

Health & Safety visits to open farms & petting farms. A practical guide

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Fun for kids



Is this ours or can we give it to HSE ?



- Petting farm or diversified working open farm ??
- The Health & Safety [Enforcing Authority] Regulations 1998
- Schedule 1 [11] LA allocation
- The care, treatment, accommodation or exhibition of animals, birds or other creatures, except where the main activity is horse breeding or horse training at a stable, or is an agricultural activity or veterinary surgery



Depends on main activity

- Petting farm / exhibition of animals where that is the main activity – LA
- Farm which opens to the public but the farming is the main activity – HSE
- Some farmers will set up diversification projects as a separate legal entity.
- Open Sunday farms are HSE enforced

Preparation



- Guidance from HSE
- Avoiding ill health at open farms – Agricultural Information Sheet 23
- E.coli 0157 Outbreak August /September 2009 – SIM 01/2009/04 [includes enforcement advice]
- Griffin Report – recommendations being considered
- Think about your own health and safety – local H&S policy, washing arrangements, contamination in the family car, storage of boots.

Before you go

- Consider requesting information before visit:
 - ✓ Site map or plan
 - ✓ Risk assessments
 - ✓ Calculations for number of washing stations
 - ✓ Site rules
 - ✓ Public information and instructions
 - ✓ Look at their web site
- Do you visit when open or closed?

Visit to the site



- Consider microbiological risks from contact with animals and contaminated surfaces
- Safety risks may also exist
- Consider the health & safety of both visitors AND the staff

Be proportionate

E.Coli is not the only common zoonoses on farms

Other zoonoses include:-

- Campylobacter
- Cryptosporidium
- Salmonella
- Chlamydia
- Orf
- See AIS2 'Common zoonoses in agriculture'

A typical site



Common modes of transfer of bacteria

A. Direct contact

- Stroking or petting animals
- Feeding animals

B. Indirect contact

- Climbing or leaning on enclosure fences or gates
- Sitting on contaminated grass or furniture
- Removing dirty shoes or boots

And then you put your fingers, or your dummy, or food, in your mouth

Control measures

- 1. Good general cleanliness around farm
- 2. Separate eating and contact areas
- 3. Adequate and suitable hand washing facilities
- 4. Proper instruction and training of staff
- 5. Information for visitors
- 6. Supervision of animal contact and hand-washing areas

1. Keeping the site clean

- Pathways, walkways, eating areas, play areas free from animal droppings/faeces
- Eating areas free from accumulations of waste food
- Play equipment visibly free from faecal contamination
- Cleanliness of animals in contact areas
- Rodent control
- Standards of animal hygiene e.g. cleaning, washing and disinfecting of animal housing refer to Animal Health

2. Separate eating and contact areas

Eating Area

- Exclude animals and domestic birds
- Prevent contact with animals in this area
- Discourage wild birds
- Site food and drinks kiosk/shop here (*not near farm entrance*)
- Ban eating and drinking in other areas

Contact Area

- Petting and feeding of animals allowed
- Careful selection of animals
- Enforce no eating and drinking rules
- No age restriction
- Exits lead to well signposted washing facilities

3. Washing facilities

- Located within easy reach of exits from contact areas, entrances to eating areas and farm exits
- Number of hand-washing stations depends on visitor numbers, nature of farm, activities of visitors
- Range of heights of wash basins
- Clean running water [preferably warm], liquid soap and paper towels or hand driers

NB 1. No reuse of used water or towels

2. Alcohol gels or wipes are not acceptable substitutes.

4. Staff requirements

- Familiar with layout of farm
- Understand of health risks
- Knowledge of control measures and site rules
- Competent to deal with visitors
- Appreciate need to report illness.

5. Information for visitors

- Health risks
- Sites rules
- Site layout
- Location of eating areas and washing facilities
- Importance of thorough hand washing
- Instructions on proper hand washing
- What to do if they feel unwell after visit

Attractive, clear, simple signs, posters, leaflets, web site, pre visit information for groups.



