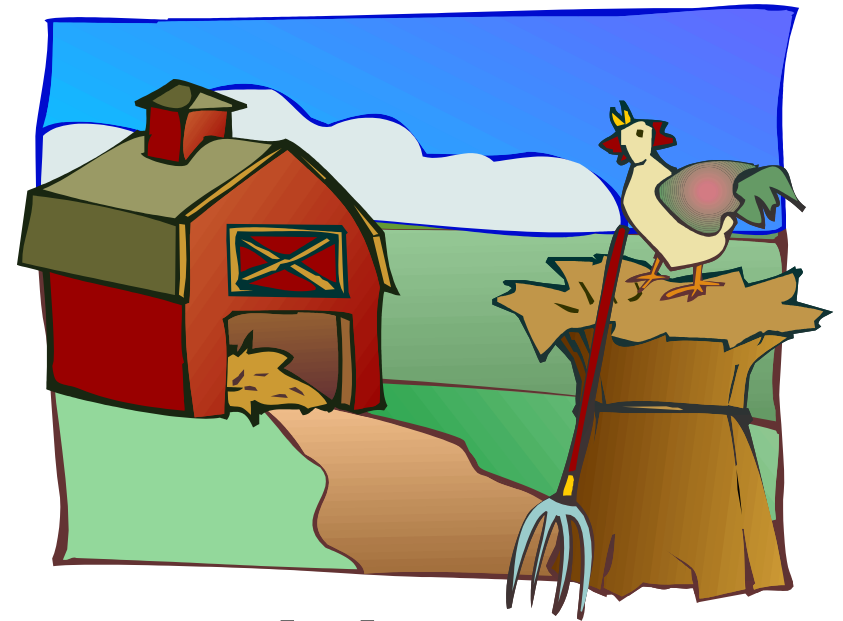


# HPA North West

For further advice or information contact:

*Your Local Environmental Health Department,  
the Community Infection Control Nurse at your  
local Primary Care Trust (PCT),  
or  
Your local Health Protection Unit.*



## Farm Visits

Information produced by: Health Protection Agency North West

Date: September 2007

Review Date: September 2009



Website: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/>

INFORMATION LEAFLET

## What are the risks?

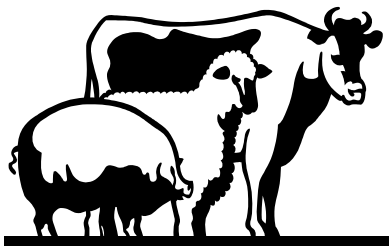
Although visits to farms can be fun and very educational, animals can carry diseases that can be passed to humans, for example *E.coli* O157, *Cryptosporidium*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

Diseases can be caught if germs in animal droppings are swallowed by humans. This may happen when eating food with unwashed contaminated hands or if hands are placed near or in the mouth after touching animals, fences, footwear or any other surfaces that may have been contaminated with animal faeces.

A little preparation before the visit can avoid these risks.

## In preparation for the visit

- If the farm is open to the public, check that it appears well managed, that the grounds and public areas are as clean as possible and that suitable First Aid arrangements are in place.
- Check the washing facilities available to visitors. These should have running water, soap and disposable towels. Make a note of where these are located.
- Close supervision of children will be required on farm visits so ensure there will be enough adults available on the day.
- Slurry pits or where any sick animals are housed should be avoided.
- Plan to take Wellingtons to wear during the visit and take a change of footwear to travel home in.



## During the Visit

- No-one should eat or drink anything, including crisps, sweets and chewing gum, **whilst walking around the farm.**
- If you are touching or feeding animals, you should not place your face against the animals or put your hands in your mouth afterwards.
- **After contact with animals and before eating and drinking, ensure you wash and dry your hands thoroughly.** If you are with young children they may need supervision when washing hands or need to have their hands washed for them.
- Animals should not be allowed into any picnic areas and food should be eaten well away from areas where animals are kept.
- Do not eat anything which may have fallen on the ground.
- Manure and slurry presents a particular risk of infection and you should avoid touching it. If you do, ensure you thoroughly wash and dry your hands immediately.

## At the end of the Visit

- Ensure hands are washed thoroughly with soap and warm water and dried before you leave.
- Ensure footwear is as free as possible from mud and faecal matter. Where possible wear Wellington boots for the visit and change before leaving. **Remember** to wash your hands after removing the Wellingtons and to clean the boots on site or when you return home.

## Advice to pregnant women

Pregnant women should take particular care and in particular avoid direct contact with lambs and their faeces.