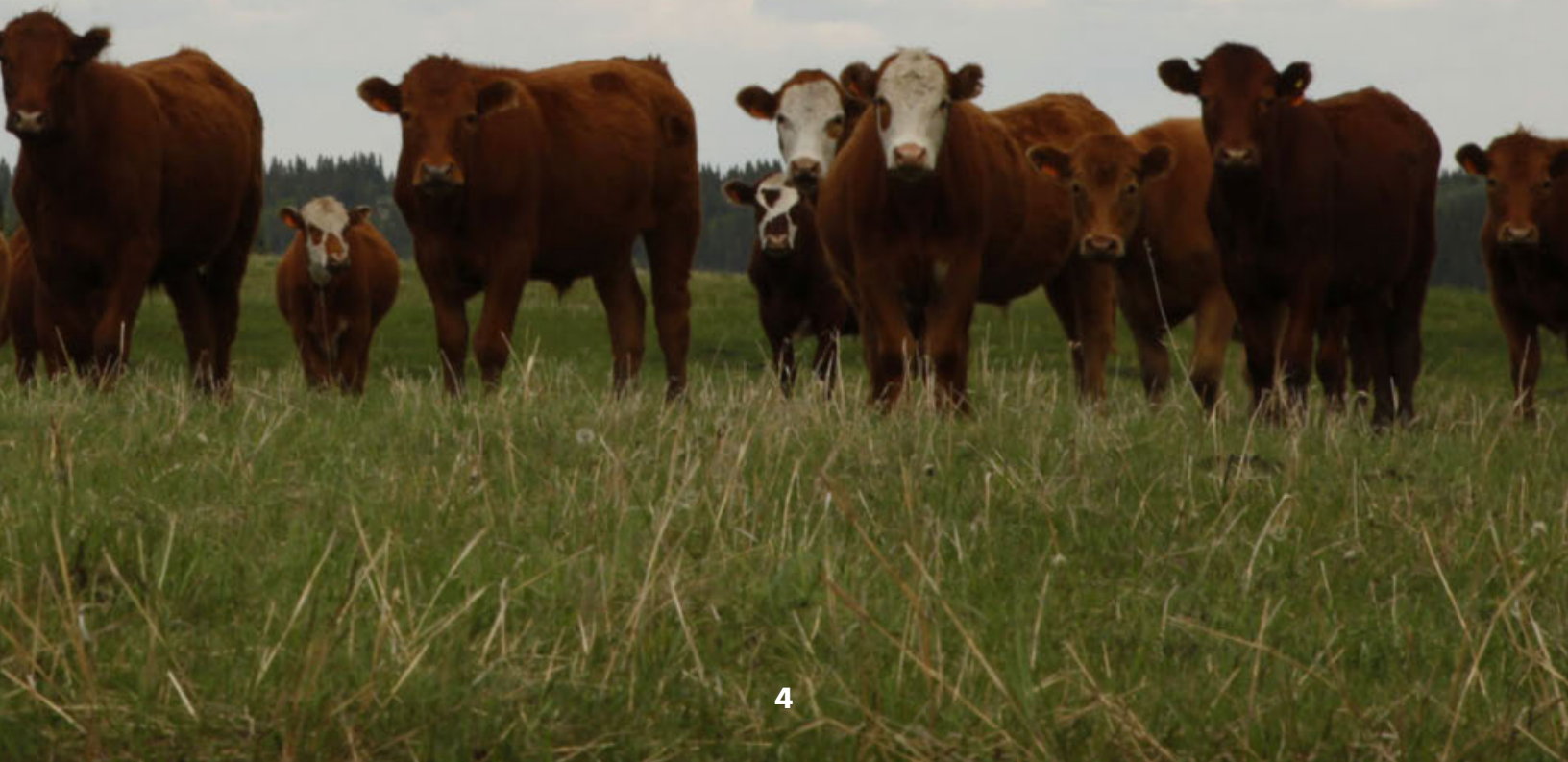


Resources and Recommendations for Tour Hosts

The host is responsible for providing information and expectations for biosecurity to the cattle producer and visitors. Prior to the tour, the host should understand the risks associated with the type of operation and visitors.



Recommendations for Hosts

Before the Tour

Depending on the goals of the host organization, not all tours can be low risk. Therefore, the tour risk should be associated with the **level of animal contact** rather than the type of operation.

