Safety On The Farm

OWNED BY

SCHOOL
SAFETY IS A FAMILY AFFAIR
Dear Parent,

Indiana's greatest agricultural resource is not its fertile, level land, abundant supplies of water and wonderful climate, nor its marvelous technology that has removed much of the drudgery of farming. It's our children. Children who have received the very best that any generation has ever given its children. Children who someday will be there to continue the production of food and fiber that is essential to all of us.

However, farm-related accidents continue to take an unacceptable toll on our young people. During the past 10 years, children under the age of 16 have accounted for nearly 20 percent of farm fatalities. No other occupation has so many children directly exposed to the potential risks of the workplace.

It has been the goal of the Indiana Farm Safety Council during the past 45 years to promote healthier and safer living for Indiana families living on farms and in rural areas. This coloring book is one example of the many efforts the Council has made. Over 65,000 copies have been distributed to children throughout the state. We encourage you to take a few minutes to go through this booklet with your child. Point out the awkward predicaments that a few of the characters have found themselves – maybe you have had a similar experience. Then discuss why each event might have happened, what the consequences could have been and how each could have been prevented. Stress the fact that most accidents are the result of wrong or inappropriate choices. Let your children know that you are concerned about their health and safety because you love them. Remember, there is no greater motivating force than love.

The Council would like to thank the following contributors who have made this activity possible over the years.

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The Council Also extends its appreciation to the Farm Safety Association of Ontario, Canada, for allowing us to use their original material.
Use protective clothing when handling pesticides and weed killers
Be careful when making turns near ditches or banks.
Block tractor securely before repair work.
Be sure all shields are in place before mowing.
Know the highway safety rules before traveling along roads.
Never carry firearms on a tractor.
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Lock brakes before leaving the tractor seat.
Double check hitches for security and use safety chain as well as the drawbar.
Watch out for fences when snowmobiling.
Make sure all steps are kept clear of debris.
Check position of people before starting up machinery.
Stop machinery before making adjustments or unplugging.
Absolutely! No extra riders on tractors.
Keep P.T.O. drive shafts fully guarded at all times.
ANSWERS – HOW MANY HAZARDS CAN YOU FIND?

1. Tractor operated with extra rider
2. Man filling sprayer slopping chemicals
3. No respirator or eye protection for man filling sprayer, no rubber gloves – slopping chemical
4. Improper chemical disposal
5. Poor housekeeping
6. Man smoking while refueling tractor
7. Front-end loader in ‘up’ position while tractor being refuelled
8. Boy leading bull improperly
9. Children playing near farm pond
10. Broken lighting rod cable
11. Unsafe ladder
12. No hard hat on man climbing – danger from falling boards
13. Ladder positioned improperly
14. Electrical wires to barn frayed and hanging too low
15. Boy riding bale up elevator
16. Man working around equipment while it is running
17. Long coat on man near spinning PTO shaft
18. Unguarded V-belt on elevator
19. Man lifting hay bale improperly
20. Tractor operator not paying attention to where he is going
21. Falling boards
22. No master shield on tractor powering elevator
23. No slow moving vehicle sign on sprayer
TRACTOR ACCIDENTS

Although manufacturers are designing safety features into tractors, the accident frequency continues to rise. Of all fatal machinery accidents, 70% involve tractors and of these more than half are overturn accidents. A great majority of these accidents could be prevented – consider the following cases and the preventative suggestions.

Case Study No. 1
A young teenage boy was attempting to pull an anchor post out with a 40 H.P. tractor when the tractor overturned and pinned him underneath. The boy was pronounced dead at the scene.

1. Always hook a chain or cable to the lowest point of the tractor – never on the axle or top link of the three point hitch.
2. Rollover protection, either a roll bar or crush-proof cab should be on every tractor.
3. Never chain the wheel to a log, tree or fence rail for traction – get help.
4. Only allow experienced operators on your tractors as they are powerful and lethal – not a toy.
5. Horseplay with tractors and showboating is gambling – with lousy odds.

