

CONTACT DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Lead:	Primary Contact:
Participants:	

SERVICE/ACTIVITY DETAILS

Purpose:	Date:
<p>Benefit: Encourages empathy and respect for animals through direct interaction. Helps reduce fear of animals by fostering positive experiences. Promotes sensory and social development in young children. Provides children and families with hands-on educational experiences with animals. Provides entertainment and enrichment opportunities in community events. Supports local farms and animal care initiatives through public engagement.</p>	

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Aggressive animal behavior	Attacks, bites, trampling	Allows exposure to real animal behaviors, helping visitors understand the importance of personal space, body language, and respecting animals' natural instincts.	Train staff to recognize early signs of agitation such as pinned ears, raised fur, or defensive postures. Rotate animals to prevent stress, ensuring they have rest periods away from visitors. Provide well-spaced enclosures with separate retreat areas for overstimulated animals. Restrict visitor interaction with animals known to exhibit aggression. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Allergic reactions	Anaphylaxis, respiratory distress, skin irritation	Exposure to new environments builds resilience and awareness of personal health needs.	Display clear allergy warnings regarding animal dander, bedding, and feed. Keep designated allergen-free zones. Train staff to recognize allergic reactions and respond appropriately with emergency protocols and first aid. (ALL)	Visitors	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Animal bites	Bites, infections, trauma	Allowing close interaction with animals enhances education, empathy, and appreciation for wildlife.	Train staff to recognize early signs of animal distress. Provide clear visitor guidance on handling techniques. Use signs to reinforce safe interactions. High-risk animals should be separated or only handled under supervision. Have a first aid protocol for bites. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Cold-related illnesses	Hypothermia, frostbite, cold stress	Experiencing different climates teaches about seasonal adaptation and proper clothing choices.	Offer warm indoor areas in winter months. Advise visitors on dressing appropriately for the weather. Monitor visitors, especially children, for signs of cold stress and provide warming stations. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Contamination from animal waste	Contamination, infections, food poisoning	Exposure to nature teaches about ecosystems, decomposition, and responsible interaction with living spaces.	Regularly clean enclosures and visitor areas. Provide clear waste disposal points. Ensure animal waste is contained and removed hygienically. Educate visitors about handwashing after touching surfaces or enclosures. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Dust inhalation	Respiratory irritation, allergies, eye irritation	Encourages awareness of air quality and its effects on respiratory health, reinforcing the importance of environmental management in agricultural settings.	Regularly water high-traffic areas to suppress dust in dry conditions. Install air filtration or ventilation systems in indoor barns or confined spaces. Use low-dust bedding for animals and store hay away from visitor walkways. Provide masks for staff and visitors with respiratory conditions when needed. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Exposure to hazardous chemicals	Poisoning, burns, respiratory problems	Encourages responsible chemical management and teaches the importance of controlled substance handling in agricultural and veterinary settings.	Securely store disinfectants, pesticides, and animal medications in locked, labeled cabinets away from public areas. Train staff on correct handling procedures, including dilution, application, and disposal. Conduct regular audits of chemical storage and usage, and provide emergency wash stations nearby. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Fire hazards	Burns, smoke inhalation, injuries	Exposure to controlled risks teaches responsibility and awareness of fire safety in rural environments.	Install fire extinguishers in all risk areas. Train staff on emergency fire procedures. Prohibit smoking near hay storage or dry areas. Use fire-resistant materials where possible. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Foodborne illnesses	Food poisoning, gastroenteritis, bacterial infections	Experiencing outdoor food settings teaches about cross-contamination and safe eating habits.	Keep animal feeding areas separate from food service areas. Ensure vendors follow strict hygiene protocols. Provide hand sanitizing stations at picnic areas and enforce a no-eating rule near enclosures. (ALL)	Visitors	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Heat-related illnesses	Heatstroke, dehydration, exhaustion	Developing resilience in outdoor environments strengthens adaptability to varying weather conditions.	Provide ample shaded areas and drinking water stations. Encourage visitors to wear appropriate clothing. Train staff to recognize heatstroke symptoms and take action when needed. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Inadequate supervision	Overcrowding, mismanagement, delayed response	Encourages free exploration within set boundaries, promoting confidence and autonomy.	Maintain appropriate staff-to-visitor ratios. Train staff on crowd management and emergency responses. Assign specific zones for supervisors to monitor and intervene if needed. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Inappropriate visitor behavior	Aggression, vandalism, disturbances	Allows for public access to animals while reinforcing responsible behavior and social norms through observation and correction.	Display clear behavior guidelines at entrances and key locations. Train staff to recognize signs of escalating behavior and use de-escalation techniques. Provide verbal warnings for minor infractions and establish a policy for removing individuals who endanger animals or visitors. Monitor CCTV where available. