**Join the Crusade to Bring Safety and Health Information to the Farming Communities who desperately need it!**

Progressive Agriculture Safety Days® were created to keep one of your most valuable and irreplaceable possessions safe…..your children!

Many in the agriculture industry know someone whose life has been affected by a farm-related injury or death. What is most disturbing is many of these incidents could have been prevented with a few simple safety precautions. The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®, a program of the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, provides education, training and a variety of resources for local communities to conduct one-day safety and health programs.

A Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® is designed to be age-appropriate, hands-on, fun, and safe for all children. They are conducted in more than 400 local communities throughout North America. Since 1995, more than 1.2 million children and adults have been impacted through Safety Days. With 26 topics ranging from ATV and Tractor Safety to Electricity and Gun Safety, each Safety Day has the freedom to focus on safety-related issues appropriate for their community. Whether they live on or off the farm, a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® can lead to children and their communities becoming safer, healthier and happier!

For more information or to see if a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® takes place in your hometown, visit our website at [www.progressiveag.org](http://www.progressiveag.org). Are you interested in conducting a school or community Safety Day in the future? Applications are accepted annually on July 15th!

**Candy or Medicine? Help Prevent Accidental Overdose in Children**

When we think about poison safety, household cleaners & chemicals first come to mind; however, medications if placed in the wrong hands can be dangerous and even deadly! While we keep medications and vitamins in convenient areas, like near the bathroom or kitchen sink or on a nightstand, they could be posing a major threat to the children in our lives.

Many medications currently on the market resemble popular candy, from M & M’s & Skittles that look like Coricidin to Hershey’s Chocolate that resemble an Ex-Lax to Gummy Bears that look like Vitamins. Additionally, with new appealing flavors, like blue raspberry and bubble gum, now available to get the most stubborn child to take their medication, telling the difference between candy and medicine is even more confusing. During Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, youth participants are challenged to tell the difference between medicine and candy when looking at a mock-medicine cabinet. Past studies have indicated that one million phone calls are placed annually to the Poison Control Center because their child ingested something poisonous and more than 150 young children in the United States visit emergency rooms daily due to ingesting medication. Very few of these cases are due to errors in dosage and most are the result of children ingesting medication while unsupervised. No matter what the scenario, these accidents could have been prevented or avoided with proper education. As parents or caregivers, we go through numerous measures to keep our children safe, yet there could be hidden hazardous right under our nose! Therefore, what can we do to protect our children and prevent accidental overdoses or ingestion from happening?

* First, always use child-resistant packaging and secure the bottles after use.
* Secondly, keep all medications locked up and out of sight.
* Third, be sure to keep original labels on all products and make sure to properly identify medicine and dosage instructions before taking or administrating.
* Fourth, educate your children using the iconic Mr. Yuk stickers to identify potential poisonous products. This is very helpful to younger children, especially those who cannot yet read but can associate Mr. Yuk with harmful products. You can obtain Mr. Yuk stickers from the Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222 or search for local chapters).
* Fifth, never share prescription drugs or medication with anyone other than who they are prescribed to. Finally, keep the number for the Poison Control Center posted in a visible, central, and easy to find place so babysitters and other family members can locate it if an emergency arises.
* Lastly, in addition to keeping your children and loved ones safe, it is important to keep your community safe as well by disposing of medications properly. Follow FDA (Food & Drug Administration) & ONDCP (Office of National Drug Control Policy) guidelines for disposing of drug and medications or talk to a pharmacists if in doubt. Take advantage of community take-back programs, where you can take unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. If there are no specific recommendations for disposal or you are permitted to throw your drugs away in the trash, take them out of the bottle and mix with undesirable items or place in a baggie or can to avoid them getting eaten by a pet or child and to avoid leakage. Before discarding your bottles, be sure to remove all personal information from the bottle to avoid identify theft.

These safety tips are examples of what children learn when they attend a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®, which are held each year in more than 400 local communities throughout North America. Learn more about the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program at **www.progressiveag.org**

**Kick-off the Fall Season with a Fail Safe Fire Plan**

All of us know a friend, neighbor, or family member that has been impacted by a fire. Whether it was a house, garage, barn, or even grill fire, families have likely experienced great losses including their home, valued possessions, animals or pets, and even more devastating beloved, family members. As we get ready for the fall season and celebrate Fire Prevention Week next month, here are a few important tips to help prepare your family in the event of a fire:

* Establish a Fire Safety Plan – Work as a family to develop an escape plan in the event of a home or barn fire. Instead of just creating a fire safety plan, put it to the test and demonstrate exactly what you would do if a fire occurred. Take a note from the schools and have random fire drills at various times throughout the year. Determine the best escape route. Depending on where the fire is occurring you should try and identify more than one way to vacate. Practice where you would meet as a family to assure everyone’s safety and what you should say when calling 911 or the fire department. Keep those important numbers stored as a contact in your cell phone, as well as written down and placed in a central location that can easily be found by all in the event of a fire or other emergency.
* Install Smoke Alarms – A smoke alarm can sometimes be your first alert to a fire and can ultimately save your life! Make sure a smoke alarm is installed on every floor of your home and replace them every 10 years. Also, don’t forget to check the batteries! On a monthly basis, check to assure smoke alarm batteries are working properly and change the batteries each year.
* Know the Proper Use of a Fire Extinguisher – Many of us know what a fire extinguisher is; however, many of us our guilty of not knowing how to properly use it. As a family, learn about the different types of fire extinguishers and practice how to use them properly. Keep fire extinguishers in an easily accessible place and check gauges regularly to make sure they are in working condition if need to be used in an emergency.

Fire safety is one of the most popular topics taught at a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®. Last year alone, 58% of our 396 Safety Days held a station on fire safety. These safety tips are examples of what children learn when they attend a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®, which are held each year throughout North America. Learn more about the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program at [**www.progressiveag.org**](http://www.progressiveag.org)

**Our Successes – Why We Do What We Do!**

So what exactly do children really learn at a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®?

* “I will not open the door to strangers.”
* “I will wear ear plugs around loud machinery.”
* “I will always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or ATV.”
* “Never play in the grain bin.”
* “I will learn my address and make an evacuation plan in the event of a fire.”
* “I am going to tell my parents everything I learned, so we can stay safe together!”

These are just a few of the statements that our youth participants are making after attending a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® in their local community. For many coordinators and planning committee members, the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® is one their favorite and most rewarding days of the year, as they get to make a positive, lasting impression on the young people in their community. If just one child leaves Safety Day and adopts one new safety practice or educates their family and friends about hidden hazards and potential dangers around their home, ranch or farm, it is all worth it!

For more success stories and information on the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program, visit our website at [www.progressiveag.org](http://www.progressiveag.org). Want to hear success stories from youth in your community? Consider conducting a school or community Safety Day in the future. Applications are accepted annually on July 15th for Safety Days held the following calendar year!