

Let's Keep Children SAFE by "Putting Farm Safety into Practice!"



National Farm Safety and Health Week is a great opportunity to reflect on the importance of keeping our loved ones safe. The week serves as a great reminder to adopt new safety practices for use on the farm, ranch or at home. Each year, the [International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health](#) (ISASH) devotes Wednesday of Farm Safety and Health Week to keeping children on farms, ranches and in rural areas safe and healthy.

According to the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS), every three days a child dies and every day 33 children are injured due to agricultural-related incidents in the United States. Growing up on a farm can be a wonderful experience. From a young age, children gain a strong appreciation for agriculture, learn the value of hard work and develop into the next generations of farmers. However, in order to ensure our children are around to be our future agriculture leaders, we need to keep them safe and healthy. Here are a few ways to help make this happen:

✓ ***Always make the play area more fun than the farmstead***

Sadly, what may seem like an innocent game of hide and seek in tall corn or other crops, can turn deadly if a child is hidden from sight and invisible to the operator of large farm equipment. When it comes to grain safety, places like pumpkin patches and local parks may send the wrong message by replacing sand boxes with corn, soybeans and other local grains. A young child will have trouble identifying the difference between grain in the box and grain in a gravity flow wagon that could engulf them in seconds.



✓ ***Ensure tasks given to youth align with their development skill level***

Recently, Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines were updated and released by NCCRAHS. These guidelines are designed to assist parents and supervisors in assigning appropriate tasks for youth who live or work on farms and ranches. More can be found at cultivatesafety.org/work

✓ ***Attend a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®***

Safety Days are designed to be one-day, age-appropriate, hands-on, fun and safe events for children in rural communities. Since the program's inception in 1995, more than 1.5 million children and adults have learned life-saving safety lessons helping us become recognized as the largest rural safety and health education program for children in North America. For more information or to locate a Safety Day near you, visit progressiveag.org

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 is Farm Safety & Health Week's Children and Youth Day
Be sure to think about the safety and health of your children every week of the year!

