

RISK ASSESSMENT – Newbridge Farm Park

On Farm Parks the public can be at risk from animals, play equipment, activities and nature.

We understand that animals of all kinds may be carriers of infection, and this can be extended to the pets at home and also wild birds. There are no tests in the live animal to conclusively prove that it is free from infection, and therefore controls must be put in place to minimise the risk of visitors being contaminated.

Touching gates or animal pens which may be contaminated with faeces. To control this risk, we ensure that all areas accessed by the public are kept clean, and that the public play and picnic areas are kept animal free. Animal contact is limited to petting areas. Nearby there are washing facilities including anti-bacterial soap. The public will be verbally instructed in safety procedures & hygiene before departing the hands-on session. No eating is permitted whilst handling animals, and as an extra precaution there are signs to remind visitors to wash hands. Adults are required to supervise their children at all times to ensure their safety and to help them understand that they must not eat, or put their fingers in their mouths before washing their hands.

Eating Areas – Eating and picnic areas are away from animal enclosures, and children and adults are instructed to use our washing facilities prior to eating or drinking, and after touching animals. The picnic benches are washed each morning.

Washing facilities – There are washing facilities near to our animal petting area and picnic/play area. There is a toilet block where the public may wash hands, and there are hand sanitizer units around the Park.

Information and signs – There is sign posting reminding visitors of the need to wash their hands regularly and in particular after touching animals and before eating. There are also signs reminding adults to supervise their children.

Supervision – is provided during our pet handling session. This is both to protect the animals, educate the children about the animals they are handling, and to ensure health and safety for the children and adults both during this experience and afterwards.

Livestock management procedures - are in place to ensure that animals who have just given birth, or just been born are kept away from contact areas. Any animals showing signs of ill health or stress are removed from contact areas. Animals and their environment are kept as clean as possible. No animals that show aggressive behaviour to people are kept in areas with public access.

Manure and compost heaps – are away from areas visitors are expected to access, and the tools used on the farm are regularly cleaned.

Falling trees – we inspect the trees in the public areas daily and have 2 annual inspections by a qualified tree surgeon to ensure the health of our trees and the safety of our visitors.

EGG COLLECTING

This has been set up so that children can do this without going into the Chicken pen where there is a high risk of stepping in or touch chicken faeces. The children are supervised and instructed to wash hands after collecting eggs.

TRACTOR TRAILER RIDE

The main possible hazard from the Tractor Ride would be from children trying to jump from the trailer while it is in motion. We give clear, simple, verbal safety instructions before each ride to remain seated until the trailer stops & to keep hands inside the trailer. No pedestrian is allowed in the trailer ride field except to get on or off the ride at ride times.

PLAY AREA

The main hazard from the children's play area is of children falling from the equipment and hurting themselves. We have a soft, wood chipping surface below all play equipment to reduce impact in case of falls.

Our children's play area is inspected on a daily basis for any loose nuts and bolts, or any defects.

TRAMPOLINE

The main hazard on our trampolines is from children falling awkwardly and getting hurt, or crashing into other users, we have signs by each trampoline limiting the number of simultaneous users & giving other safety advice.

Our Trampolines are inspected daily for deterioration, and any faults rectified.

PONY RIDES

The main hazards are falling off, getting bitten, trodden on or kicked by the pony.

We use small quiet, good natured ponies that have a proven record.

Children are firstly fitted with approved riding hats and then escorted to and from the pony ensuring a safe distance at all times. Parents are given the opportunity to walk alongside the pony to provide extra security if the parent wishes.

Trained staff lead the pony at all times and only at a walking pace, instructing the child how to hold on to the saddle before moving off, & keeping a close eye on the child while moving. The child is helped with mounting & dismounting.

MINOR INJURIES– Although every precaution is taken, minor injuries can still occur through children falling over etc, these can be dealt with by a suitably qualified member of staff. Anyone requiring first aid should report to the shop, or nearest staff member, who will locate a trained first aider.