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## For Immediate Release

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### Help children recognize dangerous behavior of farm animals

*Progressive Agriculture Foundation provides safety tips to help parents and children understand volatile animal behavior and its warning signs*

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 31, 2011** — Working with animals on a farm setting can be a very dangerous task, especially for children. In order to keep kids safe in rural, farm or ranch settings, it is important for adults to teach children of the dangers animals pose and how to safely interact with animals.

“The best piece of advice is to teach your children to stay away from farm animals completely unless they have adult supervision. Farm animals can be very unpredictable and can often engage in dangerous behavior, putting you and your child at risk,” says Bernard Geschke, program specialist with the Progressive Agriculture Foundation (PAF).

There are many ways to avoid injury when dealing with animals. How can parents teach their child about dangerous-animal warning signs and situations? Geschke offers these rules parents can share with their children:

1. Stay away from mothers with young offspring. It is a normal instinct for a mother to protect her baby, and if startled or threatened, a mother animal could move to protect her baby, becoming very dangerous.
2. Be quiet and calm. When you are around farm animals, be calm, move slowly, avoid making sudden jerks or movements, and always approach them from the front so they can see what you are doing. Don't scream or run around them because it will upset them.
3. Do not interrupt animals that are eating. Animals may become aggressive if they feel that their food supply is being threatened.
4. Stay away from farm animals. They can be unpredictable and should be treated with caution at all times. Watch out for animals with raised or pinned ears, bared teeth, raised hair on the back or tail or those that are pawing at the ground, stomping or snorting. These are signs that the animal is in an aggressive or upset state, and it is best to stay away from them during those times.

Safety tips such as these are examples of the things children learn when they attend Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, which are held each year in local communities throughout North America.

Safety Days are fun, hands-on one-day events that provide children with education and training which can keep them and those around them safer and healthier on a farm or ranch, and at home. The program explores more than 30 topics, including ATVs, firearms, water/outdoor safety and knife safety. PAF provides the curriculum, coordinator training, take-home bags, T-shirts and other resources to help make the Safety Days reality. PAF is committed to providing farm and ranch safety and health education to children across rural America in an effort to reduce farm or ranch-related injuries and death.

## **ABOUT PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION**

The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day program is the largest rural safety and health education program for children in North America and a program of the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. The Foundation's mission is to provide education and training to make farm, ranch and rural life safer and healthier for children and their communities. In 2008, PAF was awarded the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance National Charity Seal, demonstrating its commitment to accountability and ethical practices. Safety Day applications are due each July 15 for Safety Days that will be conducted the following calendar year.

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