Farm Animal Care

Risk Assessment

CONTACT DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Lead:	**Primary Contact:**
Participants:	

SERVICE/ACTIVITY DETAILS

Purpose:	**Date:**

Benefit: Encourages biodiversity through responsible breeding and conservation efforts. | Ensures the welfare of farm animals through proper feeding and healthcare. | Promotes ethical animal husbandry practices to improve productivity and well-being. | Provides economic benefits by ensuring healthy and productive farm animals. | Reduces disease transmission through veterinary care and biosecurity measures. | Supports sustainable farming by maintaining healthy livestock populations.

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Animal escapes	Injury to animals, property damage, public safety risks	Allows animals to access outdoor areas, improving welfare and natural behaviors.	Conduct routine inspections of fencing, gates, and enclosures for damage or wear. Train staff on proper procedures for capturing escaped animals safely. Use visual barriers where necessary to reduce the likelihood of animals attempting to breach enclosures. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals, public	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Animal handling injuries	Bites, kicks, crushing, scratches, falls during handling	Allows for direct care of animals, including medical treatment, feeding, and routine maintenance, which improves their well-being and productivity.	Train all staff in proper animal handling techniques, including how to approach, restrain, and move animals safely. Use appropriate PPE such as gloves and boots. Implement a buddy system for handling large animals and provide designated handling areas with secure gates and non-slip flooring. **(ALL)**	Workers, visitors	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Biosecurity breaches	Spread of infectious diseases, contamination of livestock	Supports animal trade and breeding programs by allowing movement of livestock between locations.	Establish controlled access points to limit farm visitors and require disinfection procedures before entering animal areas. Quarantine new arrivals for observation before integrating them with existing livestock. Regularly clean and disinfect all housing areas and equipment. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Cold stress	Hypothermia, frostbite, respiratory illnesses	Enables year-round farming in colder regions, maintaining livestock production and food supply.	Provide insulated shelters with windbreaks and deep bedding to retain warmth. Use heating lamps for vulnerable animals such as newborns. Adjust feeding regimes to include higher-energy diets during colder months to help animals maintain body heat. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Confined space hazards	Suffocation, toxic gas exposure, difficulty escaping	Allows for efficient storage of feed and waste, optimizing farm space and reducing costs.	Identify all confined spaces and restrict entry without a permit. Train workers in safe confined space entry, using gas detection devices before entry. Provide emergency rescue plans and equipment, including harnesses and oxygen supplies if needed. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Drowning hazards in troughs or ponds	Drowning, hypothermia, waterborne infections	Enables natural watering systems and aquatic-based farming methods.	Install barriers around large water sources and equip troughs with escape ramps. Conduct regular safety inspections and provide staff training on water safety and rescue procedures to reduce risks. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Ergonomic injuries	Muscle strain, back injuries, repetitive stress injuries	Allows manual labor in areas where automation is not feasible, maintaining jobs and traditional farming practices.	Provide training on proper lifting techniques and safe body mechanics. Use mechanical aids such as wheelbarrows, hoists, or conveyor belts to reduce strain. Adjust workstations and equipment height to minimize awkward postures. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Exposure to hazardous chemicals	Poisoning, burns, respiratory issues	Allows for effective parasite and disease control, improving animal health and reducing mortality rates.	Store pesticides, disinfectants, and veterinary medicines in secure, well-ventilated areas with clear labeling. Train staff on correct mixing, application, and disposal procedures. Provide PPE such as masks and goggles for chemical handling. Implement emergency response plans for spills and accidental exposure. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Exposure to zoonotic parasites	Infections, skin rashes, gastrointestinal issues	Supports mixed-species farming, which improves biodiversity and sustainability.	Implement regular deworming programs and monitor animals for parasites. Provide protective gloves and enforce hygiene measures, such as handwashing after handling livestock. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Falling from heights (e.g., barns, ladders)	Fractures, concussions, spinal injuries	Enables maintenance of barns and infrastructure essential for animal care.	Use fall protection such as guardrails, harnesses, and secure ladders. Train workers on safe climbing techniques and ensure proper storage of tools to prevent falls. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Falling hay bales or equipment	Crushing injuries, broken bones, concussions	Allows large-scale storage of feed and materials, optimizing farm operations.	Use stable stacking methods and interlocking patterns for hay bales. Limit stacking heights and secure materials during transport. Provide mechanical lifting aids and train workers in proper handling techniques. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Feed contamination	Illness in livestock, reduced productivity, financial losses	Allows bulk feed storage, ensuring animals have consistent nutrition and reducing feeding costs.	Store feed in rodent-proof containers and keep storage areas dry to prevent mold growth. Implement quality control measures, checking feed for spoilage before distribution. Rotate feed stocks regularly to prevent old or expired feed from being consumed. **(ALL)**	Animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Fire hazards	Burns, smoke inhalation, property damage	Allows the use of heating, electrical equipment, and lighting systems necessary for animal welfare and farm efficiency.	Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in barns, storage areas, and workshops. Regularly check electrical wiring for faults and prohibit smoking near flammable materials. Store hay and bedding materials away from ignition sources, ensuring adequate ventilation to reduce spontaneous combustion risks. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Heat stress	Dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke	Allows animals to be kept in warmer climates, expanding farming opportunities and increasing production capacity.	Install fans, misters, or shade structures in animal enclosures. Schedule handling and transportation activities during cooler parts of the day. Ensure a continuous supply of fresh water for animals, monitoring for dehydration symptoms and providing electrolyte supplementation when necessary. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Heavy lifting injuries	Back injuries, muscle strain, hernias	Supports manual farm labor, preserving traditional farming methods.	Train workers in proper lifting techniques and provide lifting aids such as hoists and wheelbarrows. Ensure heavy loads are stored at accessible heights to minimize strain. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Lone working risks	Delayed emergency response, isolation, increased vulnerability	Allows work to continue at all hours, improving flexibility and efficiency in farm operations.	Implement a lone worker policy with regular check-ins via radio or phone. Provide GPS tracking devices and personal alarms. Train workers in hazard awareness, emergency response, and first aid to enhance safety when working alone. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Machinery-related accidents	Entanglement, crushing, cuts, burns	Increases efficiency in farm operations, reducing manual labor and improving productivity in feeding, cleaning, and transportation.	Ensure all farm machinery undergoes regular inspections and maintenance. Train workers on safe operation, including proper shutdown procedures and the use of machine guards. Restrict access to machinery for unauthorized personnel and enforce safe distances around moving parts. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Manure gas exposure	Respiratory distress, toxic gas poisoning, suffocation	Allows for manure collection and storage, which improves farm hygiene and provides natural fertilizer.	Install and maintain proper ventilation systems in manure storage areas to prevent gas buildup. Train workers on the dangers of hydrogen sulfide, methane, and ammonia exposure, and provide gas detection monitors. Implement confined space entry protocols for manure pits and lagoons. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Stray or aggressive animals	Bites, trampling, injuries from charging	Permits integration of new or rescued animals into farm settings, supporting rehabilitation programs.	Develop protocols for handling aggressive animals, including restraint techniques and isolation areas. Train staff to recognize warning signs and use de-escalation methods. Establish safe procedures for recapturing stray animals. **(ALL)**	Workers, visitors	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Sun exposure and dehydration	Heat exhaustion, sunburn, dehydration	Enables year-round outdoor work, essential for animal care and crop production.	Schedule work during cooler hours where possible. Provide shaded rest areas, ensure workers take hydration breaks, and educate staff on sun protection measures such as wearing hats and sunscreen. