



universidad
de león

facultad
de veterinaria 

SAFETY PROTOCOL AND GOOD PRACTICES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEÓN TEACHING FARM



1. INTRODUCTION

The Teaching Farm of the University of León (GranjaULE) (<https://veterinaria.unileon.es/granja-experimental/>) is located in the municipality of Villaquilambre (León), at a distance of approximately 1.5 km from the Faculty of Veterinary. The farm has its own regulations, approved by the Governing Council. The main objective of the farm is teaching and, if necessary, the possibility of carrying out research is also contemplated. The Farm has a surface area of 130,000 square metres and includes several permanent units:

- Pig unit: closed cycle farm with continuous weekly flow with 30 breeders and their production up to slaughter weight.
- Sheep unit: holding with capacity for 100 breeding ewes and their production.
- Dairy cattle unit: farm with a capacity of 50 cows, mechanical milking system.
- Equine unit: Facilities for 6 horses and 12 brood mares.
- Experimental unit: housing for small ruminants and pigs for animal experimentation.
- Quarantine-lazareth Unit: a building with accommodation for a certain number of animals in isolation and quarantine for the following livestock species: equidae, bovines, small ruminants, pigs and rabbits.

The management of the farm is assigned to a private company who are responsible for each unit. Each animal species has a veterinarian in charge, who is responsible for animal movement, health status, welfare and compliance with all legislation applicable to each species. These units comply with the requirements described in Royal Decree 53/2013, of 1 February, which establishes the basic rules applicable to the protection of animals used in experimentation and other scientific purposes, including teaching.

In each of the different livestock units there shall be a certain number of animals for practices involving animal handling. The rest of the livestock will be used for observation, control and management practices. For the correct operation of the ULE-Farm a set of mandatory regulations has been drawn up, which are detailed below.

Objectives in the Farm Biosecurity Programme:

- Protect staff and students from exposure to zoonotic agents.
- Educational activities with students should include activities related to biosecurity, prevention and control of infectious diseases and zoonoses, as well as activities related to health surveillance.
- Provide information on good management practices and animal welfare.

General standards of behaviour and working conditions

- Proper behaviour will be observed at all times on the ULE-Farm. This includes no running or shouting.

- Students will approach animals by observing them to anticipate their movements and avoid risks at all times, especially with large species. They will remain alert at all times. It is **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** to answer mobile phones in close proximity to animals.
- Animals shall not be touched unnecessarily and respect and welfare measures appropriate to the species concerned shall always be observed.
- The responsible teacher will be notified immediately of any incident or accident. In case of danger, the safety and evacuation signs present in the building will be followed.
- Any waste generated during the practical will be removed in the manner indicated by the teacher and always using the appropriate containers for the purpose, whether they are located in the livestock building itself or in the central building.
- Personal items such as watches, rings, necklaces or chains that could pose a risk of entanglement in the livestock installations must not be brought into the ULE-Farm.
- It is **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** to smoke inside the teaching farm in compliance with current law and especially to avoid the risk of fire as we are working with flammable materials.
- Students shall not enter facilities other than those to which they are required to go in order to carry out the internship. This will avoid disturbing other practice groups.
- Boots shall be dipped for entry to any livestock unit with a footbath at the entrance.
- Once the corresponding activity has been carried out, the boots shall be cleaned with soap and water, using the boot washers located in the immediate vicinity of the changing rooms (Figure 1).

