

**October 10, 2002**

## **Policies and Procedures to Reduce Disease Risk to People Who Use CALS Livestock Facilities**

### **Introduction**

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences welcomes visitors to its campus facilities and to its Agricultural Research Stations around the state. However, facilities that are used to house or hold livestock pose special health risks to visitors. The College has developed the policies and procedures below to communicate health risks to students and visitors, and to reduce risks inherently found in livestock areas. While these policies and procedures identify steps for specific individuals to take to reduce risks, all faculty and staff can help ensure safe use of College livestock facilities.

Richard Straub, director of Agricultural Research Stations, chaired the CALS Committee on Safe Use of Livestock Facilities (see Attachment #1 for membership) that developed these policies and procedures. If you have questions, need more information or have suggestions for improvement, telephone him at (608) 262-2757 or e-mail him at [rjstraub@wisc.edu](mailto:rjstraub@wisc.edu)

### **Instructional Use of Livestock Areas**

1. At the beginning of each semester, the chair of the CALS Committee on Safe Use of Animal Facilities will e-mail the chairs of the Departments of Animal Science and Dairy Science, the director of the Farm and Industry Short Course, and the dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine to remind them of disease risks to students when classes or laboratories involve livestock or are held in areas where livestock previously were held. (See Attachment #2 for suggested e-mail content. Attachment #3 should also be sent with e-mail.)

- a. The department chairs, the director and the dean are responsible for distributing the e-mail and attachment to appropriate individuals in their units.

### **Scheduled Events**

When a scheduled event is held in a CALS livestock area, both the scheduling unit (the unit in charge of the livestock area being scheduled) and the event planners (those seeking to hold an event in a livestock area) must observe the following procedures to reduce livestock disease risks to visitors.

1. There can be only one scheduling unit for any one livestock use area. The Memorial Union and Campus Information and Visitor Center will no longer schedule Stock Pavilion events or tours of livestock facilities without first notifying the appropriate scheduling unit.
2. At the time the livestock-use facility is scheduled for an event, the scheduling unit must provide event planners with Attachment #3, and the planners must review and observe its guidelines.
3. If school children are involved in the event, the scheduling unit should make sure a copy of Attachment #4 is provided to the event planners. The event planners must send a copy of Attachment #4 to responsible school officials (generally teachers) and make sure teachers understand their responsibilities: 1) to disseminate the information to students and their parents, preferably at the time permission slips are sought for the event, and 2) to monitor student behavior during the visit to ensure that no food or drink is taken into livestock areas and that proper handwashing is practiced. The scheduling unit is encouraged to use e-mail to provide instruction to event planners and to distribute Attachment #4.
  - a. For events intended primarily for visitors other than school children, it will not be necessary to send Attachment #4 in advance of the event, but the information in #4 should be available in a prominent location at the event site at the time the event is held.
4. When visitors arrive for an event, event planners should remind them that precautions are needed in livestock holding areas, should enforce no food or drink rules, and encourage handwashing upon exiting or before eating or drinking later.
5. If adequate hand washing facilities are not available in a livestock area hosting visitors, portable handwashing stations should be provided. The scheduling unit is responsible for providing portable handwashing stations and event planners may be charged for costs involved.
6. The scheduling unit should make arrangements to have the livestock area as clean as possible before an event is held. The scheduling unit must give janitorial services or other cleaning personnel sufficient notice to have cleaning or special disinfecting procedures done before the event is held. The scheduling unit may charge event planners for the costs of cleaning a livestock-use area for a public event.
7. The scheduling unit must have appropriate signage in place at prominent locations in the livestock use areas. Two kinds of signs are necessary.
  - a. Entry and exit doors to the livestock area should prominently display signs stating that food and drink is not allowed and that hand washing is required (see Attachment #5).

- b. The larger sign (Attachment #6) should be posted in the livestock holding area, preferably near a location where hand washing is possible.
- c. CALS administration is responsible for providing and paying for signage needed for a livestock area. Units scheduling events in their livestock areas are responsible for determining signage needs.

