

HOBBY FARMS[®] Farm-sitting Checklist

When hiring a farm sitter, create a list to help you prepare yourself and the sitter.

By Richard Stickann

The list you prepare for the farm sitter depends on:

- The type of farm
- Number and type of animals
- Amount of work involved
- The season: Lists may change as seasons change.

The list may include critical information about livestock traits or conditions, such as:

- Who is/are temperamental
- Who is the dominant animal for each breed
- Who is/are pregnant

Be sure to include information that helps the sitter understand the dynamics of the farm.

Use the checklist below to help you determine what information to provide to the sitter.

- ☐ Telephone Numbers: veterinarian, vet hospital emergency number, sitter's relative, neighbor's number, your relative, where you're staying, your cell phone
- ☐ Feeding Schedule and Amounts (what, where, when and how much to feed)
- ☐ Descriptions of Animals (colors, markings, names, pictures, habits, personality traits)
- ☐ Medical Issues (what to watch for, identification, when to call you or the vet, administering medications)
- ☐ Water Buckets (how often filled and cleaned, water source)
- ☐ Barn and Corral Cleaning (what to clean and how often, where to empty dung)



- ☐ Outside Barn Lights (on and off times; include all security lights)
- ☐ Pasture Gates (when opened and when closed; which pasture to use)
- ☐ Perimeter Gates and Barn Entries (secured)
- ☐ Inclement Weather (access to pastures, barn doors)
- ☐ Tools and Implements (grain, stall dry, wood pellets, shovel, rake, dung scoop, halters; label and store all for easy access)
- ☐ Miscellaneous (light switches, light bulbs, ladder)
- ☐ Other Responsibilities (mail, newspapers, barn cats, watering gardens)
- ☐ Walk Through with Sitter (start to finish, meet the animals)
- ☐ Final Walk Through and Visual Check (everything in order, last minute issues)