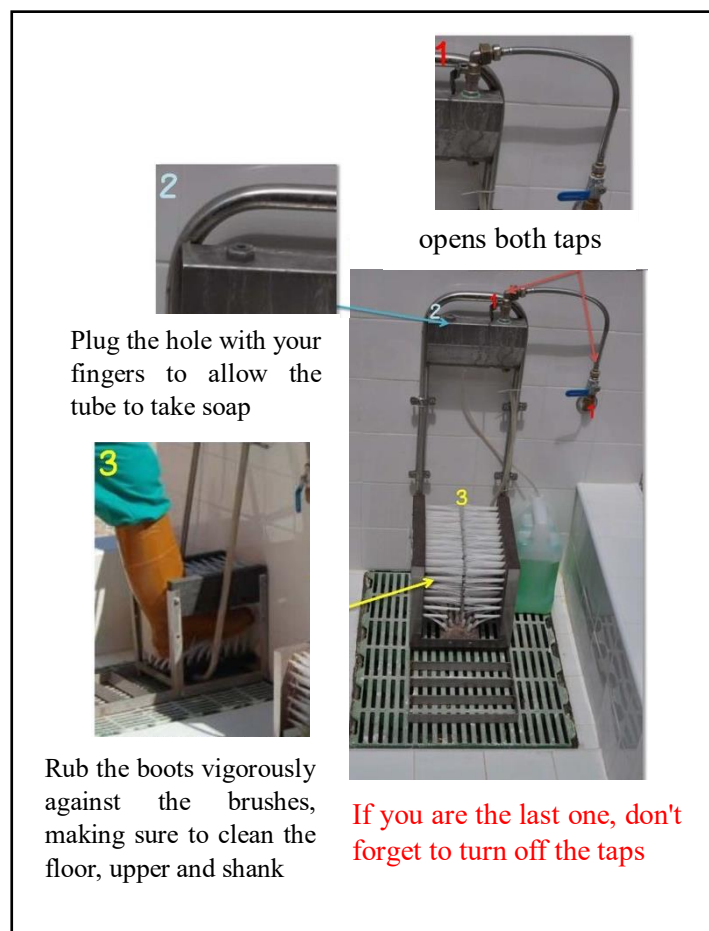


Figure 1. Boot cleaning.

It is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN to bring boots from livestock units into the central building.

Working conditions

- During the work placement, the student will at all times follow the instructions of the teachers or the staff working in the different livestock units.
- All equipment used shall be left in a perfect state of cleanliness and maintenance.
- Material shall not be moved from one building to another unless instructed to do so by the teacher or staff working in the different units.
- In the case of using containers containing drugs or biologicals, care should be taken to use up the contents of one before starting the other, and the contents of each container should be used up before starting the other.

Empty bottles shall be disposed of as directed by the teacher or worker but always in a container suitable for the purpose.

- Needles and other disposable sharp or cutting materials shall be used with care, avoiding risks to oneself and fellow workers, and shall be disposed of using the container provided for this purpose, always under the instruction of the teacher or the livestock unit.

Food

It is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN to bring food onto the ULE-Farm premises. The introduction of food, especially animal products, will be considered a very serious infringement of these regulations. Access with water will be allowed, especially during the hottest periods of the year. The student or visitor is responsible for any waste that may be generated, and is obliged to deposit it in the facilities provided for this purpose in the central building. It is strictly forbidden to leave any kind of rubbish on the ULE-Farm premises.

Cameras or similar

The introduction of cameras or similar devices and their use must be authorised by the teacher in charge of the Practicum. It is strictly forbidden to take images in places where the teachers expressly indicate this. Right to privacy of the people present will be taken into account when taking images and the refusal of a person to be captured in images or videos will be scrupulously respected.

2. ACCESS CONTROL TO THE EDUCATIONAL FARM

The Teaching Farm is an enclosed area and only authorised staff of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, teachers and students are allowed to enter. To enter the enclosure it is essential to cross the sanitary ford. There is a register of entrances and exits to and from the Farm, which is completed daily by the staff designated for this purpose.

The supply of food and other equipment necessary for the development of the activity on the Farm is communicated by telephone or e-mail to the person in charge of the corresponding unit, who authorises their entry.

- Parking.

The ULE-Farm has car parks at the front of the central building for the use of all visitors.

- Classrooms.

