

FARM SAFETY



A farm can be an endless backyard full of exciting places for children to explore, however it can also be home to a number of hazards. Every 3 days a child dies from a farm related injury. The following tips will help you to keep you and your family safe on the farm:

- » Always supervise children. Young children in particular are very curious and tend to change their behavior without any warning. Make sure your child understands that certain areas are out-of-bounds for them.
- » Be aware of potential dangers on the farm and prepare for them by making changes around the farm to reduce or remove hazards.
- » Children learn by imitation. A child is more likely to be safety conscious if you are. Ensure your child sees YOU performing tasks safely.

Farm activities can vary greatly between younger and older children. Farm safety can also be different between age groups of children. Young children hold little understanding of instructions, rules, and danger.

Older children are more likely to be exposed to hazards from being given adult chores and tasks. It is important for older children to be only given age appropriate jobs on the farm. Safety precautions must be undertaken and protective gear worn at all times.

Safe Play Area

For families living on farms, a safe play area should be:

- » Close to the home and clearly visible.
- » Have a strong barrier that separates children from farm animals.
- » Away from traffic and hazards like machinery or unstable structures.
- » Away from open water.
- » If possible, a shaded area and sheltered from wind and dust.

Farm Machinery

Farms are often home to dangerous vehicles, machinery and equipment such as tractors, harvesting equipment and drills.

- » Make sure vehicles are locked and keys removed when not in use.
- » Always supervise children closely around tractors and heavy machinery.
- » Always hold children close around moving vehicles. Teach them to stand in view and out of the way.
- » Unless the vehicle was made to safely hold more than one person, do NOT take another rider.



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HEALTH SYSTEM

**SAFE
K:DS**
GRAND FORKS

Farm Animal Safety

Farms can be a great setting for children to interact with a variety of animals, however the unpredictable nature of animals can be dangerous. Horses are a common risk to children on farms, along with cows, chickens, and pigs.

- » Always supervise children around farm animals.
- » Ensure that animal pens and all stockyards are inaccessible to young children.
- » Ensure that children are properly instructed and supervised when riding horses.
- » Protective equipment such as a properly fit helmet and riding boots should be worn at all times.

Chemicals

- » Store all farm chemicals in a lockable shed away from the family home and children's play areas.
- » Keep chemicals in their original container, clearly labelled and out of reach of children.
- » Keep the Poison Control number close to the phone and programmed into your cell phone in case of an Emergency: 1-800-222-1222 (throughout the United States 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

First Aid on the Farm

Farms are often located in rural and regional areas and it can be difficult to reach medical assistance quickly. For this reason it is important to keep your first aid kit stocked and first aid training up to date.

ATV's and Motorcycles

All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) and motorcycles are commonly used on farms. ATV's are not suited for all terrains and can be unstable on rough, steep, or uneven surfaces. For these reasons Safe Kids advises:

- » Children under the age of 16 years do not operate or ride on a quad bike or motorcycle.
- » Provide children with age appropriate bikes and safety gear. Teach children how to operate them safely and show them safe places to ride.

Grain Bins

Never allow a child to play near or in grain bins or trucks loaded with grain.

- » A person getting pulled into grain is similar to the pull of quicksand.
- » Supervision around grain bins is required. Grain flow can cover a child before anyone realizes what is happening.

Top 5 Ways to Stay Safe

- 1 Keep kids away from tractors**
 - » Tractors cause over 40% of accidental farm deaths of children under 15
- 2 Keep young children out of the workplace.**
- 3 Ensure age appropriate work**
- 4 Ensure environment is as safe as possible**
 - » Eliminate/reduce hazards
 - » Provide personal protective equipment
- 5 Provide training for work/tasks and ensure proficiency**
 - » Model safe behaviors
 - » Train youth to do job
 - » Practice until proficient
 - » Supervise