### **Scheduled Events Involving Food and Beverages**

1. Food and beverages are not allowed in areas where livestock are present.
2. Food and drink may be allowed in facilities where livestock have been held only if the facility has a floor (concrete or other impervious surface) and surroundings that can be properly cleaned and sanitized following animal use.
  - a. Before a food/beverage event can be held in a livestock use area, the scheduling unit and the event planners must request permission from the CALS Committee on Safe Use of Livestock Facilities.
  - b. The Committee will develop cleaning and sanitizing procedures for each livestock area, and the scheduling unit must follow these procedures in making a livestock area ready for an event involving food and beverages. The scheduling unit may charge event planners for all costs involved in preparing a livestock-use area for a food event.
  - c. University Health Services has final authority over all CALS food events held on the Madison campus. (See Attachment #7 for further details and requirements.) Food events held in livestock-use facilities not on the UW-Madison campus come under the jurisdiction of the local health authorities where the event is held.

### **Scheduled Events Involving Special or Unusual Risk**

1. Whenever a scheduling unit receives a request from an event planner for an event that potentially involves special or unusual risk, the scheduling unit will refer the request to the chair of the CALS Committee on Safe Use of Animal Facilities.
2. If the chair judges that the event may pose special or unusual animal disease risk to event participants, the chair will consult with Committee members and
  - a. Allow the event to go forward under usual guidelines;
  - b. Allow the event to go forward only if special conditions are met; or
  - c. Not allow the event to be held.

## Campus Information and Visitor Center Scheduled Tours

1. The Campus Information and Visitor Center encourages school children and the general public to visit the campus and tour facilities. Among facilities toured are livestock holding areas.
2. The Center will follow procedures below in arranging such tours or visits.
  - a. When the Visitor Center receives a tour request, it will contact the scheduling unit for the livestock holding area involved and determine the availability of the facility for the proposed tour.
  - b. If school children are involved in the proposed tour, the Visitor Center must, in advance of the event, send Attachment #4 to responsible school officials (generally teachers). Teachers must share this information with students and their parents, preferably at the time permission slips are sought for the tour. The Visitor Center will also communicate to teachers or other responsible adults associated with the tour group the need to monitor student behavior during the tour to ensure that no food or drink is taken into livestock area and that proper handwashing is practiced.
  - c. When the Visitor Center schedules a tour to a livestock holding area, the scheduling unit involved should ensure that handwashing facilities are available at the site, that the area is as clean as possible, and that proper signage is in place.**

## Unscheduled Public Visits to CALS Livestock Areas

1. If a CALS unit in charge of a livestock area allows unplanned public visits to such areas, the following procedures need to be observed.
  - a. The CALS unit in charge of the livestock area must have appropriate signage in place. Two kinds of signs are necessary.
    - Entry doors to the livestock area should prominently display signs stating that food and drink are not allowed, and that hand washing is required (see Attachment #5).
    - The larger sign (Attachment #6) should be posted in the livestock holding area, preferably near a location where hand washing is possible. If nearby hand washing facilities are not available, directions to the nearest restroom or other hand washing station should be provided.

## **Attachment #1**

### CALS Committee on Safe Use of Livestock Facilities

Lou Armentano, Department of Dairy Science  
Jeannine Critchley, Risk Management  
Rick Johnson, University Health Services  
Len Maurer, Dean's Office  
Dan Schaefer, Department of Animal Sciences  
Dick Straub, Agricultural Research Stations, Chair

## **Attachment #2**

This is a reminder of the health risks students encounter when classes or laboratories are held in livestock areas. While E. coli 0157 is the most prominent of these risks, other infectious agents can also pose health problems.

To minimize risks to students, please observe the following two important rules when conducting classes in livestock areas.

1. Do not allow students to bring food or drinks into areas where livestock are or have recently been held, and discourage hand-mouth contacts.
2. Require students to wash their hands with soap and water when leaving the livestock area.

