



For the Farmer

Farm Visit Details

Fill in the following details and return to the school/teacher

Farm name:

Visit date:

Time:

Location:

Where to park (How many cars will fit?):

Access for those with disabilities (Which parts of the farm are wheelchair friendly):

Toilet location:

Location for washing hands:

Lunch location:

Covered area location, suitable as meeting point for wet weather activities:

Meeting point if students get lost:

Place to go if there is an emergency:

Accessibility to help: Doctor / Emergency Services / Rural Rapid Response / First Aid Kit / First Aid Knowledge:

Quality of cellphone reception: Great / Average / None

School liability insurance: (Please discuss with teacher)

Notes:



For the Farmer

Preparing for The Visit

THINKING OF ACTIVITIES

Hands-on activities are boredom busters; boredom leads to students looking for other things to do, which may get them into trouble. The more activities that are available, the better the visit is likely to go.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

JUNIOR PRIMARY	SENIOR PRIMARY	EVERYONE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding the chickens • Looking at the tractor • Walking through the paddocks or down the race • Let students have a go sitting on the tractor, motorbike or truck and pretend to drive it • Measuring a paddock by students joining hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing students riparian and waterways planting • Visiting your silage area – climbing on it, let students smell and feel the warmth of the silage • Put students through the empty stockyards (have them jump off the end of the race) • Farm dogs are always a hit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding the calves and lambs (when in season) • Walking through the milking shed • Inspecting the cups and equipment used in milking • Having something students can touch and maybe even keep, such as a maize kernel each • Helping with a job – feeding out, rounding up



Hands-on activities are boredom busters

Farm dogs are always a hit

TIPS FOR TALKING WITH THE STUDENTS

1. If you can do a loud dog whistle – students will be immediately impressed. Use this when you need quiet or as a signal to bob down
2. Speak clearly (even if you're shy). Make sure you can be heard by all the students
3. Students like to be involved: ask students questions, give them things to look at and pass around
4. Use volunteers from the class to demonstrate things
5. Build a game or a quiz into what you do
6. Aim to engage all of the students – not just those who are more vocal and answer your questions
7. Wait until students have stopped talking before you start. Be brave the first time and they will get the picture very quickly that you expect good manners
8. A good trick to get students' attention is to have them bob down – students then have to look up at you and balance at the same time which stops fidgeting and means you have eye contact from everyone
9. Be ready to explain things in a different way so that all of the students have an opportunity to understand. Check that they have understood by asking the students some questions
10. Check in with the teacher during the visit to check that you have pitched things at the right level
11. Students really respond to praise in a new situation – e.g. "Good work using soft hands to pat the calves", or "I'm very impressed with the way this young man is sitting waiting for the next instruction", are great to use
12. Don't tolerate behaviour that is unacceptable to you, your family or that is unsafe. Direct any problems to the teacher straight away
13. Have a couple of amazing facts up your sleeve that will wow the students

Just wearing gumboots and being in the paddock will be exciting for some students





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Safety Elements to Consider Visitor Information

INSURANCE

- Find out what activities you are covered for and plan accordingly
- Students may be covered through their schools
- You may want to ask teachers to provide a letter from the school or school board saying the schools liability insurance covers students during field trips



HEALTH

- Be aware that students can contract illnesses from animals such as leptospirosis, ringworm and diarrhoea
- Ensure students wash their hands after touching animals during farm visit



SAFETY

- Farms need to have a map of all the water hazards on the property – river creeks, troughs, dips, tanks, dams and ponds. Water also poses the risk of burns, especially in the dairy shed where hot water is used
- It is the responsibility of the adults to ensure all dangerous chemicals used on the farm are stored away safely, out of reach of the students
- Keep doors shut or locked so students can't get anywhere they're not supposed to
- Put away any dogs that are not completely student friendly and safe
- Before the visit, talk to the teacher about how much the students know about dairy farming

VEHICLES AND MACHINERY

- Spare tractor wheels should be tied to a wall or left lying flat so they can't topple over and crush a child
- **All farm machinery has the potential to cause harm and should only be operated by adults.** Guards could have perforations small enough for student's hands to get through. Workshops need to be kept locked and all machinery should have appropriate safety guards
- Make sure it is safe to reverse farm vehicles. The best way to do this is to walk around the vehicle and ensure students are a safe distance away before starting the engine
- Students do not ride on tractors or on the back of utes
- Remove keys from doors and vehicles, and never leave vehicles unattended with the motor running