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Trampling injuries	Broken bones, internal injuries, concussions	Allows for free movement of animals, which reduces stress and improves their health.	Establish safe handling areas and train workers in animal behavior to prevent crowding. Use barriers and controlled movement techniques to minimize sudden animal reactions. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Vehicle accidents on-site	Crushing injuries, collisions, fatalities	Allows efficient transport of feed, waste, and animals, reducing manual workload.	Designate clear traffic routes with speed limits and pedestrian zones. Train staff on vehicle safety and conduct regular maintenance checks to prevent mechanical failures. **(ALL)**	Workers, visitors	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Water contamination	Disease outbreaks, reduced water quality, environmental damage	Permits the use of natural water sources such as ponds and rivers, reducing dependency on artificial water systems.	Test all water sources regularly for pathogens and chemical contaminants. Ensure proper drainage to prevent runoff from manure storage areas into water supplies. Clean and disinfect drinking troughs frequently to prevent bacterial growth. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Zoonotic disease transmission	Illness from bacteria, viruses, parasites	Enables close human-animal interactions, which are necessary for monitoring health, early disease detection, and administering treatments.	Enforce strict hygiene protocols, including mandatory handwashing after handling animals, using disposable gloves for high-risk tasks, and sanitizing shared equipment. Vaccinate both animals and workers where appropriate and conduct regular health checks to identify potential infections early. **(ALL)**	Workers, visitors	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Allergic reactions	Skin irritation, respiratory distress, anaphylaxis	Enables people with mild allergies to work in farming environments, increasing workforce availability.	Identify workers prone to allergic reactions and provide appropriate PPE such as masks and gloves. Maintain strict barn and worksite cleanliness to minimize allergen buildup. Educate staff on recognizing and managing allergic reactions, keeping emergency antihistamines available. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Electric shock from fencing	Burns, cardiac arrest, involuntary muscle contractions	Ensures effective containment of livestock, reducing escapes and injuries.	Inspect fences regularly for damage, interference, or grounding issues. Clearly mark them with warning signs. Train staff on safe activation and deactivation procedures, ensuring control units are secure to prevent accidental contact. **(ALL)**	Workers, visitors	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Insect bites and stings	Allergic reactions, disease transmission, skin irritation	Supports outdoor and pasture-based farming, which enhances animal welfare and sustainability.	Apply integrated pest management techniques, including insect traps, repellents, and habitat control. Encourage workers to wear protective clothing and apply insect repellent. Maintain good drainage to eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Noise-induced hearing loss	Permanent hearing damage, stress, communication issues	Enables large-scale farming operations, which require machinery and large animal populations, improving productivity.	Provide ear protection such as earmuffs or earplugs for workers exposed to loud machinery, animal vocalizations, or feeding systems. Establish noise-reducing barriers in high-decibel areas and limit prolonged exposure by rotating staff in noisy work environments. **(ALL)**	Workers	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Rodent infestations	Disease transmission, feed contamination, structural damage	Allows for large-scale feed storage, ensuring food security for livestock.	Implement pest control measures such as traps and rodent-proof feed storage. Regularly inspect storage areas and remove waste promptly to minimize attraction to rodents. **(ALL)**	Workers, animals	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Slips, trips, and falls	Fractures, head injuries, sprains	Provides workers with access to animals in various environments, ensuring better care and supervision.	Install proper drainage systems in barns and work areas to prevent standing water. Regularly inspect walkways, ladders, and work surfaces for hazards. Use non-slip flooring in high-risk areas and ensure all pathways are well-lit and free from clutter. **(ALL)**	Workers, visitors	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Unpredicted risks	Illness, injury, death		Continuous risk monitoring conducted by all staff. Any unforeseen hazards must be reported promptly to supervisors or management, with immediate corrective action taken as necessary. **(ALL)**	All	**N/A**

NOTES

Extra notes & activity evaluation:

NOTES

Extra notes & activity evaluation:

Completed by	Reviewed/Approved by	Risk Assessment Date	Review Required Date