



For the Teacher

Farm Visit Details Fill in the following details

Farm address:

Visit date / time:

Directions:

Transport / Where to park:

Clothing and footwear required:

Food and drink / Lunch location:

Toilet location:

Location for washing hands:

What is the plan if the weather is: sunny / snowing / raining / windy

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

How many? Students Teachers Parent Supervisors Parents with experience on dairy farms Yes / No

Effective supervision structure (ratios):

What is the terrain of the farm?

What sites on the farm will be unfamiliar to the students / teachers?

Is there a site of cultural or family significance on the farm?



For the Teacher

Preparing for The Visit

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

Place to go to if there is an emergency:

Physical Disability: Access for those with disabilities / Wheelchair friendly:

Dairy farming topics your class has already discussed:

Social, psychological and cultural	Student needs	Informing the farmer
Cultural Considerations:		
Physical Size / Shape:		
Fitness:		
Anxieties / Feelings:		
Educational:		
Medical and Health:		
Language Abilities:		

Behaviour:



For the Teacher

Safety Elements to Consider Visitor Information

INSURANCE

- You may be asked to provide a letter advising that the school's liability insurance covers students during field trips



HEALTH

- The very nature of a farm visit means that students may get a bit dirty. Before the visit, teach them the importance of washing their hands after touching animals or items that animals may have licked or chewed
- 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

- Road safety on private roads as well as public roads is vital
- Make sure students know what to do in an emergency – what to do, where to go, who to call
- Cows are much bigger than junior primary students – they are significantly above their eye level – meeting them face to face can be intimidating
- All animals can be unpredictable, especially if startled or protecting their young
- Do not chase or frighten the animals. Approach and handle animals quietly and gently
- Do not climb on gates, fences or animal pens unless given permission

VEHICLES AND MACHINERY

- Walk around the farm with the students and identify hazards together
- Students need to understand why tractors can be so dangerous
- Adult supervision is the key: for young students, it needs to be close and active
- Lead by example. i.e. always wear an approved helmet on an ATV
- Listen carefully to instructions and information given by the farm staff
- Do not use or pick up tools (e.g. spades and forks) unless permitted to do so by farm staff





For the Teacher

Age Group Factors to be Considered when Visiting a Farm

	Characteristics	Typical risks	Protective measures
Toddler Preschooler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to understand cause and effect • Illogical 'magic' thinking • Fascinated by movement or moving parts • May love to climb • Curious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking or eating poison • Falling off farm equipment or farm vehicle • Potential to drown from falling into effluent pond or sumps • Wandering on to trafficked roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful supervision • Physical barriers such as locks and fences • Safe distances • Prohibiting riding on farm machinery
Junior Primary (age 5-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent use of logic • Wishes to appear competent • Wants adult approval • Not aware of realistic dangers – more fearful of kidnapping or war than farm accident (which is more likely) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock kicks or crushing • Entanglement in farm machinery • Falling out of tractor or farm vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent rules • Discussion of safe behaviour • Assignment of simple farm chores, with careful supervision • Use of appropriate safety gear
Senior Primary (age 10-13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater physical and mental skills • Physical development may out strip mental or emotional maturity • Wants social and peer acceptance • Wishes to practice new skills without constant adult supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating machinery designed for adults • Being struck by car while riding bicycle • Falling (e.g. from a ladder) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent rules, with consequences for infractions and rewards for safe behaviour • Use of appropriate safety gear • Age-appropriate tasks and responsibilities • Specific education on farm hazard avoidance
Toddler Preschooler	Risks specific to class / school	Risks specific to class / school	Risks specific to class / school
Junior Primary (age 5-9)	Risks specific to class / school	Risks specific to class / school	Risks specific to class / school
Senior Primary (age 10-13)	Risks specific to class / school	Risks specific to class / school	Risks specific to class / school



For the Teacher

Factors to Consider for Any Class Visiting a Farm

School:

Activity:

Location:

Risks: What could go wrong?	Hazards: Why would this happen?	Controls: How could we prevent it?
Security:		
Unsafe act/s by students:		
Meeting point if students get lost (Farmer to advise of location):		
Animals / Insects:		
Road Use:		
Traffic density (e.g. Milk Tanker):		
Fences (e.g. Electric):		
Human created environments (e.g. effluent ponds):		
Error/s of judgement by activity leader or teacher:		
Error/s of judgement by farmer:		
Error/s of judgement by parent:		
Risks specific to class / school	Risks specific to class / school	Risks specific to class / school