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Injury from animal escapes	Trampling, collisions, trauma	Accepting that animals have natural instincts fosters respect for their behaviors and habitats.	Ensure enclosures have secure locks and barriers. Conduct daily checks on fencing and gates. Train staff on animal recovery procedures and visitor evacuation if needed. Limit visitor access to high-risk enclosures. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Injury from farm equipment	Cuts, bruises, entrapment	Seeing real farming equipment provides insight into agricultural work, food production, and engineering.	Restrict public access to farm machinery. Securely store tools and equipment when not in use. Train staff to use warning signs and create clear, designated pathways to separate visitors from work areas. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Noise levels causing distress	Hearing loss, stress, anxiety	Exposes visitors to natural and farm sounds, helping them understand animal communication, daily routines, and the impact of noise on different species.	Identify noise-sensitive areas and designate quiet zones with soft ground coverings to minimize echoes. Use directional speakers instead of loudspeakers to control sound distribution. Schedule noisy activities like feeding time or tractor use away from peak visitor hours. Provide ear protection for staff in high-noise areas. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Overcrowding in enclosures	Crushing, stampedes, injuries	Maintains a balance between public access and animal welfare, reinforcing the need for spatial awareness and respect for both human and animal comfort levels.	Establish a visitor flow system to prevent congestion in animal enclosures, using one-way paths where needed. Limit the number of people in small animal areas with a timed entry system. Train staff to monitor visitor density and intervene when crowding exceeds safe limits. Adjust enclosure layouts to optimize space. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Sharp or splintering materials	Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds	Encourages hands-on engagement with natural environments while fostering an understanding of the maintenance and upkeep required for outdoor structures.	Inspect and maintain all wooden structures, including fences, benches, and enclosures, to prevent splinters and sharp edges. Sand down rough surfaces, replace damaged wood, and seal exposed wood with non-toxic coatings. Provide protective gloves for staff working with untreated or natural materials. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Structural hazards (broken fences, weak gates)	Collapse, entrapment, falls	Demonstrates the necessity of proper construction and maintenance in agricultural and animal care settings, helping visitors appreciate the infrastructure behind safe enclosures.	Conduct thorough daily inspections of fences, gates, and enclosures, looking for broken latches, loose nails, or structural weaknesses. Ensure repairs are made promptly using durable, weather-resistant materials. Use warning signs around temporary hazards and restrict visitor access to areas under maintenance. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Water hazards	Drowning, slips, hypothermia	Learning about water safety in real-world environments prepares visitors for safe interactions with natural water sources.	Secure all open water sources with fences or barriers. Supervise visitor access to any ponds or water features. Provide clear signs about risks and ensure first aid stations are nearby. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Zoonotic disease transmission	Infections, contamination, outbreaks	Experiencing live animals teaches about the natural world and food chains, reinforcing respect for hygiene and disease prevention.	Provide handwashing stations with running water, soap, and drying facilities at all entry and exit points. Display reminders and supervise children washing hands. Regularly clean enclosures and high-touch surfaces. Implement animal health monitoring. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: High After Measure: Med
Animal scratches	Abrasions, lacerations, infections	Direct physical contact with animals fosters confidence, curiosity, and hands-on learning.	Keep animals' nails and hooves trimmed. Ensure visitors are instructed on handling animals correctly to avoid accidental scratches. Provide protective gloves if necessary. Train staff to monitor interactions and intervene if needed. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Injuries from animal feeding	Contusions, pinches, bruises	Hands-on feeding experiences enhance learning about animal diets, behaviors, and agricultural processes.	Supervise all feeding areas. Provide designated feeding tools like cups or tongs. Use instructional signs and demonstrations to teach visitors safe feeding techniques. Remove uneaten food promptly to prevent aggressive animal behavior. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Insect stings or bites	Stings, bites, allergic reactions	Exposure to insects promotes an understanding of biodiversity and the role of pollinators.	Regularly inspect for wasp nests or insect infestations. Keep first aid kits stocked with antihistamines and sting relief. Educate visitors on recognizing and avoiding insect-prone areas. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low
Lost children	Abduction, separation, wandering	Encourages independence and navigational skills in controlled environments.	Implement a lost child protocol, including designated meeting points and staff training. Encourage guardians to supervise children and use wristbands or identification tags. (ALL)	Children, guardians	Before Measure: Med After Measure: Low

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Slips, trips, and falls	Falls, sprains, fractures	Exploring a dynamic outdoor setting improves balance, coordination, and risk awareness in real-world environments.	Maintain level walking surfaces and install non-slip mats in high-risk areas. Clearly mark uneven terrain or steps. Train staff to monitor conditions and respond to spills or obstructions immediately. Ensure safe footwear recommendations are displayed. (ALL)	Visitors, staff	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:

Completed by

Reviewed/Approved by

Risk Assessment Date

Review Required Date