

Tips for Hosting On-Farm Visitors and Tours

The following are general recommendations to follow when hosting visitors at your farm:

- Have a single, clearly marked entrance** for all visitors to control traffic flow. Specify a parking location for vehicles entering the farm. This area should be separate from the animal housing area.
- Establish check-in procedures.** Require visitors to show proper identification and sign in and out upon entering and leaving the facility. Record names, addresses, phone numbers, reason for visit and time since last contact with farm animals.
- Ask if the individuals have been on another farm** prior to visiting your facility. Do not allow any visitors on the farm if they have been outside the continental U.S. in the past two weeks, unless it can be verified that they have not been in contact with any cloven-hoofed animal for the past five days.
- Have all guests wear "visitor passes."** Collect badges when guests leave.
- Supply disposable plastic boots** to all visitors and provide a means for their disposal. Disposable boots will help protect your animals and impress on guests the importance of herd health.
- Escort media and non-service visitors at all times.** Media and other guests should never be allowed to wander the premises on their own. Employees should be instructed to report all unescorted visitors to the appropriate management personnel immediately.
- Maintain accessible, functioning hand and boot wash stations.**
- Maintain basic security** by locking office doors and cabinets.
- Keep feed and veterinary supplies in a secure location.** Use security lighting and alarms. Maintain fencing and gates.
- Lock the milk-storage area.** Inventory your potentially hazardous chemicals and review your security for them. Create barriers to potential product and feed tampering. Store chemicals in a secure, supervised area. Secure bulk delivery systems.
- Post signs indicating restricted areas** and to inform all visitors of rules. The signs discourage trespassing and remind the media that dairy operations have biosecurity practices in place to help prevent disease transmission.

Make a good first impression. Nothing can replace the message conveyed by having your farm in a clean and well-kept condition.