



Southwest Center
FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH, INJURY PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION

AG SAFETY CHECK OFFS

*Learn how to keep those on the farm
or ranch safe during work & play*



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The symptoms of heat-related illness include but are not limited to muscle cramps, fever, headache, nausea, lightheadedness, and fatigue. Keeping workers safe should always be your #1 priority. Employers and/or workers can use this form to complete safety checks on the farm.

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Do workers who have preexisting conditions, are older than 65, are pregnant, or who had COVID-19 given more breaks in the shade and with food and cool fluids available?			
Are hot, physically-demanding jobs scheduled early in the day with more people scheduled to do these jobs, to reduce the load on each person?			
Have all workers been trained to prevent, recognize and treat heat-related illness in themselves and others?			
Does each worker have their own water bottle? Is it washed daily?			
Do workers begin each shift by drinking plenty of fluids, including electrolyte-containing sports drinks?			
Are workers given more breaks to rest and hydrate as the temperature rises?			
Do workers end each shift resting and drinking plenty of cold fluids to ensure their bodies cool down? Heat stress can become magnified over consecutive days.			
Does each worker know (1) how and (2) which medical provider to call in case of an emergency? Does the provider speak the workers' language(s)?			
Are workers being acclimatized? In other words, are workers gradually increasing their exposure time in hot environmental conditions over a 7-14 day period?			

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: _____

Tractors are nearly universal on the farm. While it's a critical piece of equipment, tractors are also the number one cause of death on the farm. Take the time to refresh all tractor operators on the necessary steps and training for safe operation.

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Have pre-operational checks been completed before driving such as oil, tire pressure, and gas? Check the area around the tractor to ensure it is clear of children, dogs, etc.			
Are drivers entering the tractor with three points of contact to prevent falls?			
Does the tractor have working lights and a slow-moving vehicle sign when being driven on roadways?			
Are tractors equipped with a rollbar and seat belts?			
Are power take-off (PTO) guards in place and in good condition?			
Are hydraulic lines in good shape, with no leaks?			
Are drivers checking for other workers or children before moving the tractor?			
Are implements only attached to the tractor once the tractor is turned off, on level ground and the brakes applied?			
Are there no extra riders? This maintains safe tractor operation and physical distancing.			

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Agricultural workers all over the world rely on ATVs to complete tasks on the farm; however, despite the usefulness of ATVs, serious injuries can result from improper use. If you take proper safety precautions, you can reduce the risk of ATV-related injury or death.

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Are all riders trained and certified in how to use and handle an ATV?			
Is there available approved protective gear for all riders to wear when operating an ATV?			
Do all of the lights come on when you start the ATV?			
Is less than one-third of the ATV's weight on the rear carrying rack?			
Have you completed a pre-ride inspection (oil levels, gas tank, air levels in tire, etc)?			
Does ATV have a Crush Protection Device (CPD) designed to prevent crush injuries in lower speed crashes (<30 mph)?			
Are children between the ages of 12 and 16 only driving smaller ATVs with a 90cc motor under adult supervision?			
Can the child reach and operate all controls while comfortably seated?			
Does the driver always ride alone while operating the ATV?			

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Spring and fall are some of the busiest seasons for farm equipment on the road, so gear up for a safe, attentive year on the roads. Rural roads pose special dangers with curves, two-way traffic, slow-moving farm vehicles, wildlife, narrow lanes, and more. Whenever you hit the road with your machinery for field-work, check on your equipment and roadway habits to reduce the risk of a roadway incident.

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Is your equipment labeled with slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblems, that are in good condition?			
Are all of your lights fully functioning and visible? Do you perform pre-travel checks?			
Is your equipment outlined with reflective equipment to mark the wide points?			
Are you keeping lights on whenever you're on the road, including during the day?			
Are you trying to travel during daylight, or using only lit equipment at night?			
Are you always using turn signals?			
Are your employees trained for farm equipment safety on public roads?			
Are you keeping an eye on the cars behind you? It may be helpful to pull over for cars to pass when it's safe.			
Additional Hazards			

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: _____

Safe storage of chemicals on the farm is critical to you, your family, workers, visitors, and livestock. Maintaining a proper chemical storage room or building reduces the risk of accidental exposure.

Incidents with chemicals can be serious and life-threatening, so it is important to review your storage area for possible hazards and correct any issues.

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Are chemicals stored in a room or building which can be secured from children, visitors and livestock?			
Do chemical containers have the original labels?			
Are chemicals stored in their original containers and never in food or drink containers?			
Is smoking prohibited in and around buildings where chemicals are stored and when they are being handled?			
Is the storage area well ventilated and lighted?			
Are respirators, rubber gloves, aprons, chemical goggles, coveralls and other chemical protective gear available?			
Is the Poison Helpline number (1-800-222-1222) posted in a visible place?			

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: _____

Grain handling is a high-hazard activity, where workers face serious injury and death. Youth should not be in grain bins or silos or in/around flat storage structures unless they are empty, proper lock-out/tag-out and other safety procedures are followed, and the youth is at least 16 years old.