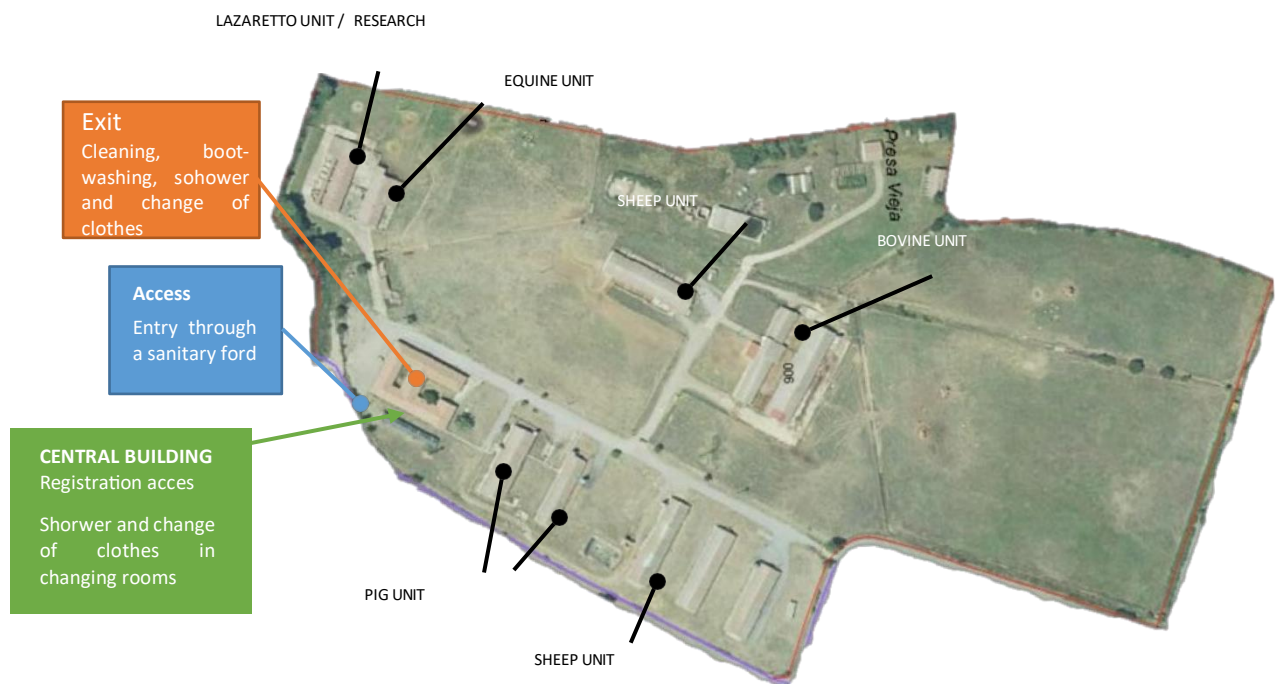
The central building has three classrooms. All of them are equipped with audiovisuals. Reservations will be made through the usual procedures.

- Clothing and footwear.

All visits to the Teaching Farm (animal facilities) are **REQUIRED** to wear farm- specific clothing and footwear. Clothing and footwear for students will be:

1. Green, which could be replaced by a one-piece coverall use.
2. Mid-calf rubber boots (green or white) with reinforced toe.

For external visits, the ULE-Farm has single-use overalls and tights. In addition, the farm has changing rooms divided by gender, shared between students and teachers. It is recommended not to bring valuables to the farm, as there are no lockers. The farm declines any responsibility for the loss or theft of any object.



3. IDENTIFICATION, REGISTRATION Y MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS

The University of León Farm is registered in the REGISTRO DE EXPLOTACIONES GANADERAS (REGA).

At present, the Farm is home to:

- a) Animals on a permanent basis

These permanent units are regulated and receive regular visits from the Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Administración Local y Ordenación del Territorio de la Junta de Castilla y León, under the same conditions as other commercial farms. Animals born on the farm are sold or slaughtered in a commercial slaughterhouse. The animals kept on the farm are healthy.

- Pigs
- Sheep
- Bovine
- Equine: 2 mares and one gelding.

b) Non-permanent animals

The rest of the Livestock Units are located in specific areas and at times of the year with educational needs, always in the same area and with their own designation. The whole enclosure has the approval of the Junta de Castilla y León.

- All livestock movements are recorded in the computerised management programme of the Junta de Castilla y León for this purpose.
- All animals are identified by tattoos, or as appropriate to their species.
- The arrival of animals is carried out from commercial farms that comply with all health requirements and carry out deworming and vaccination programmes approved by those responsible for the livestock units.
- If an animal dies, its body will be removed either for necropsy or for cremation through the management of the carcass removal company.
- The ULE-Farm has a quarantine area that has all the guarantees of animal isolation and observation.

Common general characteristics:

- Animals shall be vaccinated according to official compulsory recommendations or plans according to epidemiological situations.
- There is no contact with animals from other herds. The separation between the units does not allow direct contact between animals housed in the different units.
- No contact with wildlife.
- Carcasses are collected immediately for proper disposal.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC RISKS

1. **PHYSICAL:** Lighting, ventilation/air conditioning, weather conditions and especially those derived from the development of the activities (blows, cuts, falls, punctures, etc.) and handling with the animals (kicking, bites, scratches, goring, blows, etc.).

2. CHEMICALS: Products for cleaning and disinfection of the facilities and drugs administered to the animals (special mention should be made of anaesthetics and euthanasia).
3. BIOLOGICAL: Derived from exposure to infectious and/or parasitic agents causing zoonosis through exposure to the animals housed, without deliberate handling of these agents (Specific Health Surveillance Protocols for Biological Agents (Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs)).

5. PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST RISKS

In addition to those contemplated in the corresponding section of the Safety and Good Practice Plan of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the main preventive measures are as follows:

Against physical hazards:

- Lighting:
 - Always work outdoors during daylight hours and indoors. adequate artificial lighting.
- Ventilation/air conditioning:
 - Control of the proper functioning of natural means (windows, doors, natural openings in the house) and of automatic systems in the house housing the pigs.
- Weathering:
 - Organisational measures that reduce exposure to heat, cold or bad weather.
 - Protection from solar radiation by means of protective clothing and creams.
 - Protection from the cold and rain with protective clothing and mackintoshes.
- Handling:
 - Working protocols according to the animal species, task to be performed and area of work.
 - To monitor compliance and improve in case of accidents by the Coordinator of the University Farm Biosecurity Plan.
 - Use of appropriate clothing: boots, overalls, masks, gloves, etc.
 - Safe working facilities and tools: cattle chutes, leghold traps, pig ties, shields, rods, pens.
 - Do not work alone, depending on the danger of the procedure. or animals to be treated.

Against chemical risks:

- Pesticides and other chemicals (veterinary medicines, disinfectants, insecticides and antiseptics).

- Inventory of available and handled chemical agents, which should be kept up to date.
- Personal Protective Equipment for handling chemical products: Category III gloves certified against chemical risk according to UNEEN374 1,2 and 3.

Personal Protective Equipment for pesticide application: Category III masks according to EN 140, with specific filter for organic and inorganic vapours, acid gases or vapours, ammonia and organic derivatives and particles (type ABEKP), category III according to EN 14387; category III protective clothing according to UNE-EN 14605 against liquid spray (type 4).

Against biological hazards:

- Control measures for installations:
 - The perimeter of the farm must always be enclosed by wire mesh which shall be checked in its entirety on a monthly basis.
 - Restricting and limiting access to the ULE-Farm to authorised persons and to students on work experience, with the use of specific clothing (overalls and waterproof boots) being compulsory.
 - Clean and apply disinfectants in the concentration recommended by the manufacturer to vehicle access gates and pedestrian access gates, according to the "Maintenance and Cleaning Procedure Manual for the ULE-Farm sanitary facilities.
 - Delimit the species of the different modules with wire mesh and/or movable guttering.
 - Window screens for vector control.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of the different modules housing animals according to the "Manual of cleaning and disinfection procedures for the University Farm facilities".
 - Washing of wellington boots only at boot-washing points. Washing in toilets is prohibited.
 - Sinks should always be stocked with disinfectant hand soap and disposable towels.
 - Internal sewage system and slurry pit to store fluids and excreta from the pig module.
 - Storage of feed in locked areas controlled by farm workers, in the shade, without humidity and without direct contact with the ground. Have an up-to-date inventory.
 - DDD (Disinfection-Desinsection-Desratisation) treatments.
- Control measures in work procedures:
 - Procedure with safety precautions in the use of needles for extractions and/or application of medicines.

- Use of Personal Protective Equipment:
 - o wear waterproof overalls and boots while in the area facilities
 - o when cleaning animal rooms: waterproof overalls (to be worn over waterproof boots and gloves), protective gloves against biological risk (Standard UNE-EN 374 1, 2 and 3) and protective mask against particles P2 (EN 149). In case of splashes, wear protective screen or goggles (EN 166)
 - o always wear protective gloves when handling animals. against biological risk (UNE-EN 374 1,2 Y3).

6. INSTRUCTIONS SPECIFIC

FOR BIOSECURITY IN THE DIFFERENT LIVESTOCK UNITS

6.1. PIG UNIT

6.1.1. BEFORE ENTERING

Entrance

Access: The pig unit will be accessed from the central building via the central road.

Necessary equipment

- Students and Teachers:

Students: green overalls. Teachers: green overalls.

Rubber boots with reinforced toe cap. Disposable gloves.

Disposable coveralls (visitors).

Plastic tights (visitors).

- Self-protection measures

Earplugs.

Mask (personnel sensitive to odours and/or gases).

Rubber boots with reinforced toe cap.

- Particular precautions

No pig farms shall be visited in the 48 hours prior to entering the unit. Porcine of the GDV.

The pig unit of the GDV shall not be entered within 72 hours of a visit to the general or pig slaughterhouse.

- Legislation

The relevant legislation is R.D. 324/2000 on the management of pig farms and R.D. R.D. 1135/2002 on the minimum standards for the protection of pigs. Otherwise, registration, identification, animal care, production systems, transport,

experimentation and slaughter will be carried out in accordance with the legislation in force.

