AGRITOURISM IS GROWING

Growing interest in agriculture, food production, and local foods has helped agritourism grow as an industry in the United States.

A 2016 survey of 1,105 Minnesota State Fair attendees gathered information about knowledge and behaviors related to agritourism, zoonotic diseases, and handwashing practices.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS KNEW ABOUT DISEASE PREVENTION

- Of participants knew diseases could be spread between animals and people: 89%
- Of participants reported not washing their hands after visiting an agritourism venue (Only 47% of participants with an agricultural background): 57%

KNOWLEDGE ≠ BEHAVIOR

- 97% knew handwashing was the best way to prevent diseases.
- 39% thought hand sanitizer was just as good as washing their hands with soap and water.

Handwashing and Hand Hygiene Behaviors

- Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can be transmitted between animals and people. Even healthy, well-cared for animals can have germs that can make people sick.
- Handwashing is the preferred method to prevent most zoonotic diseases at agritourism venues.

HOW TO PROMOTE GOOD HAND HYGIENE BEHAVIORS

- Keep animal contact areas distinctly separate from other areas.
- Post signs to direct a clear one way flow through the animal area.
- Use posters and educational signs to remind visitors how to protect themselves.
- Have plenty of handwashing stations at the animal contact exit and the food and beverage areas.
- Provide training for all staff and volunteers.

UMASH has FREE resources to keep visitors safe and healthy on the farm

- Videos
- Posters
- Fact sheets

Learn more: www.health.state.mn.us/saferfaces

Anywhere with animals that people can visit!

UMASH is a joint organizational partnership between the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and CDC cooperative agreement 5U38OT000143.