

Sophomore Field Trip to Sandy Creek Ranch

Article by Sophomores Iris Jackson, Peyton Eckermann & Cody Martin

Faith Academy's sophomore class recently visited Sandy Creek Ranch, which offered hands-on learning, fresh air, and enjoyable experiences that provided us with a deeper understanding of ranch life.

We started the day with a warm welcome and some delicious kolaches and donuts provided by the ranch. Then, we kicked off our tour by learning about the various types of feed used for cattle. It was fascinating to discover that each stage of a cow's life requires a specific kind of feed to ensure proper nutrition and growth.

Next, we explored the ranch's impressive tractors and equipment. Everyone had the chance to hop inside and see how the machinery works up close. A hayride took us out to the back barn, where we learned about an innovative, eco-friendly method of growing grass called fodder, a form of hydroponics.

We also saw how different feeds and hay are mixed using a bale converter—a powerful machine that prepares feed for the cattle. We even climbed up to get a look inside the bale destroyer!

Our journey continued through the tractor shop, where we viewed various tools and machines. Along the way, we spotted a barn full of hay bales and couldn't resist jumping on them. Naturally, we took a fun group photo!

The tour brought us to the garden area, where we met the ranch owner, Mr. Sorenson. He shared what kinds of products they use to grow healthy vegetables, and we even got to taste a few fresh samples straight from the garden.

After that, we visited the barn to meet the ranch's friendly goats and donkeys, followed by a stop at the horse stables, where we fed and interacted with the horses. Then it was time for a delicious lunch made from the ranch's own farm-raised meat—truly farm-to-table!

In the afternoon, we learned about the tools and techniques used for horseshoeing and visited the covered pens to meet the steers. Each of us had the opportunity to try freeze branding, a safe and modern method of cattle identification.

To wrap up our educational experience, the cowboys collected samples and showed us how to examine sperm count under a microscope—a fascinating glimpse into ranch breeding practices. Finally, a fun quiz tested what we learned. Winners took home ranch hats, and we all gathered for one last photo to say a “big thank you” to our incredible hosts.

Photo next page:

L-R back: Edith Duran, Ashlee Fraughton, Cody Martin, Brody August, Iris Jackson, Peyton Eckermann, Anthony Best, Garrett Lloyd

Front: Josiah Deering, Michael Satterwhite, Quinton Moore

