



FACES, PLACES & VOICES OF



BACKYARD BARNYARD

PVREA Member & Mobile Petting Zoo

Photo by: Wynning Chance Photography

Take a moment to recall the first time you held a rabbit. This probably happened when you were quite young, wide-eyed and curious, like the small bunny you held. Remember the soft, velvety fur, lighter than a dandelion's fluff. And the long-ear's quick breaths and heartbeat, which you soon noticed matched your own.

For many of us, this memory remains, reminding us of the extraordinary beauty that blooms when we take the time to truly appreciate and connect with the natural world around us.

This experience, and many like it, is what PVREA member Backyard Barnyard helps create through their unique mobile petting zoo.

Owner Louise Walker shared how her lifelong passion for animals led her to bring Backyard Barnyard to life.

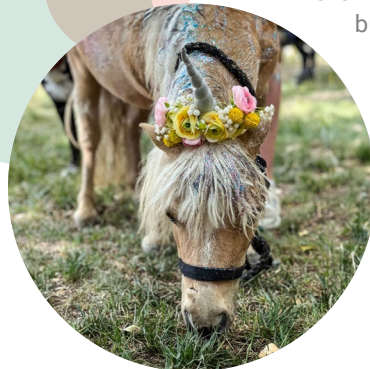
“Growing up around animals was such a fundamental part of my development into a responsible, grounded, successful adult.”

“When I had two kids of my own here in Fort Collins,” Louise said, “I knew I wanted them to also grow up being responsible for animals.”

Louise and her family first started with Nigerian Dwarf goats named Leo and Marty. Then moved on to chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs, and a pony. When her carnival of creatures reached a total of 15, a thought came to

Louise: “I could share this experience with other kids, get other people’s kids excited about animals and caring for them.”

Today, Backyard Barnyard brings small and large petting zoo setups to events from Denver to Fort Collins. They even offer Easter photoshoots with chicks and bunnies, or for something really magical, Snowman the unicorn pony will come dressed to impress.



“We believe that being with animals is grounding,” Louise said. “And in many cases, it’s healing.”

Learn more about Backyard Barnyard online at www.backyardbarnyardzoo.com or see photos and videos of them in action on their Facebook and Instagram.



BACKYARD BARNYARD
MOBILE PETTING ZOO



BACKYARDBARNYARDZOO.COM



SAFETY CORNER

Beware of **Backfeed**



Avoid deadly backfeed and help keep lineworkers safe.

Using a backup generator during an extended outage or winter storm can give you peace of mind. And self-generating power through rooftop solar could provide some level of energy flexibility.

But these examples of behind-the-meter generation can have deadly consequences if not properly installed, maintained, and used. Keep reading to learn what causes electrical backfeed and what you can do to protect yourself and others. Our lineworkers thank you in advance!

Backfeed happens when a generated power source is introduced to your home without isolating the power supply, creating a new and unintentional path for power that reverses the typical flow of energy.

A transfer switch helps prevent backfeed by safely isolating the power source from its primary source to a backup or secondary source. Transfer switches should always be installed by a professional and routinely inspected for proper working order.

Backfeed is hazardous to the household where it's done, to the neighboring properties, and to our lineworkers and other first responders.

Generators have the potential to create backfeed when a person connects their portable generator to a wall outlet. That's a big safety no-no.

Never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet or electrical system. If done, the alternate power source (the generator) would then feed energy back through your home's electrical system, through your meter, and back into the power lines.



Permanently installed generators that are not used or installed correctly can also backfeed the grid. The only way to safely install a generator is by disconnecting it from the grid by using an automatic or manual transfer switch, depending on the generator.

Negative backfeed in the context of rooftop solar systems refers to unwanted electrical contributions when generated power is pushed back to the grid when the grid is not willing or able to accept excess power. Modern solar inverters are designed with safety features to help prevent this from occurring. Our small generator interconnection and net metering agreement also specifies safety measurements and protocols to help prevent backfeed.

Source: *SafeElectricity*

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Save the Date

COME TO THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday morning
April 6, 2024

Embassy Suites
in Loveland, CO

Official invitations will be sent to all active members.

More details will be posted online at www.pvrea.coop/annualmeeting

JANUARY 2024

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

DURING WINTER MONTHS, ENSURE YOUR HOME IS WELL SEALED AND PROPERLY INSULATED TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR EXCESSIVE HEATING.

Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills. Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is needed.

Source: energystar.gov



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Apply for Your Rebates

PVREA members have numerous rebates available to help lower the upfront cost of purchasing electric products and appliances.



See where you can save.

