



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Recommendations on the Recreational Use of Farmland to reduce the Risk of VTEC

25/3/2010

v1.0

The following advice is intended for:

1. Farmers and landowners who permit animal pastures to be used for such purposes and
2. Organisations that arrange camping or picnicking for children.

To completely avoid risk of infection by VTEC from this source, fields used for grazing or stockholding of animals should not be used for camping, picnicking, and play areas, especially where these involve children.

- Keep farm animals off the fields for the preceding three weeks prior to use.
- Keep farm animals off fields during use.
- Remove any visible droppings, ideally at the beginning of the 3-week period.
- Mow the grass, keep it short and remove the clippings before the fields are used for recreation.
- Ensure that water from streams is treated to a drinkable standard before consumption.
- Always wash hands before eating, drinking and smoking using soap, clean towels and hot, running water wherever possible.
- Ensure adequate supervision of children, particularly those less than 5 years of age.

These precautions, taken together, will greatly reduce the risk of VTEC and other infections.