



# The American Society of Safety Engineers

*Protecting People, Property and the Environment Since 1911*  
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## Farm Safety Facts and Tips for Young Farmers

National Farm Safety and Health Week, September 18-24, 2011

### Did You Know...

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2009 approximately 1.03 million children under the age of 20 lived, worked or had a regular presence on farms in the U.S., and about 519,000 of these children also performed work on the farms.
- On average, 113 children under the age of 20 die annually from farm-related injuries (1995-2000), with 34% of these fatalities occurring among youth aged 16-19.
- In 2009, an estimated 16,100 children and adolescents were injured on farms, and 3,400 of these injuries were due to farm work.
- 23% of fatal injuries to youth on U.S. farms involved machinery, including tractors; 19% involved motor vehicles, including ATV's; and 16% were due to drowning.

### Hazardous Activities for Children 16 and Under

- Operating tractors with over 20 Power Take-Off (PTO) horsepower.
- Handling timber with a diameter of more than six inches.
- Working from a ladder or scaffold.
- Driving automobiles and riding on tractors.
- Working inside fruit, forage, grain bins and upright or horizontal silos.

### Some Safety Tips for Young Farmers

- Ask questions about the different hazardous chemicals and farm equipment on the farm.
- Wear a seat belt on a tractor equipped with a rollover protection structure. It is recommended that children younger than 12 not be on, or near, a tractor at any time.
- Do not play around equipment or have friends ride with you on tractors.
- Always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) such as hearing protection, gloves and air-purifying mechanical filters and chemical cartridge masks. Protect yourself from hazardous chemicals that may affect your health later on in your life.

### Tips for Parents

- Know state and federal laws about youth and farm work. Be aware of the jobs your child can perform and your state's age requirements for performing certain tasks. Contact your local Cooperative Extension or Farm Bureau offices for information about programs, training and other resources relating to farm safety, along with the U.S. Department of Labor ([www.youthrules.dol.gov](http://www.youthrules.dol.gov)) for youth labor laws.
- Make sure children are completing age appropriate tasks. The North American Guidelines for Children's Agriculture Tasks are available at [www.nagcat.org](http://www.nagcat.org).
- Review the equipment operation instructions thoroughly before operating farm equipment. Make sure the equipment is secure and in proper working condition at all times. Never leave keys in tractors.
- Enroll children in farm safety day camps available throughout the country. Check your local Cooperative Extension and Farm Bureau offices for farm safety camp information.
- Educate your children on all aspects of the farm, including hazardous areas and materials. Explain why some areas of the farm can be dangerous, such as fruit bins, grain bins and farm equipment.
- Be a role model for your children by working safely and obeying laws.

Founded in 1911, and celebrating its centennial, the Des Plaines, IL-based ASSE is the oldest professional safety society and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Its more than 34,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members lead, manage, supervise, research and consult on safety, health, transportation and environmental issues in all industries, government, labor, healthcare and education. For more information, please go to [www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org) and to view the new ASSE-A Century of Safety film, go to [www.asse.org/assecenturyofsafety](http://www.asse.org/assecenturyofsafety).

**Contact:** Diane Hurns, PR Manager, at [dhurns@asse.org](mailto:dhurns@asse.org) or ASSE Customer service at [customerservice@asse.org](mailto:customerservice@asse.org) for additional farm safety tips, fact sheets or if you need assistance. Go to [www.asse.org/newsroom](http://www.asse.org/newsroom) for more information.