



**Harper Adams
University**

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Harper Adams Farm Livestock Biosecurity Policy

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to manage biosecurity risks on the Harper Adams University farm by reducing the risk of incursion of any livestock disease that could impact livestock, operations, research and teaching. Recent years have seen growing awareness, in agriculture, of the importance of farm biosecurity in controlling disease, critical to both animal welfare, farm productivity and environmental sustainability. As a teaching institute it is critical that we demonstrate good practice in this area. The Harper Adams Future Farm is at particular risk of diseases incursion due to its scale and number of visitors. Both recent incursions of disease onto the farm (TB) and concerns over our ability to adequately protect the livestock in the event of a national epizootic disease outbreak (e.g. FMD) have prompted the farm to implement a new strategy to tackle this important area. As part of this wider project one key component of our approach is enforcing rigorous biosecurity for visitors accessing the Future Farm.

Organisational scope

This is a University-wide policy. This policy also applies to all visitors, collaborators and contractors on Harper Adams University Estate.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

- **Collaborators:** research partners, industry stakeholders
- **Contractors:** external farm services contractors
- **Future Farm:** any farm property owned or managed by Harper Adams University.
- **Livestock Areas:** all of the Farm areas housing livestock
 - Dairy unit (Main herd, Youngstock areas, Dry Cow Metabolism Unit)
 - Beef and Sheep unit
 - Pig Unit
 - Poultry Unit
- **Staff:** employees of Harper Adams University
- **Students:** students of Harper Adams University, or those under the supervision of a Harper Adams University academic.
- **Visitors:** anyone accessing the farm, including members of the public, contractors, school groups, visiting dignitaries.

Procedure

Access to HAU farms is only via designated and signposted entrances, unless prior permission has been sought and granted by the Future Farm Management Team.

All persons or groups going onto HAU Farm must sign in via the QR Code located at the Biosecurity Entrances or via the record books, where available. Visitors can sign-in in advance of their arrival at <https://futurefarm.zone/visit/> where student module visits can also be logged. This is to allow all known persons who have been on the farm to be contacted in the event of a need for tracing.

- All on-farm biosecurity protocols must be met, including using disinfection stations at the farm's entrances.
- All visitors (staff and students) are to wear appropriate clean protective clothing.
- Classes not involving entry into livestock areas just require wellingtons/waterproof boots to allow for proper cleaning procedures.
- If entering livestock areas, protective clothing must also be worn. Risk assessments for these activities will highlight the required PPE.
- A small store of additional PPE will be maintained at the farm (primarily for external visitors) and if activities require specific contact with livestock, additional PPE will be provided (e.g. gloves) to manage zoonotic disease risks according to the relevant and up-to-date risk assessment for the activity concerned.
- All PPE (including coveralls and boots) will be provided for anyone visiting the pig and poultry units.
- Anyone leaving the Future Farm must clean/disinfect footwear and wash hands for both animal and zoonotic disease control
- The facility Managers reserve the right to deny access according to current activities or biosecurity status.

Please note, all visitors to the pig unit must not have had contact with pigs for 48hr before arrival. Also, anyone who currently or in the last 7 days has suffered from a cold or influenza will not be permitted to access the unit. Anyone unable to comply with these restrictions will be unable to access the unit.

All visitors to the poultry unit must also be 48 hours free from contact with other birds.

When disease risks increase, advice will be presented at the main entrances to the Future Farm. This will detail conditions or procedures that must be followed in order to enter the farm. Failure to follow these procedures will prevent access to the farm.

Related health and safety guidelines

All users must observe the following relevant safety measures when working on or visiting the farm and livestock areas and act on notices posted.

Farm Staff

- Only trained farm staff to handle and feed the animals
- Only enter animal enclosures when necessary

- All relevant Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn as listed in the relevant risk assessments, including but not limited to; toe capped shoes/boots or Wellingtons, waterproof overalls, safety goggles, face masks and gloves etc.
- Follow the strict biosecurity measures
- Always wash hands thoroughly after contact with animals and especially before eating.

Non-Farm Staff and students as part of teaching or research activities;

- Only trained persons to handle the animals
- Only handle the animals if it is part of your teaching or research in the way that you have been shown
- Avoid startling the animals
- Wear suitable footwear (Wellingtons) as these are easier to clean and disinfect
- You must wear suitable clothing such as waterproofs if you are entering animal accommodation
- Ensure you use the disinfectant foot dips/mats before and after entering the livestock enclosure
- Use necessary PPE as listed in the activity risk assessment and this should be appropriate to the task being undertaken
- Adhere to any instructions or signage as may be appropriate
- Always wash hands thoroughly after visiting the farm/contact with animals and especially before eating.

Research Activities - Prior to work on the Farm

All research taking place on farm must be administered through the Farm Office in the first instance. This will enable us to ensure that all the correct processes have been followed prior to the research commencing.

Visitors / Collaborators

- Do not touch, pet or feed the animals;
- Do not touch the fencing or perimeter of where the animals are kept;
- Do not enter animal enclosures;
- Avoid startling the animals;
- Remain with your host at all times;
- Wear suitable footwear as the ground can be uneven and slippery;
- Ensure you use the disinfectant foot dips/mats when present;
- Wear suitable clothing appropriate for outdoors and inclement weather; • Adhere to any instructions or signage as may be appropriate.
- Always wash hands thoroughly after visiting the Farm and especially before eating.

Kindly inform farm staff of any planned (group) visits so that they may be accommodated.

Please note, that if you are pregnant or suspect you may be pregnant, you should not visit the Beef and Sheep areas during March and April.

Parking at the farm is for farm staff only. This is to limit the risk of diseases, pests and seeds being transported onto site. Students and visitors should use the other available car parks across campus and walk to the farm using the main road which flows from Weston car park towards Ancellor Yard entrance.

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