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Has equipment been powered off at the main disconnect and locked and tagged?			
If there is potential for combustible gas, vapors or toxic agents, has the oxygen level been tested with a gas monitor?			
Is a rope and harness available for anyone entering a grain bin?			
If a worker enters, is an observer trained and able to initiate rescue?			
Do all bins have permanent ladders inside and outside?			
Is rescue equipment provided and specifically suited for entry?			
Are there NIOSH approved masks or respirators available?			
Are grain and feed bins clearly labeled to warn of the hazards of flowing grain or feed?			
Are equipment guards and shields in place and in good condition?			

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: _____

Can you hear me now? Hearing loss is permanent and irreversible. October is National Protect Your Hearing Month, and it's also a time of year farmers are working around combines, dryers, augers, and other equipment with high noise levels that harm hearing without proper protection. Prevent hearing loss before it is too late.

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Are you using job-appropriate hearing protection? Match protection to decibel levels of exposure.			
Are you using hearing protection sized/fitted for your body?			
Are you inserting/placing PPE on correctly? Some foam plugs should be rolled			
Are you updating used/old PPE that is no longer effective?			
Are you performing routine maintenance on equipment to reduce excess noise? (such as rattling/clanging)			
Are you limiting exposure to hazardous levels of noise?			
Are high noise areas marked with warnings or signage?			
Are you storing PPE near machinery or areas where it should be worn?			
Have you had your hearing tested?			

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Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Do all workers receive animal handling safety training?			
Are the handlers calm and in command? Livestock need a good leader. Animals want to know what we want, and they want to see what is pressuring them to move.			
Are livestock able to follow other animals ahead of them when being worked or moved?			
Are handlers in a rush? A rushed cow will have her head up and not watch where she is walking. This could lead to slipping and tripping.			
Is the floor leveled with enough traction? Cattle will balk at changes in color, texture, or depth.			
Do handlers avoid yelling, clapping, and other loud noises? Cows have better hearing than humans which makes them more sensitive to sounds in their environment.			
Are you moving cattle from the side and not directly behind (blind spot)? They won't respond to your commands or arm signals from there.			
Do handlers understand how to apply the zig-zag technique when moving a group of animals?			

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: _____

Children, teens, and adults working on farms face hazards not encountered in other jobs. Use these guidelines to determine if youth are ready to perform a job. Learn about hazards and keeping working youth safe.

PART 1

Potential Hazard	Yes	No	Corrected/Notes
Are youth assigned farm tasks or chores appropriate for their age and ability?			
When a youth is working, is an adult providing adequate supervision, based on the youth's age/ability and the task?			
Does an adult train youth on how to do a task safely and demonstrate the task before having them attempt it?			
Do youth demonstrate safely performing a task 4-5 times before they are allowed to perform the task on their own?			
Are youth encouraged to ask questions when unsure about how to perform a task or address a hazard?			
Does an adult check the work area, ensure it is free from as many hazards as possible, and teach youth how to avoid/address any remaining hazards?			
Do youth wear appropriate protective equipment (gloves, hearing/eye protection, masks, etc.) when working?			
Does an adult ensure that ventilation systems are working properly and work areas are well ventilated before youth enter the building/area?			
Does an adult verify equipment is mechanically sound and safety features are in place (e.g. guards, shields, ROPS)?			

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: _____

PART 2

Potential Hazard	Yes	No	Corrected/Notes
If working with animals, does an adult ensure the animals are free of disease/injury and keep youth away from unpredictable or dangerous animals?			
Are youth dressed appropriately to be working in the farm worksite (no loose clothing or clothes with strings, non-skid shoes/boots, hair tied back, face mask, etc.)?			
Are youth trained to recognize the signs of heat exhaustion and/or hypothermia and how to respond?			
Is drinking water available near the work area?			
Are frequent rest and stretch breaks provided for youth, and the youth trained to drink adequate amounts of water during their breaks (e.g. 1 quart per hour when working in hot conditions)?			
Are youth at least 16 years old who perform tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • involving dangerous or unpredictable animals (e.g. bull, boar, stud horse, sow w/ suckling pigs)? • involving working from a ladder or scaffolding at higher heights? 			
Do youth wear appropriate protective equipment (gloves, hearing/eye protection, masks, etc.) when working?			
Are exceptionally dangerous tasks reserved for adults to perform (working in a manure pit, around flowing grain, with a chainsaw, with pesticides/dangerous chemicals, etc.)?			

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: _____

Set down the coffee and check in on fatigue before spring activities take over. Fatigue has serious negative impacts on physical and mental health. Operating machinery when you're sleep deprived can be as dangerous as operating machinery under the influence. While seasonality is a part of farming, it is important to be aware of the consequences fatigue can have, and what you can do to promote safety and health on your farm.

Potential Hazard	Yes	No	Corrected/Notes
Do you know the signs and symptoms of stress?			
Are you taking breaks to rest and recuperate?			
Are you aware of how much you're sleeping and how much you need to sleep for safe work performance?			
Are you aware of the symptoms of fatigue, like dizziness, headaches, vision impairments, poor concentration, slow reflexes, changes in mood?			
How are you managing stress? High stress levels can lead to fatigue.			
Have you maintained a balanced diet with adequate hydration? These factor highly into fatigue.			
Are you heavily reliant on caffeine? This could indicate unhealthy levels of fatigue.			
Have you had a recent physical? Fatigue can be caused by multiple medical conditions.			
Does your safety plan for employees address fatigue management? This could include work maximums, rest minimums, working in pairs, and communication.			

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: _____