



Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments



A Guide to Visiting Farms and Petting Zoos

Keeping Canada's people, plants and animals healthy.



Canada

Visiting farms and petting zoos is a great way to learn about animals and where they come from. But the success of these businesses depends on keeping their animals healthy. As a visitor, you can do your part by practising biosecurity.

Biosecurity means taking simple and inexpensive steps to prevent diseases from being introduced to people, plants or animals and then spreading. This will not only reduce the diseases from spreading but will also help you to avoid getting sick.



Photo: Canada Agriculture Museum

With each visit, keep in mind the possible risk you pose, what is expected of you, and the precautions to take before, during and after your visit. The same procedures apply to public, neighbours and friends, service personnel, veterinarians and inspectors.

The risks are different for every farm. Some farms allow public access to their production areas and animals. Others have very strict policies and do not allow contact with their animals. Remember to ask before you touch.

Animal diseases can have significant and widespread negative impacts. They are a threat to the agricultural industry and can affect the economy, the environment, wildlife and human health.

How can I protect myself and our animals?

**Before visiting a farm or petting zoo,
ask yourself these questions.**

How do I feel and where have I been?

- › If you feel sick, stay home. You might spread your illness to animals and/or become ill with an animal disease.
- › If you have visited other farm animals, or had contact with wild animals within the last two days, postpone your visit for at least 48 hours.
- › If you have recently been out of the country, avoid contact with animals (wildlife, farm and zoo animals) for at least 14 days after returning to Canada. This is because you could accidentally introduce animal diseases from other countries. For example, introducing foot-and-mouth disease into Canada could have a devastating impact on our animals and economy.

Did I call ahead?

- › Ask about a visitor's policy.
- › Use designated parking areas away from animals.

What should I bring with me?

- › Wear clean footwear and clothes that you haven't worn near other animals (wildlife, farm and zoo animals). When available, borrow coveralls and boot covers on-site.
- › Do not bring your own food or beverages into animal areas.



When you are on-site

- › Wash your hands, especially before and after your visit.
- › Follow all on-site safety and biosecurity practices.
- › On farms, minimize your contact with animals.
- › At public farms and petting zoos, ask before you pet the animals.
- › If an animal looks sick or unhealthy, notify someone on-site.
- › Do not touch equipment or explore areas without a guide.
- › Do not touch an animal's food or water. Many animals get sick through contact and contamination of their feed and water.
- › At public farms and petting zoos, ask before you feed any of the animals, and only use food that is provided.
- › Follow the site's cleaning measures for equipment and personal clothing.



Keeping farms and petting zoos safe and free of disease makes sense.

Diseases are easily transferred by people, equipment and vehicles. Biosecurity is an important part of keeping Canada's people, plants and animals healthy.



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