

Child Safety on the Farm

INFORMATION SHEET

This information sheet is written for farm families, parents and children on farms. Between 1996 and 2005, 38 children and young persons died as a result of farm accidents. The main causes were crushed by tractor/machinery, contact with farm machinery and drowning.

Think about what could go wrong – Carry out a Risk Assessment – assess the hazards to children and take action to keep children away from danger.

Tractor and Machinery

- ▲ Children under the age of 14 years should not be allowed to drive or operate tractors or self-propelled machines.
- ▲ Children aged 14 years or over should only be permitted to drive a tractor or self-propelled machine on the farm and only if they have received training from a competent training provider, the seat and controls are adjusted and they are closely supervised by a responsible adult. (Contact FRS for Training)
- ▲ Unattended tractors should be locked, keys removed and their implements lowered to the ground.
- ▲ Apply parking brakes while parked.
- ▲ ATV's are not toys – provide proper training and supervision and always wear a helmet.
- ▲ Drive at a safe speed and always be on the look out for children.



Drowning

Secure all Slurry pits/lagoons and tanks to prevent entry by children.

Secure all wells, ponds, drains, soak pits and water tanks to prevent drowning.

Supervise children near water.

Farm Animals

Children are at risk from all farm animals in particular bulls, rams, boars and horses.

Exclude children from danger areas.

Fit correct fencing and gates where potentially dangerous animals are kept.

Supervise children when they are feeding or close to animals.



Personal Hygiene

Animals may transmit disease to humans, Children should wash hands after they are in contact with animals or their housing and feedstuffs.

Harmful Substances

All Pesticides (Insecticides, Fungicides, Herbicides) must be stored in a securely locked store.

Dairy hygiene agents, veterinary medicines and equipment must also be kept in a locked store.



Dangers during busy periods

Keep children away from moving machines in busy work areas especially during Silage making/pit filling, Slurry spreading and Grain harvesting.

Keep children clear of areas such as Chemical stores, dipping tanks, slurry pits, stacks of hay/straw, grain silos and intake pits.



Safe Play Area

Provide a safe area for children to play.

Safe Play area can be in view of farming activities.

Safe Play area should be supervised.

Do's

- ▲ Talk to children about safety on the farm.
- ▲ Carry out a Risk Assessment to identify potential hazards to children around the farmyard and buildings.
- ▲ Provide a secure play area for young children.
- ▲ Supervise children on the farm at all times.
- ▲ Keep children out of work areas.
- ▲ Keep children away from tractors and machinery that are in use.
- ▲ Keep children a safe distance from livestock.
- ▲ Cover and protect water hazards on the farm.
- ▲ Put up warning signs in dangerous areas and explain what they mean to children.

Don't

- ▲ Allow children to play unsupervised on the farm.
- ▲ Allow children on tractors unless the tractor is fitted with a properly designed and fitted passenger seat (with seat belts) inside a safety cab or frame.
- ▲ Allow children to get close to potentially dangerous farm animals.
- ▲ Allow children to play at or near water hazards.
- ▲ Allow children to handle harmful substances on the farm.