

Distinguish Differences Between Farm Tasks and Play, To Ensure Children Are Always Out of Harm's Way!

National Farm Safety and Health Week (NFSHW), promotes a 75-year tradition of educating and celebrating safety's relevance in our agricultural industry. Each Wednesday during NFSHW, the [International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health](#), along with the [National Education Center for Agricultural Safety](#), focuses on ensuring the safety and health of children living on farms, ranches and in rural areas.



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 future generations of farmers and ranchers. However, sobering statistics reveal that every three days a child dies and every day 33 children are injured due to agricultural-related incidents in the United States, according to the [National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety](#). To ensure our children develop into our future agriculture leaders, we need to keep them safe and healthy. **Cultivating the Seeds of Safety** starts with having the right tools in place and the most important tool is education. Let's plant the seeds of safety early on with these important tips:



- ✓ **Foster a child's curiosity of agriculture in a positive way.** During hectic times of year, from spring planting to fall harvest, be mindful of children's curiosity around large farm equipment, chemicals, animals and grain. Remind children that the farm is a livelihood and not a play area; therefore, it should be treated with the same respect and care as any other workplace.
- ✓ **Children are great imitators, so give them something great to imitate.** As adults, we must continuously role model safe behavior during day-to-day farming practices from handling chemicals to working around large equipment and animals.
- ✓ **Ensure tasks given to youth align with their development skill level.** All tasks and chores assigned to youth should be age-appropriate and align with the child's development skill level. The [Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines](#) is a great tool designed to assist parents and supervisors in assigning appropriate tasks for youth who live or work on farms and ranches.
- ✓ **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 1.7 million children and adults have learned life-saving safety lessons in North America. For more information or to locate a Safety Day near you, visit progressiveag.org or call 888-257-3529.

This National Farm Safety & Health Week's Children and Youth Day message was brought to you by Progressive Agriculture Safety Days®, the largest rural safety and health education program for children in North America.

