

YOUR GUIDE TO RUNNING A SAFE LAMBING EVENT



Lambing season is one of the most exciting times in the farming calendar and for visitors, it's a magical chance to see new life on the farm. These events help people connect with agriculture, learn where their food comes from and fall in love with farming.

But as wonderful as they are, lambing events also bring some important responsibilities. Without the right precautions, visitors could become unwell.

That's why NFAN and the Farmers Guardian are calling on all farmers to put safety first this lambing season. With a bit of planning and a few simple steps, you can give your visitors an amazing and memorable and safe day out.

Why Safety Really Matters

Looking after visitors isn't just about ticking boxes, it's about doing the right thing.

- **You set the standard:** People trust you to keep them safe on your farm - you have a duty to prioritise visitor safety.
- **It's the law:** Following Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance protects you from potential investigations or legal issues.
- **It protects your business:** A single illness outbreak can damage your reputation and lead to serious financial losses.

In 2025, more than 700 people became ill with Cryptosporidium after visiting lambing events. Many needed hospital care; these cases could have been avoided with proper safety precautions. People running these events are liable to HSE prosecution and personal injury claims, which can be for very large sums.

A safe event is a successful event for your visitors, your animals and your peace of mind. An unsafe event, causes illness to your customers, reputational damage to your farm and adversely affects all farms who open safely.

Understanding the Risks

Even healthy farm animals can carry germs such as E. coli and Cryptosporidium. These can cause upset stomachs, diarrhoea, and fever in people who touch animals, bedding, or dirty surfaces; especially if they eat or drink before washing their hands.

Those most at risk:

Young children

Pregnant women

Older adults

Anyone with a weaker immune system

A few simple safety steps can make all the difference.

Help and Resources

NFAN and the Farmers Guardian are here to make things easy. We've developed **free resources** to help you plan and run a safe, enjoyable lambing event.

What's available:

- **Industry Code of Practice** – The standard you must work to.
- **Free NFAN training videos** – Quick, practical guides for staff and visitors.
 - [NFAN Industry Code of Practice Training Video](#)
 - [How to Run a Safe Lambing Event Video](#)
- **HSE Visitor Safety Guidance** – Official health and safety advice for open farms.

Key Safety Guidelines for Running a Safe Lambing Event

The following safety measures should be implemented by every farm open to visitors. These practices not only keep your visitors safe but also ensure a positive and worry-free experience for everyone.

1. Hygiene Protocols

- **Visitors must not enter animal pens.**
- **Do not offer “lamb cuddling” sessions** — they sound cute but carry a real infection risk.
- If you choose to run bottle feed sessions, establish separate bottle-feeding areas with barriers to prevent direct contact between lambs and visitors.
- Separate food, picnic and play areas from animal contact zones using double fencing.
- Set up **handwashing stations** on main visitor routes — make them obvious, clean, and well-stocked with liquid soap, running water, and paper towels.
- Remember: **hand sanitiser is not enough** — it must be proper handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect pens daily and make sure no animal waste or afterbirth can flow into public areas.

2. Visitor Management

- Keep visitors away from ewes and lambs for **at least 48 hours after birth**.
- Use friendly **signs** to inform visitors about the potential risks and importance of good hygiene practices.
- **Everyone must wash hands after touching animals, pens etc and before eating.**
- Remind parents and guardians to supervise the children in their care at all times and particularly in animal areas.
- **Avoid crowding** limit numbers inside barns and plan visitor routes.

3. Risk Assessments and Insurance

Before your event:

- **Conduct a written, site-specific risk assessment** to identify where and how people might be exposed to germs.
- Review and update it every year or whenever your layout changes.
- Let your **local Environmental Health Officer** know about your plans.
- Make sure you have **at least £5 million public liability insurance**.

4. Staff Training Makes the Difference

Effective staff training

- Make sure your team everyone watches the **NFAN lambing safety video** before the event.
- Ensure staff understand your risk assessments, hygiene protocols, visitor routes and emergency plan.
- Train them in the importance of reminding visitor to wash their hands.
- Keep animal areas and touchpoints clean throughout the day.

5. Clear Signage and Communication

Good communication keeps things simple for visitors:

- Use bold, easy-to-read signs with clear icons for all ages.
- Reinforce hygiene messages in a friendly, positive tone.
- Offer brief introductions or announcements at the start of the visit.
- Provide viewing-only options for pregnant women and other vulnerable visitors.
- Add exit signs reminding everyone to wash hands.

Make it a Safe, Happy Experience

With careful planning, lambing events can be both safe and enjoyable. These events allow people to connect with farm life, fostering education and appreciation for agriculture. By taking preventive measures, you can protect your visitors, safeguard your business, and ensure everyone leaves with wonderful memories.

NFAN is here to help every step of the way. Info@farmattractions.net, 03333 448987

Download the **Industry Code of Practice**, watch the **free training videos**, and make this lambing season your safest and most successful yet.

Useful Links

- [Industry Code of Practice](#)
- [NFAN Lambing Event Video](#)
- [NFAN Website](#)

Consider NFAN Membership

Whether you are starting a new business or have been established for years, there are real benefits to becoming a NFAN Member.

More information on membership can be found here:

<https://www.farmattractions.net>