

Child/Youth Agricultural Safety Checklist



While there are many benefits to growing up on a farm, it is well known that farms are inherently dangerous. Keeping children safe is a priority, because we want them to grow up happy and healthy. This checklist can be used to perform safety checks on your farm, enhancing the safety of children who live, work and visit your farm.

Non-working Children				
Checklist Item	Yes	No	Corrected / Notes	
1	Are young children kept out of the work site while parents work?			
2	Do adults know to never take young children on machinery (tractors, skid steers, ATVs, etc.), including not giving them rides in buckets, instructional seats or on laps. This means NO EXTRA RIDERS.			
3	Are keys removed from all equipment when not in use, hydraulics disengaged/de-energized, and all equipment stored in lowest position?			
4	Is all equipment, especially those with sharp edges (plows, hay mowers, etc.), stored in areas not accessible to young children?			
5	Are children kept away from grain wagons, grain bins, silos, manure pits and other confined spaces or flowing grain hazards?			
6	Are all chemicals, pesticides and hazardous substances stored in locked storage areas not accessible to children?			
7	Are large objects that could fall and harm children stored safely and put in areas not accessible to young children (e.g. tires or gates not left leaning against walls)?			
8	Are drowning hazards addressed (fences around ponds/manure pits, wells covered, ditches filled in, etc.)?			
9	Do young children have a designated safe play area, separated from the farm worksite by a barrier (e.g. fence)?			
10	Does an adult/older youth supervise young, non-working children?			
All Children and Youth				
Checklist Item	Yes	No	Corrected / Notes	
11	If playing or working outdoors, does the youth wear appropriate clothing and use sunscreen/insect repellent as needed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot weather: lightweight, light colored clothes • Cold weather: layers of warm clothes and outerwear, hat, gloves and boots • Sun-safe hat (minimum 4" brim) 			
12	Are there covers placed over hay holes, man holes or other floor openings when not in use?			
13	Do adults model safe behavior around children and youth?			
14	Does an adult immediately correct unsafe behaviors and demonstrate correct behaviors?			
15	Does the farm have an emergency response plan, and is everyone, including children and youth, trained to know what to do in the event of an emergency? Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather (storms, tornados, blizzards, etc.) • Fire • Injuries • Missing child • Other 			

Working Youth				
Checklist Item		Yes	No	Corrected / Notes
16	Are youth assigned farm tasks or chores appropriate for their age and ability?			
17	When a youth is working, is an adult providing adequate supervision, based on the youth's age/ability and the task?			
18	Does an adult train youth on how to do a task safely and demonstrate the task before having them attempt it?			
19	Do youth demonstrate safely performing a task 4-5 times before they are allowed to perform the task on their own?			
20	Are youth encouraged to ask questions when unsure about how to perform a task or address a hazard?			
21	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, including use of personal protective equipment (PPE)?			
22	Has the youth been taught safety strategies for special circumstances, such as physical distancing and use of PPE during pandemics?			
23	Do youth wear appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, hearing protection, masks, etc.) when working?			
24	Does an adult ensure that ventilation systems are working properly and work areas are well ventilated before youth enter the building/area?			
25	Does an adult verify equipment is mechanically sound and safety features are in place (e.g. guards, shields, ROPS)?			
26	If working with animals, does an adult ensure the animals are free of disease/injury and keep youth away from unpredictable or dangerous animals?			
27	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, etc.)?			
28	Are youth trained to recognize the signs of heat exhaustion and/or hypothermia, and how to respond?			
29	Are drinking water and bathroom/handwashing facilities available near the work area?			
30	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)?			
31	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? 			
32	Are exceptionally dangerous tasks reserved for adults to perform (working in a manure pit, around flowing grain, with a chain saw, with pesticides/dangerous chemicals, etc.)?			
33	Are youth trained to wash their hands and change their clothing, and sanitize their PPE when finished working?			

For more information, visit CultivateSafety.org or contact the National Children's Center for Rural & Agricultural Health & Safety
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