

Being Aware of the Risks

While we take extensive measures to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment, it is important for visitors to understand the inherent risks associated with outdoor activity and visiting a working farm. This page outlines our commitments to safety, visitor responsibilities, and potential risks.

1. Farm Operation Responsibilities

The Clubhouse Farm is committed to:

- Keeping animal enclosures and public areas tidy and well-maintained.
- Training staff on safety policy, and to supervise and guide visitors appropriately.
- Ensuring compliance with all regulations including RDCO By Law 871.
- Providing clear and visible signage throughout the farm.
- Providing access to toilet and handwash facilities that are tidy and in good repair.

2. Participant / Visitor Responsibilities:

By entering the premises, visitors acknowledge and accept the inherent risks associated with an outdoor and agritourism environment and are responsible for:

- Supervising the children in their group at all times.
- Following posted signage and staff instructions.
- Avoiding direct contact with animals unless permitted by farm staff.
- Wearing appropriate footwear and clothing for outdoor conditions, such as:
 - Sturdy closed-toe shoes;
 - Using a hat instead of a hood, as hoods impair peripheral vision.
- Practicing good hygiene, such as washing hands after animal interactions.
- Respecting farm property, equipment, and staff.
- Refraining from entering restricted areas.

3. Understanding the Risks

Farms are unique environments with both natural and operational hazards. By participating in a Clubhouse Farm visit, visiting groups acknowledge they assume all risks associated with their visit:

- **Weather Conditions:** Outdoor activities are subject to changing weather, including possible extreme heat, cold, icy, wet, or smoky conditions.
- **Uneven Terrain:** Farms have natural and man-made features, including mud, rocks, ditches, and slopes, which may increase the risk of trips and falls.

- **Allergens and Plant Exposure:** Exposure to animals, insects, pollen, hay, or plants may trigger allergies or skin irritation.
- **Machinery and Equipment:** We will always post visible signage when farm work is underway in specific areas of the farm, but please remain vigilant as agricultural machinery, tools, or vehicles in operation can pose safety hazards.
- **Animal Interaction Risks:** Animals may behave unpredictably, for example, by pushing, biting, or pecking. If animals show signs of stress, we must all ensure to give them their space.
- **Animals Engaging in Natural Behaviours:** Animals may interact with other animals in ways that can be aggressive, loud, and/or sexual in nature which may be disconcerting to some.
- **Zoonotic Diseases:** When working closely with domesticated animals, there is a potential for disease transmission to animals, and between humans and animals. Ensure everyone in your group practices good hand washing hygiene, and keep items such as water bottles, toys, or pacifiers away from the coops/pens.
- **Restricted Areas:** Parts of the farm may be off-limits at times and may change seasonally. These will be marked with signage and/or caution tape.

4. Access to Emergency Medical Services

In the event that Emergency Services is needed, The Clubhouse Farm is located at **4490 Anderson Road**. Our closest BCEHS Station is #380 at Kelowna Airport, 7 kilometers away. Our Clubhouse Farmers have Basic First Aid training and first aid kits are available at the Outdoor Kitchen and Early Years Garden. We encourage visiting groups to have their own first aid staff in attendance, and bring their own first aid kit.

For any questions or concerns regarding farm safety and policies, please contact us at thefarm@clubhousechildcare.com