

The Animal Education Program at Land's Sake demonstrates sustainable animal husbandry, provides educational and volunteer opportunities for the community, and facilitates connections between humans and animals. As of January 2016, Land's Sake has 16 chickens and four rabbits. These animals are for educational and demonstration purposes and their products are not sold for public consumption.

Our chicken coop is home to 16 hens. The hens produce eggs, which are used on field trips and as part of after school and summer programs to educate about local food systems and chicken biology. These eggs are given to the youth who participate in after school and summer programs to take home and use with their families. They are also used as part of the Green Power Summer Program's cooking education and community meal. Our Communities field trip for kindergarteners focuses directly on the chicken coop as a community. Children learn about our chicken's care, behavior, and biology within the context of connecting the animal's needs to the needs of all communities.

Land's Sake's rabbits are used to educate about sustainable meat production, integrated farming systems, and animal life cycles. While we use meat-breed rabbits and educate about the benefits of raising rabbits for meat, we do not sell rabbit meat as part of our program. Several times per year, we breed our rabbits for education and demonstration purposes. Once the offspring are old enough, members of the public are welcomed to adopt them dependent on the completion of our application adoption and the payment of an adoption fee. Our Life Cycles field trip, offered to fourth graders, details the management and production of rabbits for meat as well as rabbit biology.

Chickens and rabbits are both used off-site for education as part of our outreach programs. Land's Sake brings chickens and rabbits to libraries, preschools, fairs, and other community events. These programs include education about the chickens and rabbits, chicken and rabbit related crafts, and stories about chickens and rabbits read aloud. These programs allow Land's Sake to connect with a wider community and to spread the reach of our Animal Education Program.

During the summer, the care for the chickens and rabbits is taken on by the children in first through fifth grade who participate in the Farm and Forest Summer Program. Children learn what it takes to maintain the health and safety of these animals, participating directly in their daily maintenance.

For the rest of the season, the care for the chickens and rabbits is taken on by volunteers through our Animal Volunteer program. Volunteers sign up for one or more weekly animal care shifts, which are offered on mornings and afternoons on every day of the week. These volunteers are trained on the care of our animals and are then responsible for the feeding, watering, and cleaning of the chickens and rabbits. During the winter, the chickens and rabbits are housed at our office location. Our volunteer team is comprised of people of all ages. Middle school aged children and younger and people with developmental disabilities who may need assistance are supervised by parents or guardians during their volunteering shifts.