

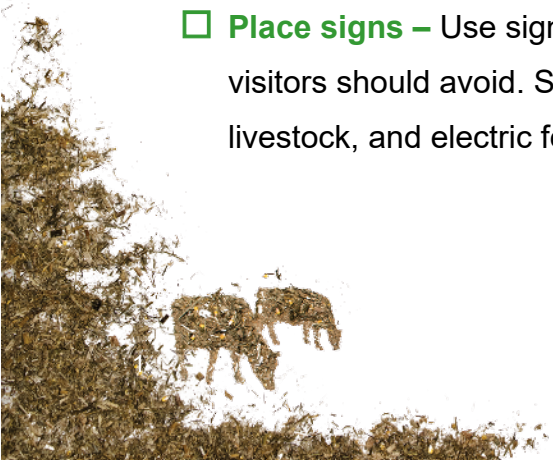
Giving a Farm Tour Checklist

Tips for providing a safe and memorable farm tour or on-farm event.

When planning an on-farm event, one should create a checklist to use for planning and the day of. Review our checklist before visitors come to your farm to ensure a safe a memorable visit.

Also be sure to check with your local dairy checkoff program for available resources, handouts, and goodies that they may provide for farm events and tours.

- Provide information to visitors before hand** – Information like, wear shoes that haven't been on any other farm or homestead to reduce the risk of new pathogens being introduced onto your land. Remind them to wear comfortable, durable shoes that can get dirty and to dress appropriately to outside weather conditions. This is also a great opportunity to share resources from your local dairy checkoff program—children handouts, farm safety resources, dairy recipes—that are appropriate to your tour group.
- Prepare a safety speech to say on arrival** – Explain that you operate a working farm and hazards may arise. Certain hazards may include uneven ground, insects, farm smells, etc., and visitors must accept those risks and exercise reasonable caution. Also, here is your opportunity to lay down the ground rules and point out necessary locations like the bathroom and garbage.
- Clean up** – Put away any machinery that won't be used for display and take all keys out of the machinery. Put away sharp objects, tools, and chemicals, and make sure sheds are locked where people should not be entering.
- Place signs** – Use signs to clearly mark any potential hazards and places visitors should avoid. Specific areas may include manure pits, machinery, livestock, and electric fences.



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- Think about all your animals** - Include a sign on how to act around cows and have farm staff around any areas where animal interaction may occur. In addition, ensure that only friendly, social dogs are near the public and note that barn cats may not be receptive to strangers. (Same advice goes for chickens and other roaming farm animals.)

- Offer sanitation and biosecurity measures** – Provide hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer outside of barns or near where food is being distributed. Provide plastic boots if guests will be walking through barns and places where livestock are housed.

- Have visitors sign liability release forms** – With school groups distribute beforehand so parents can sign on behalf of their minor children. If you are having a community event, consider setting up a “Welcome Table” for guests to sign waivers, and for you to distribute information and handouts.

More great reminders to benefit farm-tour guests:

- ✓ Bring paper and pen for notetaking and to jot down questions.
- ✓ Bring hat, sunscreen, water if weather is warm, or dress in layers if cold.
- ✓ Mark personal items with name and contact in case you leave behind.
- ✓ It's OK to be cautious around the animals—you don't have to touch them if you don't want to.
- ✓ It's OK to ask questions—it's the best way to learn.

Reach out to your Dairy Focus Consultant to help plan a farm tour and for an extra hand on the day of the event!

