



Stay Safe on the Farm

Our top 10 tips

- 1.** Contact with animals on any farm carries a risk of disease. Proper hand washing reduces this risk to a minimum. Use hot water and soap and dry your hands thoroughly. Antibacterial hand gel does not kill dangerous bacteria. Please see below for more information on e.coli 0157.
- 2.** Pregnant women should not touch the animals, especially goats and sheep during the lambing season. Please see below for more information.
- 3.** Do not allow children to put their fingers near their face or kiss the animals.
- 4.** Wash all footwear and pushchair/scooter wheels when you get home.
- 5.** Do not eat or drink anything on the farm.
- 6.** Animals can peck and bite. Do not put your fingers near their mouths.
- 7.** Do not pick up, chase, shout at or tease the animals.
- 8.** Take care of slipping or tripping as some of the paths are wet and uneven.
- 9.** If you feel unwell within two weeks of visiting the farm you must inform your doctor that you have had contact with animals.
- 10.** Adults are responsible for supervising children in their care at all times and ensuring they wash their hands properly.

If you have any safety concerns or would like further information please speak to a member of staff.

What is E coli 0157?

E coli 0157 is a bacterium that lives in the gut of animals, including cattle, sheep, deer and goats. It can also be carried by pets and wild birds. Simply carrying the bacterium will not normally cause an animal any harm or illness, but if contacted by humans, the toxins it produces can cause illness ranging from diarrhoea to kidney failure. In some cases the illness can be fatal. Young children and the elderly are at the greatest risk.

If you and your family follow the safety rules above the risk of contracting any illness from the farm is low.

Why should pregnant women avoid contact with animals?

Some infections can be passed from sheep and goats to humans. If a pregnant woman becomes infected, it could harm her and her unborn baby's health.

If you're pregnant or think you might be pregnant, avoid contact with sheep during the lambing season, which runs from January to April. Make sure your family wash their hands thoroughly before touching you.