

## SCHOOL VISITS TO DAIRY FARMS

The information in this document is intended as a general guide only, it is not intended to be comprehensive concerning its subject matter and you may wish to seek further advice. In particular your State Education Department and your school will have specific policies and procedures for you to comply with in undertaking a dairy farm visit with children. For further information on farm safety generally, please go to [farmsafe.org.au](http://farmsafe.org.au).

This document and a separate OH&S Guidance document for farmers can be found under 'Relevant Documents' in the right column of this Dairy Australia web page [dairyaustralia.com.au/farm-visits](http://dairyaustralia.com.au/farm-visits). You should review both documents before the visit.

Visits to dairy farms are recognised as an enjoyable experience for all age groups, especially children. Schools are encouraged to visit farms so children can learn about rural life, dairy farming and become familiar with the animals on the farm.

Teachers play a vital role in the safety of school children and it is important that they provide a comprehensive level of instruction and supervision for them while they are in their care.

### Please refer to the following important information prior to visiting a dairy farm with school children:

#### Do

- Ensure you have reviewed and complied with your State Education Department's and school's policy and procedures on safety for outdoor activities.
- Agree on the nominated member of staff to provide first aid if required.
- Brief children on the safety rules for the visit prior to arriving at the farm.
- Ensure the arrangements for the visit are discussed and agreed with the parents/guardians of each school child and the host farmer prior to the day of the visit.
- Let your host farmer know if he/she or any of their staff need to provide evidence of their 'Working with Children' Check, if applicable.
- Ensure the farm has extensive and up to date public liability insurance.
- Consider whether your school or Education Department requires a risk assessment prior to the excursion being undertaken.



- Check with the host farmer as to what the correct clothing and footwear is for the visit and advise the parents/guardians of each child accordingly.
- Ask that the host farmer brief you and your group on their rules of safety upon arrival at the farm. This should include:
  - Areas to be aware of and avoided from a hazard point of view such as electric fences, vehicle paths, chemical storage areas, dangerous machinery, lakes and rivers.
  - Location of toilets, hand washing facilities and meeting points in case of an emergency.
- Ensure that each child washes their hands before and especially after contact with animals. Wash with water and soap and dry with paper towel.
- Consume food and drink only after thoroughly washing hands with water and soap and in areas designated for eating and drinking.
- Ensure children are supervised at all times and that they never leave the group unattended.

## Don't

- Don't let children drink unpasteurised or raw milk.
- Don't let children walk through calf rearing pens.
- Don't let children taste animal foods.
- Don't let children drink from taps unless they are clearly marked 'drinking water'.
- Don't let children climb on fences, farm machinery or vehicles.
- Don't let children drive any farm vehicles.
- Don't let children ride in trailers.



\* There have been a number of outbreaks of E.coli 0157 in Britain and Canada in recent years. Some young children have died as a result of E.coli 0157 infections that have been linked to farm visits. You may wish to refer to the internet or your nearest library for more information on E.coli 0157.