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COUNTRY Safety Checklist Reduces Farm Family Dangers

Safety matters on the farm. Ask any farm family.

Equipment with moving parts, unpredictable livestock and large machinery with limited visibility post just some farm dangers.

What can farm families do to stay safe? Identify and eliminate hazards, says Eric Vanasdale, COUNTRY Financial senior loss control representative.

“We visit our clients’ farms and help them reduce potential dangers,” says Vanasdale. “Once you recognize the dangers, you can prevent many accidents. You can also set rules and train farm employees and family members to think about safety on a daily basis.”

COUNTRY also distributes “Safety Matters in the COUNTRY,” a checklist that identifies farm dangers. Because the checklist addresses potential hazards affecting all ages of farm employees and family members, Vanasdale suggests completing it during National Farm Safety Week Sept. 16-21. The theme is “Agricultural Health & Safety: A Family Affair.”

After families answer the checklist questions, they receive a safety score. A “no” response indicates a danger that should be eliminated. Checklist questions include:

- Do all vehicles have safety belts that are always used?
- Are all slow moving vehicle emblems clean and reflective?
- Does a professional electrician inspect your electrical system every five years?
- Are children always supervised while performing farm tasks?
- Does someone know where all farm workers or family members are at any given time?

Vanasdale urges farm families to be particularly aware of harvest dangers enhanced by drought conditions.

“The drought has added stress to farm life. Many families are worried about yields and income,” says Vanasdale. “Make sure every tractor, combine and truck contains at least one ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher. Teach farm employees and family members how to use it. Extremely dry conditions pose an increased possibility of field fires.

“One accident is one too many. Farm families can enjoy an injury-free harvest if they keep safety at the forefront every day.”

To obtain copies of agricultural safety checklists, visit countryfinancial.com.