For more information on health considerations associated with animal-use facilities, contact University Health Services Environmental Health Program at (608) 262-1809, or by email at [ehp@mail.uhs.wisc.edu](mailto:ehp@mail.uhs.wisc.edu).

Thanks for your cooperation.

## **Attachment #3**

### **Public Events Involving Livestock Contact Special Health Information**

Before you or your group plans an event in a UW-Madison animal-use facility, please spend a few moments reviewing the following important information.

Animal-use facilities, including the UW Stock Pavilion, are primarily used for livestock classes and shows. All users should be aware that there are certain health risks associated with farm animal contact, particularly to children less than 5 yearsold, the elderly, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems.

Whenever humans come into contact with farm animals or farm animal wastes, there is a risk for transmission of E. coli O157:H7 and other infectious agents from farm animals to humans. Certain types of farm animals, such as calves and other young ruminants, young poultry, and sick animals pose a greater risk for transmitting these infections to humans.

#### **Reducing Risk of Infection**

- The most effective way to prevent becoming infected by E. coli and other infectious agents associated with farm animal contact is to make sure that everyone washes his or her hands following animal contact or interaction. Handwashing stations or easily accessible washrooms with running water, soap, and disposable towels must be available so visitors and staff can wash their hands immediately after animal contact. If children will be attending the event it is important that the handwashing stations be designed to allow easy access and effective use of the facilities by children.
- It is also very important to restrict hand-mouth activities (e.g., eating, drinking and smoking) in animal interaction areas or any other areas where animal wastes or waste residues are or are likely to be present. Similarly, children must not bring toys or pacifiers into animal interaction areas where they may become contaminated directly by the animals or become soiled if they fall to the floor. Parents and other people supervising children at these types of activities need to stress proper handwashing practices to the children prior to attending the event, and must insure that all children have washed hands upon leaving the animal interaction area. For added protection, commercially available hand sanitizers may be applied to hands after they have been washed.

#### **Persons at Increased Risk of Infection**

Persons at high risk for serious infections should observe heightened precaution and weigh the risks for contact with farm animals. Children less than 5 years old, the elderly, pregnant individuals, and immuno-compromised persons (e.g., transplant recipients and persons with HIV/AIDS) are at higher risk for serious infections. Children under the age of 5 must be closely supervised by adults at all times.

For more information on health considerations associated with animal-use facilities, contact University Health Services Environmental Health Program at (608) 262-1809, or by email at [ehp@mail.uhs.wisc.edu](mailto:ehp@mail.uhs.wisc.edu). Thank you for your cooperation.

Adapted from Centers for Disease Control "Recommendations: Farm Animal Contact", Sept. 27, 2001

## **Attachment #4**

# **Special Health Information For Animal-Use Facility Visitors**

Before you or your group visits a UW-Madison animal-use facility, please spend a few moments reviewing the following important information.

Animal-use facilities, including the UW Stock Pavilion, are primarily used for livestock classes and shows. All users and visitors should be aware that there are certain health risks associated with farm animal contact, particularly to children less than 5 yearsold, the elderly, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems.

- d. UW-Madison has taken precautions to minimize the risks. In addition, please observe the following two important rules: Food and drinks are prohibited inside the facility. To help prevent becoming infected by *E. coli* or another infectious agent, it is very important to restrict hand-mouth activities (including eating, drinking and smoking) in animal interaction areas or any other areas where animal wastes are present. This is especially important for children, who must not bring toys, pens or pencils, or pacifiers into animal interaction areas where they may become contaminated directly by the animals or become soiled if they fall to the floor.
- e. Wash your hands before leaving. The most effective way to minimize health risks is to make sure that everyone in your group washes his or her hands with soap and water following animal contact or interaction. Handwashing stations and restrooms are located near the exits.

For more information on health considerations associated with animal-use facilities, contact University Health Services Environmental Health Program at (608) 262-1809, or by email at [ehp@mail.uhs.wisc.edu](mailto:ehp@mail.uhs.wisc.edu). Thank you for your cooperation.