



# Practitioner in Organic Livestock Management

**Pilot Course** 

Unit 4

The health and safety rules for the organic livestock management activities

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# The health and safety rules for the organic livestock management activities *Early notice*

Workplace health and safety procedures are necessary for the well-being of both farmers and workers.

Farm injuries and illness cause human suffering and cost money. That's why it's so important to take the necessary preventative safety and health measures in your operation.

Ensure that everyone on your farm, including visitors and contractors, understands their safety and health responsibilities and follows the policies you have set for your farm.



















## MAIN HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS

In organic farming workplace and organic livestock management activities



## **B** - Physical risks

- Animal with horns
- Nervous animals' behaviour, especially in the open and wild area



# C - Machinery and equipment risks

By the incorrect use of equipment and machinery in the farms

# A: Biological risks

Massive chances to contract human diseases from biological agents spread by wild animals or animal breeding are not healthy controlled



















# A - BIOLOGICAL RISK: ZOONOSES

#### Diseases caused by animals to humans and vice-versa

**DISEASE'S AGENTS** 



Bacteria, fungi (yeasts, moulds, etc.) and viruses.

**INFECTION MODE** 



Direct contact between herds, humans and wild animals, insects and mites.



Other occasional agents (rats, equipment, etc...)



Reduce the possibilities of pathogen transmission



Constantly check up of staff and herds' hygiene

**PREVENTION** 



Implementation and provision of compulsory vaccination



Implementation and provision of periodic animals' health check up



















#### **HUMAN DISEASE'S AGENTS & INFECTION RISKS - I**

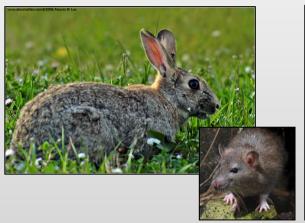


#### **Rats**



Domestic animals of other species poultry, rabbits, etc..

They are attracted into the farm by the presence of grain, fodder and other foods







Wild animals

come into contact with the livestock and breeding animals attending the same grazing

They are capable to transmit pathogenic for animals and also for humans.













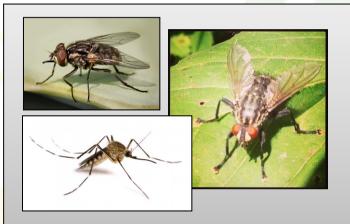








#### **HUMAN DISEASE'S AGENTS & INFECTION RISKS - II**



Insects from breeding: flies, horseflies, mosquitoes
They can passively (transport) or actively (intermediate hosts) transmit bacterial and some protozoan diseases (ex. malaria), they are attracted and they can reproduce themselves in the breeding, thanks to the presence of faeces in the heaps of excrement or in decomposing material.

#### Parasites corporeal: ticks, fleas, intestinal worms

- •They can produce injuries to the skin and to some internal organs (intestines, lungs, etc.).
- •The toxins produced by parasites reduce the human natural defences and become a factor for other diseases.
- •Some of them are transmitted to humans by direct contact or via the faeces.





















#### **PREVENTION RULES**

The high presence of these diseases' agents is a consequence of incorrect livestock management procedures and husbandry activities:

environments, animals and staff's hygiene

#### **HYGIENE'S RULES:**



Preserved with care and with order the (organic) feedstuffs.



Implement appropriate systems of collection, accumulation and disposal of excrement.



Implement appropriate barriers against the presence of parasites.



Take care of animals' hygiene and follow the veterinarian's instructions.















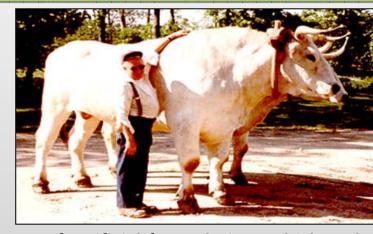






# **B-PHYSICAL RISKS**

IMPACT is one of most common risk, due to the large size of the animals and the presence of horns. The nervily behaviour of some species and categories: bulls, rams, etc., is more risky in organic system, where the animal breeding management is wild and semi-wild





and the use of artificial fecundation, which makes males more aggressive. All animals, also, if frightened, can be aggressive and create risks to the staff. Animals may be friendly but they are extremely strong and spook much easier at night than in the daytime.

Also the **injuries caused by slipping** can be frequent, especially where there the ground is steep and uncomfortable.



















#### **BITES AND ANIMAL'S KICKS**

- -Correct education of watchdogs especially in sheep and goat breeding environment.
- -Particular attention to handle horses and pork breeding stocks: their unexpected reactions can be harm and cause injuries



#### **PREVENTION RULES - I**



- •Aggressive animals have to breed into proper and safe enclosures or paddock in order to avoid any escape.
- •Watchdogs and dogs used for works have to be raised correctly and constantly monitored during their activities.



















#### **PREVENTION RULES - II**

#### Animal and Human Safety – Sample rules

- Stay out of corners and area from which escape is difficult when working with animals.
- Remember that friendly bulls or stallions can be very unpredictable when cows or mares are in heat.
- Be wary of newly acquired livestock.
- Make sure all stock enclosures are in good repair.
- Close gates securely.
- Always report unusual animal behavior that could signal illness.
- Request veterinary assistance for sick livestock.
- Remove dead livestock as soon as possible.
- Handle vaccines, medicines and sharps with care.
- Work cattle with two people when possible.
- Ask if you are unsure about anything dealing with livestock.





















#### **C- MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT RISKS AND PREVENTION RULES**

#### **SOME RULES**

- •Never operate equipment unless you have been trained to do so.
- •Do not allow others to ride on equipment you are operating at any time.
- •Make sure equipment is stopped before attempting to clean, unclog, service, or repair.
- •Read and follow equipment manuals.
- •Always use the equipment manual or lubrication order when servicing equipment.
- •Lower all attachments before working on a machine.
- •Use safety blocks and jacks when suspending parts of machinery; using a jack alone is unsafe.
- •Perform a safety check before using equipment.
- •Use care when mounting or dismounting equipment.
- •Check on-board firefighting devices.
- •Use extreme care when operating around ditches and embankments.
- •Make sure rollover protection structures (ROPS) are properly secured.
- •Use the operator seat belt only when ROPS are present.
- •Check behind vehicles before backing up.
- •Use the safety cage when changing tires.
- •Do not wear loose or ragged clothing near rotating shafts or gear trains.
- •Modify equipment only with the manufacturer's approval.
- •Use extreme care when moving equipment on public roads.
- •Ask if you have questions about machinery safety.