Tour Biosecurity Risk by Animal Contact Level		
Low Biosecurity Risk	Medium Biosecurity Risk	High Biosecurity Risk
Tours do not enter areas where animals have been housed or moved through. Example: Bus Tour Participants remain on a bus, and producers join the bus to discuss their operation.	Tours enter areas where healthy animals are housed or moved through. Example: Walking Tour Participants walk through an operation on roads, alleyways and pastures.	Tours enter areas where young or sick animals are housed. Tours with direct animal contact. Example: Handling facility tour and processing demonstration Participants walk through the operation and handle cattle during the processing demonstration.

Visitors can pose varying levels of risk described in the [Canadian Beef Cattle On-Farm Biosecurity Standard](#).

Visitor Biosecurity Risk by Animal Contact Level		
Low Biosecurity Risk	Medium Biosecurity Risk	High Biosecurity Risk
Visitors have had no livestock contact and/or one visit to a livestock operation in the past 14 days.	Visitors have had livestock contact at one operation or more than one visit to a livestock operation within the past 14 days.	Visitors have had livestock contact at more than one operation or have handled the operation's sick or segregated animals or have visited other countries reporting outbreaks of reportable disease within the past 14 days. Reportable disease status by country
Examples Urban visitors, students, government officials	Examples Feed truck and other truck drivers, sales reps	Examples Personnel who work directly with their own livestock, veterinary staff

When considering the risks posed by level of animal contact, a collective risk assessment of the event can be established. The Farm Tour Risk Assessment table may be used to gauge the need for stronger biosecurity recommendations.

Farm Tour Risk Assessment

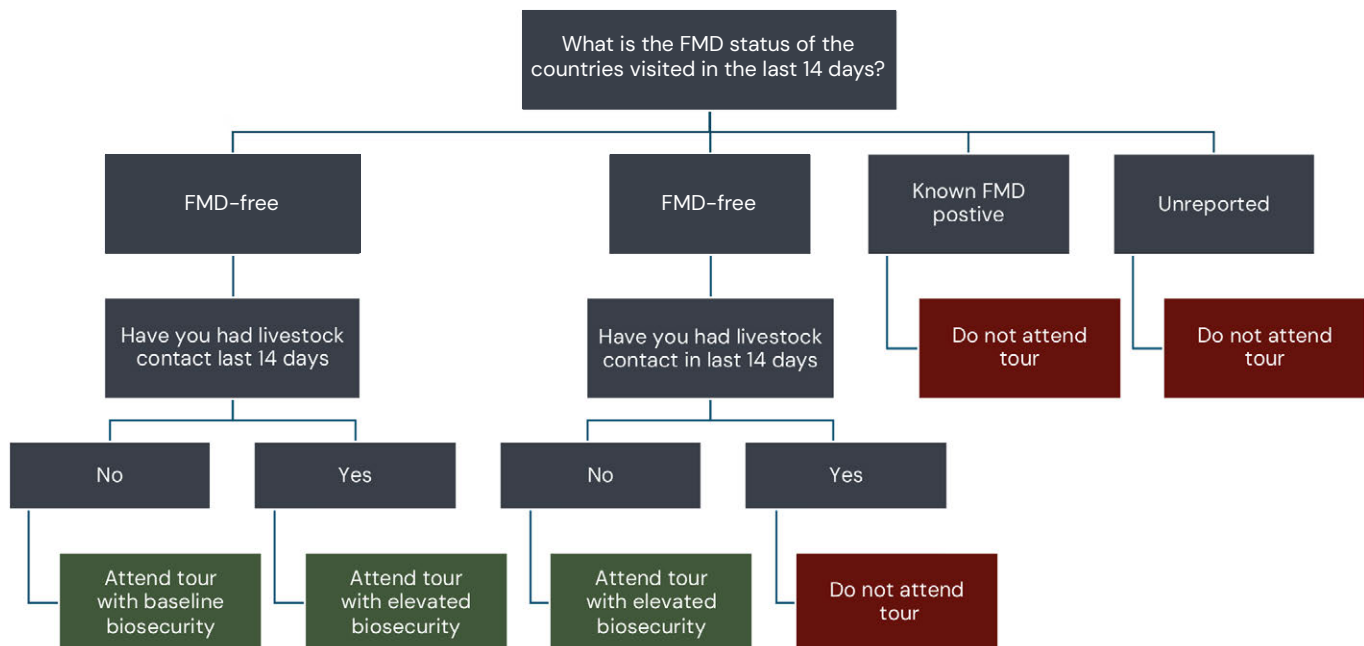
Visitor Risk	Level of Animal Contact Risk		
	Low	Medium	High
Low	Lowest Risk	Low-Medium Risk	Medium Risk
Moderate	Low-Medium Risk	Medium Risk	Medium-High Risk
High	Medium Risk	Medium-High Risk	Highest Risk