Case Study No. 2
A young farmer was fueling his tractor while it was running as it was spring seeding and he was in a hurry. The fuel caught fire and he was severely burned. He wasn’t even able to do his own harvesting! Cost: - Thousands of dollars. (a) tractor, (b) custom operator costs, (c) wages, (d) reduced yield on crops.

1. Never fuel your tractor when it is hot – always shut tractor off when fueling.
2. Keep a fire extinguisher and first aid kit mounted on your tractors.
3. Service and adjust your equipment before starting the tractor.
4. Never turn the radiator cap completely when the tractor is hot – just turn it to the safety stop until the pressure is relieved.

Case Study No. 3
Two teenage boys are using a farm tractor for transportation after working hours on an Indiana farm. Both were killed instantly when the tractor rolled into a ditch.

1. NO RDIERS – the farm tractor is designed for one person only – the operator.
2. Do not succumb to the whims of your children – keep them off tractors and farm equipment.
3. Reduce speed when making turns and braking the tractor.
4. Always lock your individual breaks for road travel. Keep your brakes, clutches and hydraulics adjusted.

5. Do not operate your tractor without the wheels properly spaced.

**Case Study No. 4**
An elderly farmer was attempting to move a tractor a few feet. He stood on one side of the platform and started the tractor. He fell as the tractor started and was killed when his tractor and implement ran over him.

1. Always have your tractor in neutral when you are starting it.

2. Do not dismount from the tractor while it is in motion – lock the brakes.

3. Disengage the P.T.O. before dismounting from the tractor.

4. Lower all hydraulic equipment before dismounting from tractor or if necessary to adjust or repair while equipment is raised – have it adequately blocked.

5. Keep the platform of the tractor free of dirt, grease, chains, and tools.

**Case Study No. 5**
TO AVOID FILLING THIS SPACE – FOLLOW THESE BASICS

1. Obey the law and use a slow moving vehicle sign – it's easier to have it mounted at all times.

2. Keep the master shield on the P.T.O. at all times.

3. Don’t run your tractor in a closed building.

4. Wear tight fitting clothing – prevent getting caught on levers or the P.T.O.

5. Hearing loss cannot be regained – consider ear protection of some type – ear muffs, earplugs or molded Peacekeeper.
FORAGE HARVESTING DANGERS

Case No. 1
Last season a farmer was having a problem with the apron in a self-unloading forage box. The easiest way to identify the problem appeared to be climb into the wagon and see first hand. Without realizing it, he backed into the beaters. An exceptionally strong individual, he was able to hang onto the beaters and force the belt to slip, but not before he had one broken arm and stretched ligaments in the other. We know of others who were not so fortunate.

- Stop the power source before cleaning, oiling, adjusting or entering a machine or forage box.
- When a forage box is operating, stay at the controls so the power can be disengaged immediately.
- Give all safety clutches and similar safety devices regular maintenance so they will operate properly when needed.
- Leave all slides and doors closed when machinery is operating.
- Do not allow anyone to ride on or in the forage box.
- Make sure your yard is clear before moving the wagon as the size of the wagon severely limits your vision from the driver’s position.

Case No. 2
A five year old boy left the house while his mother was busy and headed for the silo to watch the excitement and activity of the silo filling. He went around behind the wagon where the operator who was standing at the controls could not see him. The boy became fascinated with the apron chain disappearing into the box, whereupon, he grabbed onto the slat and was not able to let go. Luckily for the boy, the box was almost empty and the operator looked in to see how empty it was and noticed the boy’s hand caught. The damage was not as severe as it could have been, a couple of seconds later could have forced an amputation. As it was, there was never damage and stretched ligaments which took over a year to heal.

- Keep all children and even adults that are not working away from the area. There are many danger areas.
- Keep all shields and doors closed.
- Stop your equipment to clean, oil and adjust.
- Do not push material to or into the blower with your hands or feet.
- Some equipment will coast several seconds after the machine has been shut off so beware and wait.
- Hitch the blower to the tractor drawbar so it will not vibrate away and disconnect the P.T.O. shaft.

