

RISK ASSESSMENT
Mill Cottage Farm Experience

SCHOOLS

Outline of business: taking a variety of animals out to schools, play groups, residential homes as an educational and recreational experience for all ages

Risk Assessment completed on 08.02.2007 by Sarah Main. Reviewed 01.03.2008 Reviewed 09.03.2009. Reviewed 15.09.2009. Reviewed 04.11.2010

Significant Hazards Identified	Groups of people who are at risk	Control measures to reduce the risk
1. Driving onto the site	Children, adults, MCFE staff	Clear instructions obtained from the co-ordinator prior to arrival. MCFE requests to be met at the school entrance and escorted on to the site. MCFE vehicles are not to be moved whilst children are outside (break times, lunchtimes, immediately before or after school). Observe on site speed limits at all times. MCFE Assistant to check outside of vehicle when reversing / going through narrow gateways.
2. Manual handling	MCFE staff	MCFE staff to be fully trained and experienced in animal handling before taking part in school visit. Training for lifting heavier items eg.hurdles
3. Children frightening the animals	Children	Animals to be in an area away from where children play. Children to be constantly supervised when with the animals. Adult : pupil ratio 1:8
4. Animal escaping	Children, adults, MCFE staff	Animals securely fenced & fencing to be checked before children arrive. Animals chosen for their docile nature.
5. Animal causing harm to children	Children	Children to be kept in small numbers and constantly supervised when near animals. Adult to be positioned near the animals head when children are in contact with the animal. Children to be told to stroke animals only when asked and only on the back.
6. Animal causing harm to adult	Adults, MCFE staff	Adults to be reminded to exercise respect and caution when with animals. MCFE staff to be fully trained and experienced in animal handling before taking part in any visit.
7. Child causing harm to animal	Adults & children	Children to be fully supervised at all times. Adult:pupil ratio 1:8
8. Fencing collapsing	Adults & children	Fencing to be checked for security. Children asked not to stand on or lean over fencing.
9. Unknown allergy	Adults & children	School & teacher in charge asked for any suspected or actual allergies well in advance of the trip. Any child with a known or suspected allergy should not take part. This is up to the discretion of the parent and/or teacher. Any child for which there is a cause for concern should be removed immediately from the vicinity of the animals and the school first aider to take charge of the child.
10. Infection picked up	Adults & children	Animals to be clean and with no known infection when they are brought onto the site. All waste is cleared up from the pens as it appears and is taken with MCFE trailer back to the farm. The trailer is regularly cleaned inside and out. Female staff should be aware of the connection between a disease found in recently lambed sheep and miscarriages in humans. Hand washing facilities (running water and soap) must be provided on site by the hirer, or hired from MCFE. Concrete/tarmac area can be scrubbed with Virkon.
11. High / low working temperatures	MCFE staff	Suitable clothing provided by MCFE for all MCFE staff (eg. T shirt, jumper, fleece, waterproofs).