Cleaning calf pens/hutches

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job safely:

- Avoid loose clothing; clothes with strings; tie up long hair
- Use farmstead equipment safely
- Interact safely with calves and is comfortable around them
- Reach and operate barn cleaner controls from a balanced, standing position
- Lift object using proper lifting technique
- Bend using proper bending technique
- Easily push up to 25% of body weight
- Carry load the required distance without straining
- Limit weight of objects lifted to less than 25% of body weight
- Strength to control calves or heifers
- Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- React quickly to hazards
- With an adult, establish an escape route/plan
- Safely demonstrate job 4 to 5 times
- Change clothing and wash hands after finishing job



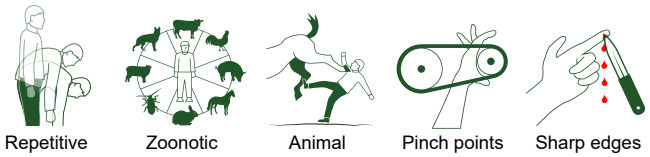
Adult Responsibilities

- Comply with working outdoors guideline
- Verify ventilation system is working properly before youth enters a closed building
- Verify all guards are in place on barn cleaner system
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Fit youth with a respirator and demonstrate proper use
- Confirm animals are free of diseases and injuries
- Check tools are properly sized to the youth
- Provide appropriate training
- Demonstrate how to clean a calf pen/hutch safely

Supervision

12-13 yrs	Constant supervision
14-15 yrs	Constant supervision progressing to intermittent
16+ yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic

Hazards



Repetitive motion | Zoonotic disease | Animal contact | Pinch points | Sharp edges

Protective Strategies



Gloves | Steel-toed non-skid shoes | Operator's manual | Respirator (if needed) | Handwashing



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