Reportable and Trade-Limiting Disease

Host organizations may require visitors from [countries reporting outbreaks of reportable diseases](#) not to attend tours to reduce the risk of reportable disease spread into Canada. For example, we all play a part in keeping Canada's national herd free of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and other foreign animal diseases. To mitigate risk, hosts may require additional information from visitors from countries with [positive reportable disease status](#). Host organizations may use the following International Visitors Tour Attendance Decision Tree to determine if international visitors should participate in a tour while mitigating risks of emerging diseases entering Canada.

Learn more about reportable and trade-limiting diseases at [BeefResearch.ca/prevent](https://beefresearch.ca/prevent).

International Visitors Tour Attendance Decision Tree



Requirements are actions *necessary* to protect the best interests of all involved.

Recommendations reflect *beneficial practices or ideal standards* that may not always be possible due to logistics or other factors.

Planning the Tour

Requirements

Determine the goals of the tour and work with the producer to ensure the tour covers these concepts.

Recommendations

When touring multiple farms or parts of an operation, the order of events must be considered.

- **Tours of farm and pasture systems:** visit the “non-stock” area first and then visit the main herd. For example, start by touring a rotational grazing system, then tour the main farm operation.
- **Tours of operations with multiple production stages:** visit areas where the youngest and most disease-susceptible animals are housed first and then proceed to areas housing more mature animals.
- **Tours of multiple operations:** visit operations with the youngest cattle first and then visit operations with older cattle. For example, start by touring a cow/calf operation, then go to a feedlot or backgrounding operation.

Avoid visitors taking personal vehicles to the operation.

- A recently washed bus that has not visited other operations is a strong recommendation for transportation.
- If a bus is not an option, communicate to visitors the preference to wash vehicle undercarriages and tires before entering the operation.
- Use a designated parking area, away from high-traffic areas on the farm that is separate from animal facilities.

Avoid eating or drinking around animals or in the barn.

- If food or drink will be consumed, ensure there are adequate hand-washing facilities for visitors.

Take extra caution with tours that include interaction between animals and children. For example, young children should wash their hands after interacting with animals or not interact with animals at all.

Communications to Bus Companies

Bus companies may not be familiar with agriculture, so hosts may need to provide supplementary information.

The bus rental email template (Appendix A) may be used to facilitate communication between the host and bus company.

Recommendations

Confirm that the rental bus will not visit other livestock operations for 14 days prior to the tour.

If a bus must be used to visit other livestock operations, ensure that adequate washing, specifically of the undercarriage, will be completed prior to visiting the operation.

If the bus driver will be joining the tour, they should follow visitor requirements and recommendations.

Whenever possible, provide the bus driver a tour map, developed with the producer, outlining roads that should be used to enter and exit the operation and bus parking location.

Communications to Producers

Hosts should collaborate with producers when planning tours, communicating their commitment to uphold appropriate biosecurity measures in line with their farm management and established practices. Producers understand their operations and are well positioned to inform hosts on how best to schedule the tour, keeping the health and safety of their employees, herd and visitors in mind.

Requirements

Communicate collaboratively with producers to prepare biosecurity protocols prior to the tour.

Do not tour operations that have an active disease outbreak determined by the producer or a veterinarian.

Recommendations

Collaborate with producers to develop a tour route and schedule beginning in areas with the youngest animals and those most susceptible to disease, then transitioning to areas housing older animals and those less susceptible to disease.

- Avoid areas housing sick animals and, if not avoidable, visit these areas last.
- Avoid walking in feed and watering areas after walking through zones with manure.

Collaborate with producers to develop a plan for any personal protective equipment (PPE) that may be necessary as part of the tour.

Collaborate with producers to develop a pre-tour survey for visitors, collecting information that may be necessary for the operation's visitor records.

