

The Safe Operating practises in this document cannot cover every possible scenario and should be used in conjunction with the manufacturer's instructions

FAMILIES	KIDS ON FARM	VISITORS
		
<b>Hazards</b> <b>Physical injury, death, crush broken bones:</b> Stock, vehicles, machinery <b>Cuts:</b> Hoof knife / grinder, syringe and needle, tail trimming. <b>Drowning:</b> Ponds, drains, troughs <b>Slips, trips, falls:</b> Stairs, mud, ice or uneven surfaces <b>Heights:</b> Small heights are big heights for kids		<b>Hazards</b> <b>Zoonosis:</b> An infectious disease caused by a pathogen (an infectious agent, such as a bacterium, virus, parasite or prion) that has jumped from an animal to a human. e.g. Leptospirosis <b>Burns:</b> Hot water <b>Poisoning:</b> Agri or Dairy shed chemicals <b>Engulfment / getting stuck:</b> Be aware of small or difficult spaces children could access.

**Personal Protective Equipment Can include:**  
 (\* Compulsory)

							
<b>Safety Footwear</b>	<b>Rubber footwear</b>	<b>Overalls</b>	<b>Safety glasses</b>	<b>Hi-Viz *</b>	<b>Gloves</b>	<b>Apron</b>	<b>Hat /Sunblock</b>
<b>STOP</b>	<b>What am I doing?</b>		<b>THINK</b>	<b>What could go wrong?</b>		<b>GO</b>	<b>Do it the safest way!</b>

### Overview

We recognise that children who live on our farms will have an interest in activities outside of the house gate. Although their interest in the farm should not be discouraged, we need to ensure that children are not exposed to risk / harm while on the farm. They are at much greater risk compared to adults because they don't have the skills and experience to understand risks or hazards.

Children learn by imitation. A child is more likely to be safety conscious if you are. Make sure your child sees you performing tasks safely. Explain the potential for danger and how injury can be avoided. Lead by example. Talk frequently to your child about the safety rules of the farm. Be consistent, and if your child breaks the rules, firmly re-explain the hazards and consequences.

### Procedure

- ✓ Before any children can come on farm, ensure permission is sought from the landowner/manager of the property.
- ✓ All children on farm must adhere to the requirements of personal protective equipment. This includes helmet use, high visibility clothing and covered footwear.
- ✓ Ensure other farm users are aware there will be children on the farm.

### Young children <5 yrs old

- Young children on farm **must be under direct and continuous adult supervision at all times.**
- The supervisor must be confident and capable in their role.
- Wash hands after being on farm and before eating.

Young children should **NOT**:

- Be around milking sheds that are operational. Risks include but are not limited to, livestock, moving machinery, chemicals, hot water.
- Be in calf shed pens. Risks include injury from calves and zoonosis.
- Be in yard pens with stock.
- Ride on farm vehicles, tractors, ATV's, motorbikes, or Side by Side vehicles, unless they are fitted with the correct seating and restraint designed for the use of a child.
- Be near any water ways and ponds (including effluent ponds).
- Be near workshops or chemical sheds.

### Child 5-12 yrs old

- Children 5-12 **must be under direct and continuous supervision at all times.**
- The supervisor must be confident and capable in their role.
- Wash hands after being on farm and before eating.
- The child must be confident and capable in the task they are watching or assisting in. This includes knowledge of hazards, rules and restrictions around them, also what to do if something goes wrong.

Children 5-12 should **NOT**:

- Work in yard pens with stock
- Ride on farm vehicles, tractors, ATV's, motorbikes, or Side by Side vehicles, unless they are in appropriate seating for their age / size.
- Be near any waterways and ponds (including effluent ponds).
- Be near workshops or chemical sheds.

