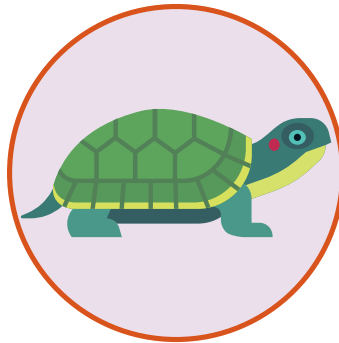
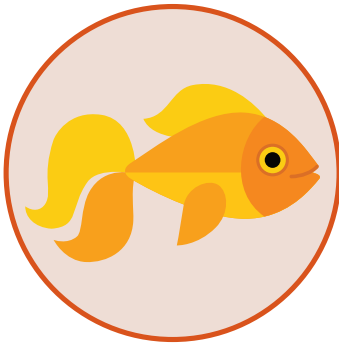


In this STEC outbreak nearly 70% of the people who got sick were 5 years old or younger; this highlights the risks to young children from direct contact with animals and soiled bedding in the absence of infection prevention measures. Because of the risk for severe infection among young children (those 5 years old or younger), it is recommended that direct access to animals like goats, cattle, and sheep is limited. This outbreak also highlights the need to educate people about steps to take to help prevent illnesses.

Following this outbreak, Connecticut, along with partner organizations, developed a symposium entitled, *Agritourism: Protecting Public Health, Animal health, and Your Farm for Local Farmer*, for farmers to learn about animal safety and sanitation in the hopes of preventing a similar outbreak in the future. To promote public awareness of zoonotic disease transmission, Connecticut has developed a short video focusing on restricting direct access to ruminants for young children, the importance of supervising children under 5 years of age around animals, and enforcing handwashing.

It is hard to know which animals could make people sick, especially since animals carrying germs often look and act healthy and normal.

FoodCORE supports capacity for faster and more complete enteric disease outbreak response, including the response to zoonotic outbreaks. Investigating zoonotic outbreaks can be challenging, and the link to animal exposure may not be easy to identify. Providing recommendations and educational materials on the prevention of enteric zoonotic infections is critical to controlling outbreaks and preventing additional illnesses. These investigations also highlight the importance of collaboration across laboratory, epidemiology, and environmental health to quickly detect, investigate, respond to, and control outbreaks.



Watch Connecticut's Public Service Announcement: *Protect your Health Around Animals*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBE-CRoXXes>

Protect yourself, your family, and the animals on a farm by remembering to:

- 1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after contact with farm animals or after touching items found on the farm.**
- 2. Cover any open wounds or cuts when visiting or working around farm animals.**
- 3. Do not eat or drink in the areas where animals live and roam.**