The email template (Appendix B) and sample tour schedule (Appendix C) may be used to facilitate communication between the host and producers.

Communications to Visitors

Prior to the tour, hosts should provide appropriate information to visitors, ensuring they understand biosecurity risks associated with touring livestock operations and are prepared to maintain the recommended biosecurity protocol.

Requirements

Prior to the tour, all visitors must be informed about the importance of biosecurity to the health of the visitors, animals and the hosting producer's operation.

- The [*Farm Tour Biosecurity for Visitors \(Appendix D\)*](#) and [*Going on a Farm Tour? \(Appendix E\)*](#) resources can be used as tools when communicating with visitors prior to the tour.
- Animal Health Canada provides several resources for use at hand-washing stations on livestock operations including [*posters, infographics and other guidance*](#).
- The BCRC has a [*suite of biosecurity resources and videos*](#) that may be useful for international visitors.

Recommendations

Collect information to classify visitors as low-, moderate- or high-risk.

Provide visitors with instructions for wearing and removing biosecurity boot covers.

Provide visitors with post-tour instructions according to the visitor risk level.

The visitor email template (Appendix F) may be used to facilitate communication between the host and visitors.

Recommendations for Hosts During the Tour

The host organization is responsible for providing information and, if necessary, PPE on the tour. The host should ensure that proper protocols are followed when utilizing PPE.

Recommendations

Encourage guests to leave their belongings on the bus, bringing only what is essential for the tour.

Consider following the [Gold Standard Operating Procedure](#) for boot covers.

If it is not entirely possible to adhere to the Gold Standard, a minimum protocol should include:

- Visitors put on boot covers one at a time when they step off the bus.
- Visitors dispose of used boot covers into a garbage bin just before re-entering the bus.
- Any garbage from the tour should be taken to an urban disposal location.

Considerations for Equipment, Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment

Tours or events may require PPE and other equipment to be brought onto the farm.

Recommendations

Participants should wear new boot covers over footwear. New boot covers should be put on at each additional livestock operation if visiting more than one on the same day.

- If producers do not require boot covers, participant footwear should be cleaned and disinfected prior to the tour.

Visitors should wear clean, recently washed clothing on the tour.

Hard equipment should be scrubbed and washed with detergent and water prior to the tour and after the tour. After rinsing, [disinfectants should be applied for the appropriate contact time](#).

Sensitive equipment that cannot be washed should be wiped with a disposable cloth. After rinsing, wipe equipment with an [appropriate disinfectant](#).

Gold Standard Operating Procedures for Boot Covers & Wipes

These standards may be used for the most high-risk situations but are not required for every tour.

Exiting the Bus

Prior to the tour: Obtain a large plastic mat (a heavy plastic tarp or drop sheet works well) and apply a thick line of red duct tape to the middle of the tarp separating it into two halves. Notify the operation that a bench (preferable) or several chairs will be needed at the bus exit area.

On Arrival at the Operation

Step 1: Tour Guide 1 lays the plastic mat on the ground from inside the bus, then steps out of the bus. Guide 1 sets bench or folding chairs along the red line and remains on the “bus” side of the mat.

Step 2: Tour Guide 2 invites visitors to exit the bus onto the “bus” side of the mat. The driver hands each visitor a set of boot covers as they exit.

Step 3: Tour guides and visitors sit on the bench or chair and put on boot covers then swing their legs over the marked red line to the “farm” side of the mat.

Step 4: Tour guides hand disposable sanitary hand wipes to each visitor, asks them to use it while still on the plastic mat, then disposes of wipes in a garbage bin.

Re-Entering the Bus

Step 1: All tour participants return to the “farm” side of the mat at the bus entrance.

Step 2: Tour Guide 1 removes their boot covers first and places them into a garbage bin, then wipes their hands with disposable sanitary hand wipes, which are also placed in a garbage bin. Tour Guide 1 swings their legs over the bench or chair to the “bus” side of the mat.

Step 3: Tour Guide 2 remains on the “farm” side of the plastic with the garbage bin. Visitors sit on the bench, remove their boot covers and place them in the garbage bin, then swing their legs across to the “bus” side of the mat.

Step 4: As visitors enter the bus, Tour Guide 1 provides each with a sanitary hand wipe and asks them to wipe hands, phone and anything else used while on the tour. Once all visitors are on the bus, Tour Guide 2 collects all garbage into bin, then removes their own boot covers and cleans hands.

