

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR GROUP VISITS TO STANDALONE FARM

Activity Group Visit

Significant Hazards

- Animal bites
- Infection of wounds
- Picking up germs from animals/spreading animal diseases
- Transfer of disease to pregnant women from sheep and lambs (Enzootic Abortion)
- Farm machinery
- Hay fever, asthma and allergies
- Touching or ingesting chemicals
- Climbing on gates/fences
- Dangerous animals/ escaped animals
- Manure heaps
- Fire
- Vehicles in car park

Existing Control Measures – How to minimise the risk

- **Hand washing** - the risk of catching most germs on farms can be eliminated by practicing good hygiene. Hands must be thoroughly washed with the anti-bacterial soap and hot running water and dried with the hand dryers or paper towels. Hand washing facilities are located in the toilet block, by the goat house and by the piggery. Young children should be supervised while washing their hands. Young children likely to put their hands in their mouths should either be discouraged from touching the animals or have their hands washed or disinfectant wiped immediately after contact. Alcohol gel hand sanitizers are not a reliable substitute for hand washing.
- **Eating** - food should only be eaten in designated areas i.e. the picnic barns, picnic areas or café.
- **Feeding the animals** - children should hold their hands out flat when feeding the animals and not put their fingers into the mouths of animals. Only food purchased at the farm should be fed to the animals. Children should not taste the animal feed.
- **Cuts and scratches** - these should be cleaned thoroughly and covered up immediately. Old wounds should also be covered. The first aid point is in the Farm office.
- **Pregnant women** - if you are pregnant or suspect you might be pregnant, you should avoid all contact with livestock especially ewes and lambs. Signs should be present at lambing times.

- **Tools, equipment and farm machinery** - these should all be stored away from public areas but could be around when in use. Visitors are advised not to touch any equipment or to climb onto farm vehicles without permission from a member of farm staff.
- **Haystacks** – these can be seen by children as the ideal climbing frame or a place to make a den, but they can be particularly dangerous. Haystacks can be unstable, and children can fall off them or have one fall on top of them. Hay and straw dust can also trigger allergies and breathing difficulties. The hay and straw storage areas at Standalone Farm are in areas out of bounds to visitors.
- **Chemicals and animal treatments** - these should all be locked away in areas not accessible to the public. Children should be warned not to touch any items that are being used by farm staff to treat an animal.
- **Fire** - there are many flammable substances on farms. Use of matches should be restricted, and no smoking signs strictly observed. In case of fire, please sound the alarm, evacuate the buildings, call 999 or alert a member of staff and assemble in the outdoor play area.
- **Contact with animals** - animals should be approached quietly and carefully and treated with respect. They should only be handled when farm staff give permission or signs permit visitors to do so. If an animal escapes, please do not approach it. Simply alert a member of farm staff.
- **Tractor and trailer rides** - this ride takes place in enclosed fields using a specially designed passenger trailer. We advise visitors to remain seated whilst the tractor is moving.
- **Animal paddocks and pens** - visitors are prohibited from entering animal paddocks or pens.
- **Milking demonstrations** - visitors should remain behind the barriers unless invited by the farm staff to participate. They should not attempt to dip their fingers in or attempt to drink from the bucket.

This assessment has been carried out by Andrew Milich, Farm Manager.

These notes are to assist you with completing your own risk assessment. For more detailed information about Health and Safety on farms, please contact:

Standalone Farm 01462 686775

Health & Safety Executive (01245) 706208 or HSE Infoline 0845 3450055 and ask for the following publications:

On the Farm – Activity booklet for children

Managing Health & Safety in Schools, Avoiding Ill Health at Open Farms.

DEFRA www.defra.gov.uk (Up to date information about Avian Flu)