RISK ASSESSMENT

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| Title | One-day Pig keeping Course |
| **Course provider** | Tedfold Cottage Farm | **Ref No:** | TCF002 |
| Location | Billingshurst West Sussex |
| **Date of last assessment** | February 2018 |
| **Author** | Dr Michaela Giles |
| Review date | August 2011 – 6 monthly |

# INTRODUCTION AND RISK EVALUATION

One-day pig keeping courses are undertaken by prior arrangement in order to advise novice pig keepers on the basic requirements to keep pigs legally and safely. Instruction includes the legal requirements, biosecurity, and husbandry in the outdoor systems, and an introduction to breeding, farrowing and weaning, slaughtering and butchering options. Delegates interact with the pigs within their environments including woodland and are also introduced to the basic handling techniques. The nature of the courses means that delegates will come into contact with live animals, animal faeces and different forms of fencing including electric fencing, and barriers such as gates. Animals which have recently been purchased or returned from a show and are in Defra approved isolation facilities will be restricted from the delegates, until no other animals will be handled or completely restricted if they have contact with other livestock outside of Tedfold Cottage Farm. All appropriate disinfection procedures will be observed. The animals kept by Tedfold Cottage Farm include; pigs (plus piglets), horses, poultry, cats and dogs.

It is assumed for risk purposes that all delegates have no livestock handling experience although a proportion are likely to have had previous experience, attended previous instruction or training and/or keep other livestock. At no point will any delegate be left unattended by experienced members of Tedfold Cottage Farm. All aspects of the course are voluntary and participation is completely under the delegate’s control.

This standard assessment for the one-day pig keeping course covers the widest possible range of circumstances likely to be encountered, but conditions will be variable. The first part of the assessment is a standard generic assessment, but the second part requires that Tedfold Cottage Farm staff and the attending delegates use their judgment, knowledge and experience to individually assess the particular circumstances prevailing at the time.

The need to carry out any handling procedure will not be placed above the requirement for personal safety, the safety of others or, where animals are involved, of the animals themselves.

**HAZARDS**

# Biological

* Infection from potential zoonotic agents present in faeces, slurry, water and grass.

# Chemical

## Exposure to disinfectants e.g. footbath

# Physical

* Injury may result from interaction with livestock, especially those with young.
* Injury and/or electric shock from electricity / electric fences.
* Lacerations from barbed wire.
* Injury from collapse of unstable walls and fences, and poorly fixed gates. Unstable stacks of hay, straw or boxes. Unstable or poorly maintained buildings.
* Drowning or asphyxiation in the stream.
* Slips, trips and falls due to slippery and uneven surfaces.
* Damage to hearing from excessive noise such as squealing animals (especially pigs) and possible gunshots.
* Injury due to contact with agricultural machinery
* Bites/attack from farm dogs.

# Ergonomic / Other

* Heat exhaustion from exposure to the sun.
* Dehydration due to lack of refreshment facilities, made worse by exposure to the sun.

# STAFF INVOLVED AND FREQUENCY

The proprietors of Tedfold Cottage Farm will be the sole course providers. Caterers may be in attendance during the course day but will not provide any instruction, advice or tutoring of the delegates. Courses are provided on a day basis and strictly limited to a maximum of 8 delegates. The course runs from 9:30 to 4:30 and will therefore always be performed in daylight hours.

# CONTROLS

# Biological

* New and expectant mothers and delegates who may be immunocompromised in any way will be advised to re-consider attending and if they do decide to attend they will be restricted from access to any newborn lambs and places where the stable cats are likely to have been.
* Good personal hygiene should be maintained at all times, soap, anti-microbial hand wash and alcohol based hand cleansers will be available at all times. All existing wounds must be covered with waterproof dressings prior to starting the course. A first aid box and a bottle of sterile water will be available to allow fresh wounds to be cleaned and covered.
* Delegates will be given information on the common pathogens found in farm environments.
* All accidents will be reported in an accident book held at Tedfold Cottage Farm.

