka, has to offer.

Spuddy and Scoot

Spuddy and Scoot is a musical early-learning show encouraging healthy eating and mindful habits. Young audiences are invited into the fantastical imagination of host Jess as she cooks and plays in her sunny Brisbane kitchen with her cheeky puppet friends, Spuddy the sweet potato and Scoot the strawberry. Children will learn about fruits and vegetables and the superpowers within them!

Podsquad Live

Health and Wellbeing Queensland's mission is to help Queenslanders improve their health and wellbeing futures, especially kids, which is why they are proudly presenting Podsquad Live. Join the Podsquad mascots to learn about nutrition, how to become more physically active and improve sleep habits in a fun, interactive way. The show is based on Podsquad - a new, free, play-based wellbeing program supporting children and families to build healthy habits together and make learning fun!

Ekka Street Science Show supported by National Science Week

The presenters from Street Science will teach children about the amazing science behind agriculture through exciting visual demonstrations. Kids will discover the unexpected potential for produce like seaweed and corn in revolutionising their everyday lives. The fun and interactive demonstrations will have young scientists engaged, before exploring how innovations in agriculture are shaping the future sustainability of our planet in truly incredible ways. Scientists of all ages will walk away with a new fascination for the amazing agricultural industry celebrated at the Ekka.

Queensland Beekeepers Association

The Queensland Beekeepers' Association (QBA) will present a fun, interactive show about pollination and how bees support our food security. 'Bee' sure to also check out the QBA stand, where you can see live bee presentations as well as candle-rolling, taste Queensland's extraordinary honey and more. The QBA was first formed at the Ekka in 1886.

Flower & Garden Presentation

Join the Ekka's Flower and Garden Committee as they showcase various demonstrations that bring the joy of gardening to life, inspiring others to cultivate their own green spaces and nurture their love for all things botanical. The presentations will include a 'How To Grow' series from the Ekka's student flower and garden competitions, providing valuable insights and practical knowledge to gardening enthusiasts of all ages.



OTHER AG EDUCATION HALL ACTIVITIES

9am to 6pm daily

SUGARCANE - ONE PLANT, MANY PRODUCTS

From the sugar that sweetens your cake to the electricity that powers your home and the fuel that drives your car, sugarcane is a truly remarkable and versatile crop. Children will get up close to real cane, meet some of the pests that can affect the industry and see the different products made from sugarcane including sugar and bioproducts. The kids will then participate in a Paddock to Packet virtual reality experience.

AUSTRALIAN GOOD MEAT PADDOCK TO PLATE VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) will take children on an immersive tour of Australian beef and lamb production through their Australian Good Meat Paddock to Plate virtual reality experience. Children, and the wider community, will be educated about the world-leading Australian production systems that stand behind our safe, nutritious and delicious Aussie red meat. Guests will also have a chance to speak with some of MLA's ambassadors working in the red meat industry.

QUEENSLAND FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS

Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers are bringing the Year of Horticulture to the Ag Education Hall. Join them as they celebrate all things horticulture and educate consumers, retailers and the next generation of growers. Children will learn where their food comes from and its contribution to health and wellness. They can also meet growers, take part in 'did you know' trivia and marvel over the fresh produce - abundant and colourful with an arty twist!

GET KIDS COOKING! PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIAN EGGS

Kids will be inspired as they learn to make a healthy funny face eggsandwich. In this hands-on cooking class, they'll roll up their sleeves and don an apron as they measure, grate and chop, before enjoying their creation.

MOZZIES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

The QIMR Berghofer 'mozzies under the microscope' activation will provide Ekka guests with an opportunity to engage with QIMR Berghofer's latest mosquito-related research. There will be a range of interactive displays such as state-of-the-art microscopes, real-life mosquito displays and 'save a pig' carnival games. See, touch and digitally engage with research that links viruses like Japanese Encephalitis directly to life in Queensland in both local and regional areas.

FLOWER & GARDEN PRECINCT (H-13)

9am - 6pm daily

LITTLE BACKYARD FARMERS PRESENTED BY HERITAGE BANK

Little Backyard Farmers presented by Heritage Bank is an interactive educational activity teaching kids about urban farming. There are five hands-on stations where children are taught the importance of future sustainability practices through composting, planting seeds, growing vegetables, and nurturing plants.

1. Chicken Coop - kids will enter a large coop, searching for an egg to add to their basket among the chickens (props) and hay. They'll learn about life cycles and raising hens.
2. Flowers and Bees - in this colour matching activity, children will weave their way through a giant flower garden to collect pollen. They'll put their pollen disc into the beehive, before moving to the next station.
3. Planting - children will dig in a garden bed, planting vegetables.
4. Harvesting - children will harvest vegetables to learn about garden care and growth. They'll find out how long different fruits and vegetables take to grow and will add some lettuce, potatoes, and carrots to their basket.
5. Fruit Orchard - children will water apple and orange trees (props) and pick a fruit for their basket. They'll also have to identify whether certain fruits and vegetables are in fact a fruit or a vegetable.

FLOWER CROWNS

Kids will be given fresh flowers and the necessary craft materials to make a pretty flower crown. This fun nature craft is great for creativity, with the kids making patterns and designing their finished crowns.

NEW - SENSORY GARDEN SUPPORTED BY CAPILANO HONEY

The Sensory Garden supported by Capilano Honey is new to Ekka this year. The impressive 14-metre-long self-guided sensory garden will showcase the best types of flowers to plant in your garden to attract bees. It will also feature sensory activities for the kids.

AROUND THE GROUNDS

EKKA LEARNING TRAIL

The Ekka Learning Trail is a self-guided activity where students are provided with a 'passport booklet' and encouraged to journey around the grounds to collect stamps from each of the eight learning trail points. The trail provides sensory, hands-on experiences such as interacting with and feeding goats, sheep and more in the animal nursery, cradling baby chicks, milking dairy cows and becoming a little backyard farmer. Learning Trail Passport Booklets can be collected at Information Booths.

The eight trail points are:

- Sugarcane - one plant, many products
- Woolworths Kitchen
- Sheep Shearing
- RACQ Animal Nursery
- Horsing Around Show presented by Racing Queensland
- Norco Milking Barn & Grass to Glass Experience
- Cradle-a-Chick
- Little Backyard Farmers presented by Heritage Bank

SHOW CAMP

Around 20 grade six students will be given the chance to become journalists at Show Camp. A partnership program of Education Queensland and the Ekka, the students will capture the activities and experiences that make Queensland's largest event unique, with many staying onsite. Students will develop their news writing, researching, interviewing, photography, video and podcasting skills, while producing up to 40 stories to be published in the 31st edition of the Ekka Courier. The student's Ekka classroom will be located on level 3 of the Large Animal Pavilion.

