



Keeping Our Farms Safe: A Checklist

Agriculture is one of our country's most dangerous industries. Each year hundreds of people are killed and more than a hundred thousand severely injured in farm-related activities.

Your individual efforts can make our nation's farms a safer place to live, visit and work. The following is a basic safety checklist highlighting common farm hazards.

Basic Farm Safety Checklist - All answers should be YES!

Farmstead

1. Are stairs, floors and working surfaces in good repair and free of slipping and tripping hazards?
2. Are sturdy handrails present on every stairway?
3. Are ladders in good condition?

Machinery

1. Is farm equipment ridden only by those required for its operation, instruction, or diagnostics?
2. Are obstacles avoided and speed reduced on rough, uneven or hilly ground?
3. Are tractors routinely brought to a complete stop before dismounting? Are brakes employed and handholds or rails used when stepping down?
4. If possible, are tractors equipped with an ROPS cab (offering overhead protection, comfort and prevention against falls)?
5. Are seat belts being used?

Livestock Handling

1. Are livestock handling areas labeled to discourage visitors?
2. Is there easy access to and exit from animals in livestock pens and handling facilities?
3. Is restraining equipment used consistently and properly?
4. Have all workers and visitors been trained regarding basic animal behavior and instincts?

The National Safety Council's Agricultural Division provides an array of valuable resources, offering practical solutions for reducing preventable injury and illness. For detailed information, call 630-775-2023 or visit our Website at <http://www.nsc.org>.

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