

## RISK ASSESSMENT

### For Group Visits to Tattershall Farm Park

#### Significant Hazards;

- Animal bites
- New or old wounds becoming infected
- 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 to animals
- Touching or ingesting chemicals or animal treatments
- Climbing on gates/fences and leaving gates open
- Fire
- Flood
- Play equipment

#### Existing Control Measures – How to minimise the risk

**Hand Washing. The risk of catching most germs on farms can be eliminated by good hygiene.** Hands must be thoroughly washed with soap and hot running water and use of antiseptic hand gel

There are hand cleaning facilities in the animal shed and the toilet blocks. Signs remind visitors to wash their hands after contact with the animals, before eating and before they leave the farm. Young children should be supervised and may not be able to keep their hands under hot water long enough to kill all germs. They should therefore be encouraged to use the hand gel provided. Very young children, who are likely to put their hands in their mouths should either be discouraged from touching the animals or should have their hands washed or wiped immediately after contact.

- **Play areas** Play must be supervised and where age or height restrictions are in place these must be observed.
- **Eating.** Food should only be eaten in designated areas i.e. the classroom, cafe, or picnic areas. Staff should discourage visitors from eating in animal contact areas.
- **Feeding the animals.** Children should hold their hands out flat when feeding the animals and should not put their fingers into the animals' mouths. They should only feed food sold at the farm and should not taste the animal feed.
- **Cuts and Scratches.** These should be cleaned thoroughly and covered up immediately.
- Old wounds should also be covered. There is a first aid point on the farm, at the cafe.
- **Pregnant Women.** If you are pregnant or suspect you might be pregnant you should stay away from any ewes and lambs. This is to avoid the transfer of micro-organisms that can cause illness. 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 whilst in use. Visitors are advised never to touch these nor climb onto a farm vehicle without invitation by a member of farm staff.
  - **Chemicals and Animal Treatments.** These should all be locked away and 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 in front of the public.
- **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.

- **Flood** There are signs giving clear instruction for flooding. If a flood warning is issued please leave the park quickly and safely if an announcement is made
- **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, alert a member of farm staff. .
- **Animal Paddocks and Pens.** Going into the animal enclosures by invitation increases the risk of animal faeces getting onto your footwear. This then increases the risk of germs being transferred. This risk can be minimised by either bringing a change of footwear in a plastic bag or cleaning footwear before leaving the farm.
- **Climbing on gates/fences and leaving gates open.** Climbing on fences can lead to falls and should be discouraged. Leaving gates open allows access from the farm park area into areas that are in use by traffic. Gates must remain shut.

**Date** Updated February 2010

**For more detailed information about Health and Safety on farms, please contact:**

- Health & Safety Executive (01245) 706208 or HSE Infoline 0845 3450055

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](http://www.defra.gov.uk)