NHS

 Wet

 Soap

 Wash

 Rinse

 Dry

Stop germs spreading.
The power is in your hands.

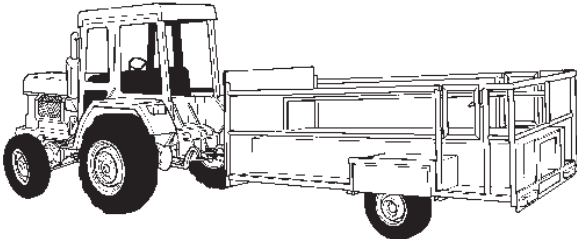
Have you washed your germs away? Wash your hands.

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Information for visitors



HSE information sheet
HSE Carriage of passengers on farm trailers
Agriculture Information Sheet No 36



Introduction

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated three deaths and 31 serious injuries between 1980 and 1999 that were a direct result of carrying passengers on farm trailers. Whenever people are transported around the farm, the vehicle they are being carried on must be suitable for the purpose and a safe system of work (safe working practices) must be followed.

This information sheet is aimed at anyone who uses a trailer to move people around on a farm and sets out the features, related to the circumstances of use, a trailer should have if it is used for carrying passengers.

It only considers on-farm use (ie away from the public highway). Travelling on the public highway with passengers on a trailer may be an offence under road traffic legislation. If you intend doing this you should consult the police to establish any further precautions you should take. Remember that parts of the road traffic legislation apply to any area to which the public have access (eg farm driveways with a public footpath).

Towing vehicle

The tractor or other towing vehicle:

- must be maintained in effective working order, in particular the steering, the brakes (both parking and service) and the tyres;
- should have the facility to operate trailer brakes, preferably direct from the service brakes, but where this is not possible then from the hydraulic services;
- should be correctly and securely coupled to the trailer being used. In particular, the hitch of the tractor should be compatible with the trailer drawbar connection (eg hook and eye, clevis to drawbar) and all necessary securing pins should be in place.


The driver of the towing vehicle should be a mature, competent, and responsible person. Adequate training should have taken place to ensure competence and care should be taken to ensure that the driver is sufficiently mature, particularly if they are less than 18 years old. Remember that young people may require greater training and supervision.

Trailer

- The trailer should be in sound condition and maintained in effective working order, including in particular the tyres and brakes, the floor and sides of the trailer and the connection to the tractor (eg pick-up ring or drawbar).
- It should not be possible for a driver or a passenger to contact the wheels (or tracks) from any position in which they may be riding (ie on either the towing or towed vehicle).

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HPA North West



Farm Visits

Information for visitors to farms

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- **Daily (outside)**
- Animal health
- Fencing
- Work areas/ use of tools
- Appropriate display of notices (whilst work in operation or during lambing, kidding or farrowing)
- Adhere to prevailing guidelines – e.coli, salmonella, foot and mouth
- Play area
- Hand washing (soap and paper roll available).
- **Building**
- Provision of hand-washing facilities (including anti-bacterial soap and paper towels) and toilets.
- Access to baby change and disabled toilet.
- Shop/café/building access points

Other things to consider

- Moving vehicles
- Animal behaviour - biting, scratching, head butting, kicking
- Children's behaviour – climbing, pulling bales over, lack of supervision
- Poorly secured & maintained structures – hay bales, mazes, play equipment, play tractors,
- Play equipment surfaces – mats, wood chips
- Maintenance of play equipment – inspection regime, design
- Dust
- FIRST AID

Other considerations



More other considerations !



Information sources



<http://www.hse.gov.uk>

(<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais23.pdf>)

(<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais36.pdf>)

(<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais2.pdf>)

www.hpa.org.uk

www.rosipa.com

<http://www.farmattractions.net/>

And finally



Any questions ?