

# DECREASING YOUR RISK OF ILLNESS FROM LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

South Dakotans working around or in contact with livestock and poultry may have an increased risk of developing illness due to germs spreading from these animals to people. Many South Dakotans enjoy being around animals, and they are an important part of our state's economy. However, livestock and poultry can carry germs that can make us very ill, so it's helpful to know ways we can reduce our risk of getting sick from our animals. Prevention can help avoid missed days of work, costly medical bills, and an unexpected trip to the clinic.

## Wash your hands.

Simple, yet a very effective way to decrease the risk of germ transmission from animals to people. If unable to wash with soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



## Don't eat while handling livestock or working in environments contaminated with livestock excrement.

The manure of healthy livestock can contain many germs. Some may cause severe or even life-threatening illness, especially in children. Contact with livestock manure has resulted in many South Dakotans becoming ill. Wait until after livestock handling tasks are completed and wash your hands thoroughly before eating.



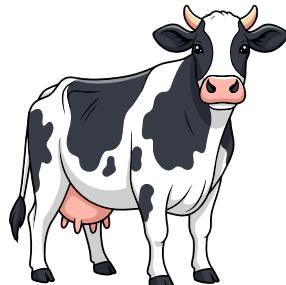
## If possible, use coveralls and boots or special chore clothes that you change after working with your animals.



We know life is busy with a limited amount of time. However, be aware that you can carry disease-causing germs in on your clothes or boots when you enter the house after a day of working with your animals or in their environments. Anyone responsible for laundering clothes should wash hands after handling contaminated clothing.

## Pay close attention to the health of your animals.

Some of the germs that make our animals ill can cause us to become ill as well. If your animal is sick, contact your veterinarian for advice and if a disease is diagnosed that you are unfamiliar with, ask your veterinarian if you should take extra precautions to prevent becoming ill yourself.



## If you are an employer with employees in close contact with animals, provide your employees relevant personal protective equipment and education for the tasks being.



To reduce the risk of illness, injury, and death, it is critical to appropriately train and supply workers for the tasks to be performed. Check out the following links for various ag-related safety resources: [Great Plains Center for Ag Health](#), [UMASH](#), [Ag Health and Safety Alliance](#), [SDSU Extension](#), and the [High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety](#). If you have questions regarding zoonotic diseases, you are welcome to contact the South Dakota Department of Health at 605-773-3737.