

Farm Equipment

Sharing and Hiring Equipment

Recognising the value of employing contractors and the importance of their role for efficient farm management, it is vital to understand the risk where equipment can be contaminated with faeces, urine, saliva, nasal discharge, and birthing fluids.

These bodily excretions may contain bacteria, viruses, or parasites that can spread infections, such as TB, between individual animals



Sharing and Hiring

Where possible, avoid sharing or hiring equipment. When it is unavoidable, establish clear protocols for cleaning and disinfection. Find out about approved disinfectants here: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/approved-disinfectants

Some equipment is higher risk than others. Equipment that has direct contact with cattle, such as foot trimming knives and clippers, are higher risk than equipment which does not have direct contact with the herd, such as fertiliser spreaders.

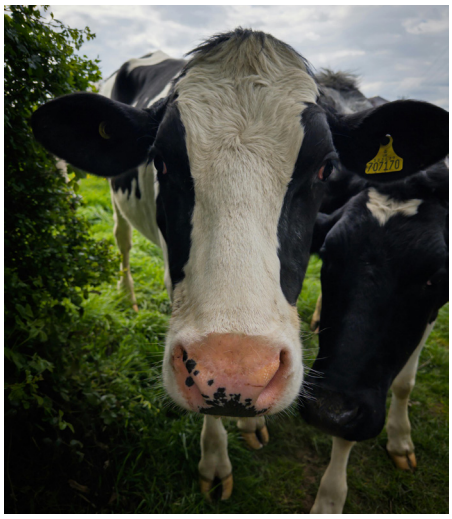


Own Equipment

Even when you own the equipment, if it is dirty, it can still spread disease within your herd. Consider having separate equipment for:

- high risk areas, such as the sick pen.
- high risk animals, such as calves.

Colour coding equipment is easy and makes it clear where the equipment belongs, such as red buckets for calving and blue buckets for the sick pen.



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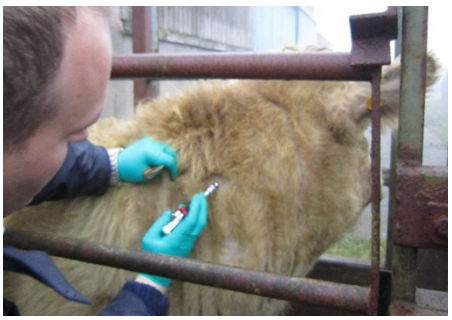
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Keeping you safe, keeping the test accurate
TB testing facilities





Adequate handling facilities are essential to ensure the safety of vets, farm personnel, and cattle.

Safe handling facilities are particularly important for TB testing. Inadequate testing facilities may result in insufficient cattle restraint and, in turn, cause accidents as well as reduce the quality of the testing. This may compromise the sensitivity of the skin test increasing the risk of undisclosed TB reactors remaining in the herd resulting in prolonged or recurrent TB breakdowns.

Handling facilities should also enable ear tags to be read safely and easily; sufficient lighting is required to be able to do so.

Ensure all handling facilities are effectively cleaned and disinfected between use, this includes races, gates, pens and collection yards.



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