Step 5: Tour Guide 2 disposes of plastic mat in the garbage bin and garbage is sealed and disposed off-farm at an urban disposal location.

Host Responsibilities When Assisting Visitors with Additional Support Needs

Some visitors may require a wheelchair or other supportive devices to participate in farm tours. In such cases, biosecurity measures may need to be adapted to accommodate supportive devices. The following section explores how farm tours can be both inclusive and accessible to people of all abilities, while also maintaining a high standard of biosecurity.

Requirements

Prior to visiting and following the farm tour, any mobility device should be cleaned and wiped with a [disinfectant](#).

Assist visitors when putting on and taking off boot covers.

- Guide assists visitors to put on boot covers on the “dirty” side of the mat, then proceed with putting on boot covers following the standard operating procedures.
- Guide assists visitors to remove boot covers on the “clean” side of the mat, then proceed to removing boot covers following the standard operating procedures.

Recommendations for Hosts

After the Tour

Following the tour, the duties of the host subside. However, the host should be available to producers and visitors to answer questions or provide information as necessary.

Recommendations

Maintain contact information for visitors, bus drivers and producers. In the event of a disease outbreak, this information will allow the host to promptly notify all individuals who have been exposed.

After the tour, confirm with producers that the health status of their herd has not changed since the tour and gather any feedback they may have regarding the visit and changes they may request for a future tour.

After the tour, confirm with visitors that they have no health or other concerns related to the tour.

Appendix A

Email Template: Bus Rental Biosecurity Inquiry

Subject: Inquiring about rental bus for farm tour on [date].

Dear [bus company name],

My name is [name] and I am interested in renting a bus for a farm tour to a cattle operation in [town]. We are hoping to depart for [location] at [time], and I have included the itinerary for the tour as an attachment to this email. Please note that [distance] of the route will be gravel.

For biosecurity reasons, please ensure that the bus is cleaned inside and outside before the tour. If that bus has been used to visit a livestock facility in the past five days, it is specifically important that the undercarriage is thoroughly cleaned prior to the tour. If the bus driver exits the bus at the tour location, they will be required to follow all biosecurity procedures for visitors to the operation.

Thank you for your time and I hope you can accommodate these requests.

Sincerely,
[host name]

Appendix B

Email Template: Initial Contact With Producers

Subject: Interest in touring your operation

Dear [producer name],

My name is [host name] and I am interested in bringing a group of individuals to tour your operation. I am specifically interested in this [tour focus] aspect of the operation and would like visitors to learn more about it.

We are committed to maintaining appropriate biosecurity protocols that may apply to your operation. If you agree to a tour, we are looking forward to working with you to understand your expectations for visitors including the structure of the tour and creation of a biosecurity plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
[host name]

Appendix C

Email Template: Collaboration with Producers for Tour Plans

Subject: Preparing to visit your operation

Hello [producer name],

The tour group is excited to visit your operation! As we plan for the tour, we want to ensure that we maintain adequate biosecurity measures when visiting your operation. As part of our planning, it would help us if you would answer the following questions pertaining to your operation:

- What is your operation's biosecurity plan for visitors and how can we help maintain those protocols?
- Where should our bus driver park when we arrive at the operation? If possible, please suggest an area that is away from animals, free from manure and large enough for a tour bus to get in and out safely.
- Are there areas of the farm that will be toured on the bus, and will visitors be getting on and off the bus at multiple sites? If possible, visitors are encouraged to walk on hard packed ground or areas that can be cleaned easily.
- Are there any areas of the farm to avoid – due to disease control or any other reason?
- Please provide your preferred schedule for the tour, including which areas you plan to take visitors, keeping in mind our preference to visit areas with no animals first, followed by areas with youngest animals to oldest animals. A **sample tour schedule** is included with this email for your consideration.

As the host organization, we are able to provide visitors with proper personal protective equipment (PPE) including boot covers and hand sanitizer if required and biosecurity education before visiting the farm. Similarly, if needed, we can provide a survey for tour participants screening for any high-risk visitors that may have had any recent livestock contact or international travel.