Preparing for entry

- Persons
 - o Clothes and boots shall be collected in the area provided for this purpose in the changing rooms.
 - o Once provided with the appropriate clothing and self-protection equipment, the boots will be placed in the central footbath located at the exit of the changing rooms.
- Animals
 - o Animals may be introduced into the pig unit only after they have been spent a minimum of 30 days in the quarantine unit
 - o Animal movements permitted by legislation in relation to eradicating diseases such as Aujeszky's disease shall be strictly adhered to.
- Material
 - o Only material supplied by the farm or the teacher responsible for the group shall be introduced.
 - o In case of having to introduce material not normally used on the farm, it shall first be washed and superficially disinfected with an antiseptic suitable for the purpose.
 - o All equipment and installations used shall be left in perfect condition. state of cleanliness and maintenance.
 - o There shall be no exchange of material from one ship to .
 - o Needles and other disposable sharp or cutting materials shall be used with care, avoiding risks to oneself and fellow workers, and shall be disposed of using the container provided for this purpose, always under the indication of the teacher or the person in charge of the Pig unit.

6.1.2. DURING THE STAY

Visiting order

The order of visit will be as follows whenever different ships are to be visited:

- ↪ Paridera.
- ↪ Transition.
- ↪ Gestation.
- ↪ Bait.

The only units to be visited are the essential units to be visited are the ones where to carry out work.

The common general rules described above behaviour and in the event of an accident shall be followed.

6.1.3. AFTER THE STAY

Exit

- Live animals: live animals may only be removed by the personnel responsible for the pig unit by means of vehicles that comply with the regulations in force.
- Carcasses: Carcasses shall be deposited in the metal or plastic containers provided for this purpose until they are removed by a waste manager authorized for the removal of waste type SRM. The containers shall be kept closed until removal and shall be washed periodically to keep them in hygienic conditions. If a necropsy is necessary, the corpse shall be transported to the Faculty (Necropsy Room) using an appropriate watertight vehicle that avoids the spillage of any type of material. Once the necropsy has been carried out, the corpse shall be removed as mentioned above.
- Material: disposable material generated by the teaching activity in the Porcina unit will ***be removed by the Waste and Radioprotection Unit of the ULE.***

Persons

- Once the corresponding activity has been carried out, the boots will be cleaned with soap and water, using the boot washers located near the changing rooms.
Hands should be washed and it is advisable to take a shower before leaving the farm.
- If disposable coveralls and tights have been worn, they shall be placed in the waste bin. litter provided for this purpose.
- No circumstances shall boots be worn to enter the central building.
- All personal belongings shall be removed from the lockers and locked.

6.2. SHEEP UNIT

All the rules explained above are applicable for the sheep unit, the legislation being different: The relative legislation is R.D. 348/2000, concerning the protection of animals on livestock farms and its amendment R.D. 441/2001. For the rest, the registration, identification, animal care, production systems, transport, experimentation and slaughter will be carried out according to the legislation in force.

6.3. BOVINE UNIT

All the rules explained above are applicable for the bovine unit, but the legislation is different: The relative legislation is R.D. 1980/1998, establishing the identification and registration system for bovine animals and R.D. 348/2000, for the care of animals, in their exploitation, transport, experimentation and slaughter.

Helmets are added as self-protection measures (if necessary due to special handling).

6.4. EQUINE UNIT

All the rules explained above are applicable for the equine unit, but the legislation is different: The relative legislation is R.D. 804/2011 regulating the zootechnical, sanitary and animal welfare management of equine holdings and establishing the equine sanitary plan. Otherwise, registration, identification, animal care, production systems, transport, experimentation and slaughter will be carried out in accordance with the legislation in force.

Helmets are added as self-protection measures (if necessary due to special handling).

7. FARM STAFF

Farm workers wear suits, jackets and boots that are specific and adapted to their work. These clothes are worn only at the Teaching Farm, and are washed regularly.

- Staff members regularly wash their hands in accordance with the procedures described.
- If farm workers are obliged to visit other farms, they wear a different set of clothes (overalls, jackets and boots).

8. ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT ON THE FARM

Animal faeces are placed in a specific area within the farm and removed by a specific company.

The animals that are transferred to the necropsy room are placed in an airtight container. The carcass removal service, when necessary, is carried out on a daily basis by the company Rebisa S.L.

9. OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

Strict compliance with Epidemiological Surveillance Protocols for Notifiable Diseases.

10. REVISION OF THE PROTOCOL

The protocol shall be reviewed and updated at least on an annual basis and/or when there is a significant change related to the aspects covered by the protocol.