Case No. 3
A young, newly married man had just formed a partnership with his father and they were busy filling the silo with corn silage. It had snowed lightly the night before and the harvester was plugging regularly in the throat and gathering chain area. The young farmer was getting exasperated at the frequent delays so left the harvester running and started to kick and push the corn into the cylinder with his foot. With the slippery conditions, he slipped and his foot and leg fell into the now empty cylinder of the harvester. This young farmer then had to decide if he could farm with an artificial limb.

- Stop your equipment before cleaning, unplugging, oiling or adjusting.
- Be aware of the weather conditions – adjust your procedures and harvesting speed to compensate for poor footing.
- Use gloves when you are cleaning refuse or corn stalks from the harvester.
Stay clear of the discharge chute while the harvester or blower are operating – there could be a stone or broken part in the forage.

Remember that forage harvester cylinders and blower fans coast for a long period after the power is shut off.

While working on the cylinder parts block the cylinder so it will not turn and give you a severe cut.

Case No. 4
A custom operator was moving his equipment from one farm to another. His teenage son was to drive one tractor with two forage wagons behind. He went roaring out onto the gravel concession road on his way to the other farm. About a half mile later the boy, the tractor and the two forage boxes all landed in a tangle in a deep ditch. It took six weeks of convalescence before the boy could return to high school.

Trains of equipment will “fish-tail” – always travel at a sensible speed on the road or laneway so the weight of your load will not cause you to lose control of your tractor.

When moving equipment on roadways, always move the tongue to transport position – it is easier to drive and does not aggravate and hinder other vehicles on the road.

Forage boxes have a higher center of gravity – allow for this for highway speed – in fields with a sharp hill make a large loop turn rather than a sharp turn.

When turning onto a roadway remember that your long “train” will take several seconds to get into the traveled portion and have your Slow Moving Vehicle sign mounted properly.

When planting your crop, mark stumps and large rocks, so the custom operator will not have an accident at harvest.

Case No. 5
It was a dry summer and the pasture was poor. This dairy farmer was having his silo filled and was below quota. The obvious thing to do was to feed the silage, but it was disastrous. Each morning he would throw some corn down before the custom operator came. The third morning he became very ill and had to go to the doctor, was immediately hospitalized, was transferred to a larger center for special treatment. Finally, the specialists had to remove one lunch but were unable to treat the other. He was resigned to the fact that he must sell the farm and change professions after twenty years of farming.

Silo gas is lethal – it is odorless – you cannot see it – it is present for a few weeks after the silo is filled and during the filling process. Oxygen is used during the fermenting process of your silage leaving a high concentration of carbon dioxide.

If you must enter your silo during this period, run a blower for twenty minutes and leave it running with a door at silage level open while you are in the silo.

Keep feed room doors closed during this period so the heavier gas doesn't roll down the chute to the stable.

HAVE A SAFE HARVEST!
Here are the danger areas for farm families.

7 out of 10 accidents happen ON THE FARM.

-- 5 of those take place around the farm and on the land.

-- 2 in the farm home.

3 out of 10 accidents happen OFF THE FARM

-- 2 on highways and secondary roads with machinery.

-- 1 elsewhere (fishing).

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Questions:
1. What place has the most accidents?
2. What do we promote?
3. A group of concerned people promoting safety are called an __________
4. How many people ride on a tractor? 
5 & 6. All farm machinery must have a __________ moving __________ sign while on a road.
7. What piece of machinery is involved in most machinery accidents?
8. Many accidents occur because of tractor __________.
9. Children playing with matches cause __________.
10. Hard hats, goggles, safety boots are called __________ clothing.
11. Many people get caught in moving parts because of loose __________.
DRAW A PICTURE OF A HAZARD ON YOUR FARM