# Chemical

* The disinfectants used may vary depending on the livestock contact status of the delegate and if there is a need we use Defra approved disinfectants at the concentration stated on the container for the purpose. There is a standard assessment on the safe use of disinfectants.
* Delegates will not be able to enter areas where poisons or pesticides are being handled or applied, or areas housing recently dipped sheep unless they are wearing appropriate protective clothing (disposable boiler suit or waterproof trousers and jacket capable of being cleaned. Disposable non-powdered examination gloves should also be worn).
* Boots will be disinfected before entering Tedfold Cottage Farm and upon exit. Additional disinfection points will be added where isolated animals are kept.

# Physical

* Delegates will only carry out any animal handling tasks under the supervision of Tedfold Cottage Farm proprietors. All handling equipment will be provided.
* Delegates will not be allowed enter any field, yard or pen containing bulls or livestock with young without first assessing the situation and being given permission by Tedfold Cottage Farm staff. A member of the Tedfold Cottage Farm staff will inform the delegates regarding the temperament of the animals. A member of the Tedfold Cottage Farm staff will accompany delegates during any interaction.
* The farm electricity supply will not be accessible by delegates. All accessible points e.g. light switches have been assessed and a safety certificate issued.
* Delegates will be instructed in the recognition of electrified fences and the requirement on how to avoid them, safely climb over them and recommended not to touch them.
* Delegates should be vigilant for barbed wire used as a fencing material, even though all barbed wire on Tedfold Cottage Farm are only accessible by leaving our boundary fencing.
* Delegates have no reason to be in the vicinity of unstable stacks of hay, straw or boxes and permitted access will not be given.
* Delegates must not enter the stream without being accompanied by Tedfold Cottage Farm staff. When work is to be carried out near to such areas staff should be made aware of the conditions that could prove hazardous – water that is quickly moving; deep water; steep slopes and slippery walls.
* Water-proof boots must be worn during the farm visit, especially if the delegate has other livestock as the boot must go through the disinfectant bath.
* Delegates must not jump over or off anything but should use existing steps and bridges etc; not to climb over fences and walls but use gates or stiles (always closing gates behind them); keep to walkways and not take shortcuts; ensure that they can see where they are putting their feet before walking; and avoid working in poor light conditions.
* There should be no reason for delegates to be exposed to excessive noise whilst conducting a farm visit. Earplugs can be used when felt necessary. (As a general guide ear protection should be worn if you have to raise your voice to be heard by a colleague who is standing 1metre away). Delegates should inform Tedfold Cottage Farm management of situations where they feel the noise level exceeds the general guide given here.
* Delegates will not be given permission to drive or use farm vehicles/equipment. Delegates should be vigilant for vehicles/equipment that are in use so that they can avoid being in the route of moving vehicles/equipment.
* Delegates will not be given access to the Tedfold Cottage Farm dogs, but should be aware that a public footpath runs within the farm that the proprietors have no control over.
* Delegates must not enter any building or premise without prior permission to ensure their own safety and that of others.

# Ergonomic / Other

* Delegates are made aware, within this assessment, of the problems caused by the ultraviolet rays in sunlight, the short and long term dangers, and the need to seek medical checks for any skin abnormalities
* Sunscreen creams and lotions must be used to help protect exposed areas not covered by clothing or hats.
* The provision of bottled drinking water should help to prevent against dehydration, but care must be taken not to contaminate the drinking area with dirty hands or gloves.

### CONTINGENCIES

* A mobile phone will be carried at all times by Tedfold Cottage Staff for use in an emergency or call for assistance. Signal strength does vary in this rural area and in the event of an emergency the farm landline will be used.
* A first aid box is available for use by staff and delegates and one member of Tedfold Cottage Farm is trained in basic emergency aid.

# FURTHER ACTION IF REQUIRED

Training of Tedfold Cottage Farm staff will remain up to date or increased should the need arise.

# RESIDUAL RISK

The control measures in this assessment will be sufficient to reduce the risk to an acceptably low level.

When performing procedures that have not been covered by this assessment, it is important that a further local assessment is conducted so that additional control measures may be implemented.

This assessment must be reviewed regularly (subject to the level of risk and local considerations) and especially after changes to the procedures, equipment, substances, people, legislation, premises orif there has been an accident.

This form is to be retained until 5 years from the original assessment.

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| **Date of review** | Reviewed by (name) | **Action required** | Date carried out |
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