- Be aware of moving machinery and vehicles

**Young Adult 12-16 yrs old**

- A young adult may work on farm **under regular supervision, if they are fully trained in safe operation for the task they are doing.**
  - They must have been trained, assessed and recorded as any employee would be.
  - They must be aware of all hazards, and be sufficiently competent in managing them.
  - They must know the emergency procedures and have means of communication.
- The supervising adult has overall responsibility for the young adult and must ensure they are confident and competent to complete the task they are undertaking.
- The task must be appropriate for their age and capability.
- They must be aware and comply with all farm safety requirements specified in the Farm Health and Safety Plan, Safety operational plans, and hazard control.
- Make sure children operate equipment including bikes that are appropriate for their age, height, capabilities, and are in line with manufacturers' specifications.
- Farm owner/Manager:
  - Must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that no worker aged less than 15 years is present in an area of work, or carries out work of a type that is likely to cause harm to their health and safety.
  - Must not let young people under 15 years old lift heavy weights or do work that might affect their health
  - Must not let people under 15 years old work, or help with work on machinery
  - Should ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that workers under 16 years old do not work between 10pm and 6am.

**Visitors**

- Must have approval from manager to be on farm
- Must have a supervisor and must be under direct and continuous supervision at all times. They must physically ensure the visitor is kept safe throughout their visit.
- Must be inducted using the H&S board and whiteboard
- Must sign in and out to farm.
- The manager and team are to be notified (on team app) of their presence on farm.
- Must adhere to the farm bio security / Covid protocols.
- PPE to be worn as required

**Emergency Procedures**

- Make sure children know what to do in an emergency:
  - what to do,
  - where to go
  - who to call.
- Teach children basic first aid.
- First aid kits in dairy shed
- First aid kits are suitably stocked
- Emergency details on staff file.
- Evacuation point identified

**Tips for working while kids are on farm (not the parent / guardian)**

- Be extra vigilant
- Remove keys from doors and vehicles. Never leave vehicles unattended with the motor running.
- Make sure it is safe to reverse farm vehicles. Walk around the vehicle and check that children are a safe distance away before starting the engine.

**Additional Notes**

- Always report any incidents accidents or near misses
- Follow Worksafe guide [stay safe in and around farm dairies \(Page 16 & 17\)](#)
- Follow Worksafe guide [Children and young people on farms](#)
- Follow Worksafe guide [Safe Cattle Handling](#)

**Operators understand their requirements on how to manage children or visitors on farm safety.**

**Operators to sign below or in the electronic H&S system to acknowledge they have read and understood the above SOP.**

Name of Employee	Signature	Date	Trainer Name	Trainer Signature

## **Appendix one - Tips for child safety on farms**

- Walk around the farm with children and identify hazards together.
- Adult supervision is vital – for young children it must be close and active.
- Lead by example, for example always wear an approved helmet on a quad bike.
- Think about having safety fences around play areas, animal pens, work areas and water spots.
- Keep doors shut or locked so children can't get in where they shouldn't.
- Use safety guards on all machinery.
- Store dangerous agricultural chemicals safely out of children's reach.
- Remove keys from doors and vehicles. Never leave vehicles unattended with the motor running.
- Make sure it is safe to reverse farm vehicles. Walk around the vehicle and check that children are a safe distance away before starting the engine.
- Children should not ride on tractors, quad bikes or on the back of Utes.
- Road safety on private and public roads is vital. Have children in car seats and seat belts when in cars, Utes and trucks.
- Make sure children wear high-visibility clothing when out and about on farm.
- Teach children to wash and dry their hands after touching animals.
- Cover tanks and wells with child restraint covers or fill in disused ones.
- Tie spare tractor wheels to walls or lie them flat so they can't crush a child.
- Make sure children ride bikes that are appropriate for their age and height and are in line with manufacturers' specifications.
- If children are riding a smaller model farm bike, they need to wear an approved helmet and closed-in shoes. An adult should always supervise them.
- Teach children the dangers of speeding and uneven ground.
- Make sure children know what to do in an emergency: what to do, where to go and who to call. Teach children basic first aid.
- Make it a rule for older children to always say where they are going.
- Children do listen, understand, remember and apply rules over time. But things change so farm safety needs constant attention.
- The Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016 (the Regulations) require that a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that no worker aged less than 15 years is present in an area of work, or carries out work of a type that is likely to cause harm to their health and safety.