



Get MOOOOOOtivated for a Fun and Safe Day at the Farm

A Checklist to Prevent Illness and Injury for Agritourism Venues



The best practices described below are based on the Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2023.

If you are a petting zoo operator, please use this checklist as a tool to design and operate your petting zoo according to the national standards. If you are hiring a petting zoo, please use this checklist to evaluate potential vendors

Handwashing Stations

- Should be placed at the entrance and exit of animal encounter areas
- Should have running water
- Should be accessible for children and persons with disabilities
- Plan in place for restocking paper towels, soap, and water
- Handwashing signage
- Hand sanitizer should not be used as a substitute for hand washing

Visitor Education

- Should be in multiple formats (signs, videos, QR codes, etc.)
- Signage should be posted at post transition areas
- Staff members should be present throughout facility and ready to provide relevant information

Staff Education

- Review best practices from the Compendium with staff on a regular basis
- Train new staff using Compendium and other relevant resources
- Ensure staff feel comfortable explaining concepts to visitors
- Explain that one of the staff roles is to provide education to the public on how to enjoy animals safely

Transitional Areas

- Should be placed at the entrance and exit of animal encounter areas
- Consider placing an area to store strollers outside of the animal encounter area
- Consider providing alcohol wipes which can be used to wipe down cellphones and other frequently touched surfaces
- Some animals shed more bacteria, and are higher risk encounters than others (Examples include: calves, baby goats, lambs, chickens, and reptiles)
- Soiled animal bedding should never be transported through public areas

Animal Care

- Sick and injured animals should be excluded immediately, especially animals with diarrhea and/ or sores
 - Manure and soiled bedding should be removed from enclosures promptly
 - Surfaces should be cleaned regularly (pen railings etc.)
 - Animals should be housed in a way that minimizes stress and overcrowding
 - Stressed animals often shed more infectious bacteria
 - Use feed containers that could not be easily confused with human food like ice cream cones
 - Vaccinate for Rabies with an approved vaccine
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