



For Immediate Release

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A Safe & Healthy Life Can Be Gained By Staying Out of Grain



Growing up on a farm can be a very rewarding experience. From a young age, children have the opportunity to receive a first-rate agricultural education, learn responsibilities, gain a strong work ethic, and value our dedicated farmers. Unfortunately, with access to chemicals, animals and large equipment, farms can also be a dangerous playground for curious, unsupervised children.

Grain safety is a very significant topic taught at Progressive Agriculture Safety Days each year. In recent years, 34% of our Safety Days had a grain safety component offered. From identifying the difficulty breathing underneath grain to observing how grain flows and how quickly entrapment can take place, participants have the opportunity to take part in a variety of hands-on activities and demonstrations. The following key safety areas are emphasized with all Safety Day participants:

1. Always stay out of flowing grain. A very sobering fact is that it only takes 5 seconds to become helpless in flowing grain and within another 10 seconds a person can become completely submerged.
2. Never walk or play in or around stored grain.
3. Never enter a grain bin, wagon, or truck.
4. Never enter a grain bin while the unloading auger or suction tube is operating.

Another important issue when it comes to grain safety is to avoid confusing children by sending mixed messages. At places like pumpkin patches and local parks, sand boxes have been replaced by corn. A young child will have trouble understanding the difference between grain in a corn box and grain in a gravity flow box that could engulf them in seconds.

In addition to reinforcing the importance of staying out of grain, Safety Days also teach participants what to do in case of an emergency involving grain. These safety tips include:

1. Turning off any equipment that is causing the grain to flow or move. This will stop the person from being pulled further underneath the grain.
2. Always assuming the victim is alive and take the necessary measures to help the situation. This may include turning on aeration fans and assuring dryer heat is turned off.
3. Calling for help immediately and never attempting to pull someone out of grain on your own. Many professionals including firefighters, paramedics, and EMT's have been trained to properly use grain bin rescue equipment. With rescue tubes and training as the theme of this year's Grain Bin Safety Week, we hope that even more fire departments in rural areas will receive the proper training and equipment to aid in a successful rescue.

These grain safety tips are examples of what children & families learn when they attend a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®, which are held each year throughout North America. This year, more than 100,000 children & adults will participate in a Safety Day within their local community. Learn more at www.progressiveag.org

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 (PAF), 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. For more information, please visit <http://www.progressiveag.org>

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Editorial Note: The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® logo and Safety Day photos are available upon request by calling (888) 257-3529.