## Reducing Risk of a Hidden Hazard

Case Study: Protecting People in Farm Environments

## Challenge

A yak ranch and agritourism destination in northern lower Michigan had a unique safety challenge. Dozens of people each day would stop and pull off the highway to get out of their cars to take pictures of the yaks, as close by as possible. If young yaks were near the fence, visitors (including children) would try to touch them. This presented a very real danger because the adults had their newborn calves to protect and could charge the fence – potentially goring visitors. The ranch needed to take protective measures over the entire field's fence line. People who stopped to look at the yaks – which appear docile but can quickly get defensive – along the full pasture area needed to be able to see and understand the risk, and be prevented from getting too close to the perimeter fence.

## Solution

Clarion developed a best practice sign system to help warn about the potential hazard of yak attacks and suggested the addition of an orange-lined outer perimeter fence which visitors would be instructed not to cross, providing an extra measure to clearly indicate safe distances. This fence was installed and was subsequently referred to on the signs. Clarion's signs use state-of-the-art symbols, eye-catching color-coding and the latest ANSI Z535 and ISO design principles to communicate to viewers the nature of the hazard and how to avoid it. The signs were repeatedly posted along the fence. "YAK FACTS" signs were also installed to provide additional reading material for the sightseers, who are now at a safe distance away from the inner fence. Reducing risk, protecting people; that's what Clarion is all about.



## YAK FACTS

- Yaks are fascinating animals that love the open range.
  They can be found both in the wild in their native countries of the Tibetan region, including the country of Nepal in the Himalayan Mountains and are raised domestically in the US.
- Both yak bulls and cows are very protective of their young.
   For this reason, they have been known to charge people who get too close to them.
- Our yak bull is named Chugach and he weighs over 1000 lbs. He is strong enough to crash through the inner fence. This is why you must stay outside the perimeter fence line.
- Yaks shed their fiber in the springtime. Their undercoat is similar to cashmere and can be made into very soft yarn for knitting and weaving. Domestic yaks are also raised for their lean, healthy and tasty meat.

Our shop sells alpaca fiber yarn and select cuts of meat.

Do you have a unique safety challenge that requires a personalized or customized solution? Let Clarion's experts help design a solution specifically for you. Contact us today!