Thank you for working with us to develop a great tour of your operation! If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
[host name]

Sample Schedule for Tour of a Cow-Calf Operation

1. Bus arrives and parks in an area that is away from animals and clean from manure.
2. Visitors sanitize their hands and put on boot covers when exiting the bus.
3. Producers greet visitors.
4. Producers take visitors to view clean feed storage and feed.
5. Tour forage and harvesting equipment.
6. Transition to livestock handling systems (cleaned previously).
7. Tour maternity area or the area with the youngest animals.
8. View general cow/calf herd.
9. View yearlings/backgrounded animals.
10. View bulls.
11. Visitors return to the bus, discarding boot covers as they get on the bus and sanitize hands.

Appendix D

Tour Smart: Beneficial Practices for Beef Operation Tours

Visit <https://www.beefresearch.ca/tour-biosecurity> to download this resource page as a PDF.

TOUR SMART: BENEFICIAL PRACTICES FOR BEEF OPERATION TOURS

Why is Biosecurity Important on Farm Tours?

Farm tours are excellent learning opportunities commonly utilized in the beef industry. To protect the national cattle industry and individual herds, following biosecurity practices is essential.

Before the Tour

- Review all biosecurity resources provided by the host organization.
- Choose clothing that is clean and has not been worn around livestock previously. **Properly clean and disinfect** any clothing or footwear previously worn around livestock.
- If required, complete a farm visitor survey provided by the host organization.

During the Tour

- Avoid contact with livestock unless necessary.
- Leave unnecessary items on the bus.
- Leave any out-of-country food at home.
- Ask questions and have fun!

After the Tour



General Visitors

- Clean and disinfect clothing, footwear and any equipment used on the tour.
- Monitor your personal health following the tour.



International Visitors

- Avoid livestock contact for 14 days.
- Declare farm visits at any border crossings.
- Follow the destination country's quarantine requirements and entrance guidelines.
- Do not bring food products into the destination country.

Cleaning & Disinfection



Step 1: Dry Removal

- Physically remove organic matter.

Step 2: Wet Cleaning

- Use detergent with water and scrub.
- Items can also be professionally professionally dry cleaned.

Step 3: Drying

- Allow all surfaces to dry completely.

Step 4: Disinfection

- **General:** Use hypochlorite 0.01-5% (bleach) with the recommended contact time.
- **Advanced:** Use an oxidizing agent 0.2-3% with the recommended contact time.

Read the full guide on the [BCRC website](https://www.beefresearch.ca/tour-biosecurity)



Appendix E

Beef Cattle Operation Tours: Recommendations for Visitors

Visit <https://www.beefresearch.ca/tour-biosecurity> to download this resource page as a PDF.

BEEF CATTLE OPERATION TOURS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITORS

DO



Ask questions!



Wear clothes and footwear that have never been on a livestock operation or have been recently cleaned and disinfected.

SCAN OR CLICK FOR MORE RESOURCES



Boot
washing
guide



Common
disinfectants
table



Review resources provided by the host organization and complete a farm visitor survey, if required.



Follow post-tour guidelines.

DON'T



Bring food products from other countries.



Have contact with livestock unless necessary and part of the tour.



Bring unnecessary items on the tour.

Photo credit: Beef Farmers of Ontario



Appendix F

Email Template: Pre-Tour Preparation for Visitors

Subject: Preparing for a farm tour

Hello [visitor],

Thank you for your interest in touring [farm name]. To keep both animals and humans healthy, it is important for visitors to do their part to reduce the risk of disease spread. If you are unfamiliar with the concept of biosecurity, please familiarize yourself with biosecurity for livestock operations. We have also included some general biosecurity guidance for visiting livestock operations with this email.

- [*Tour Smart: Beneficial Practices for Beef Operation Tours*](#)
- [*Going on a Farm Tour?*](#)

As part of our planning, it would help us if you would complete the farm visitor survey attached to this email. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
[Host Name]

Appendix G

Farm Visitor Survey

Farm Visitor Survey

1. I confirm that I will not wear any clothing, footwear or accessories that have been worn on a farm or have not been recently cleaned.
2. Have you visited a farm in the last two weeks? If so, where? When?
3. Have you visited a farm in any country with recent or suspected reportable disease exposure in the last two weeks?
4. I confirm that I will follow all biosecurity protocols as required during the tour.
5. Please use the Farm Visitor Level of Risk Decision Tree to determine which category of visitor you fit into.