

# A Farm Safety Guide for Success!



Be Careful and Stay Safe!



# Introduction

According to Agriculture Canada, on average, 118 people are killed and another 1,727 are seriously injured in farm related incidents in Canada every year. It is important that we understand why these accidents occur in order to prevent them from happening in the future. In general, farms and ranches have and use a great deal of machinery, chemicals and livestock.

## Livestock

Cows and horses are a common site on many farms. All large livestock animals must be treated with a great deal of respect if we are to live with them safely.

### You must remember when working with large animals:

- ❖ Respect them.
- ❖ Keep small children away from large animals.
- ❖ Always have an escape route when working with livestock (don't get blocked in).
- ❖ Livestock can be protective when with young; therefore special care is required.
- ❖ Keep all fences and equipment in good repair.
- ❖ Let livestock know when you are approaching.
- ❖ Never tie the lead rope to yourself and never wrap the lead around your hand.

### Cattle injuries can result from:

- ❖ Unsafe work practices.
- ❖ Lack of training.
- ❖ Inadequate and unsafe facility design.

### Cattle are more dangerous if:

- ❖ Under stress.
- ❖ Not familiar with people.

### To stay safe around cattle:

- ❖ Work slowly, calmly and quietly.
- ❖ Respect the cattle, especially bulls and mothers with new calves.
- ❖ Remember the cattle's flight zone.

### To stay safe around horses:

- ❖ Remember they have a strong flight instinct.



### ❖ When riding:

- Wear protective helmet that is in good condition.
- Mount away from low overheads or projections.
- Maintain light control on reins when mounting.
- Remain calm if the horse is frightened.
- Don't crowd other horses when riding.
- Don't run past other riders if they are moving slowly as it may upset their horse.
- When walking behind a horse, use caution and let them know that you are there (don't surprise them).

## Electricity

There are many uses for electricity. When working on a farm, it is important to use electrical safety rules to stay safe and avoid accidents.

- ❖ Always watch for overhead power lines.
- ❖ Equip buildings with lightning rods to protect the buildings.
- ❖ Don't overload circuits.
- ❖ Use the recommended fuses.
- ❖ Don't attempt electrical repairs if inexperienced.
- ❖ Before digging, know where the underground lines are located.
- ❖ During an electrical storm, avoid trees, poles and fences.
- ❖ Keep all electrical equipment in good repair.
- ❖ Inspect all electrical equipment regularly and replace or repair damaged equipment.

# Tractors

The most common machine on any farm is the tractor. When operated responsibly, tractors can be very valuable in a farm's success. However, when not treated with extreme caution, they offer a platform for many serious injuries and fatalities.

## Before Starting and When Operating a Tractor:

- ❖ Read the operation, safety manual and safety warning so you know your tractor.
- ❖ Clear the area of bystanders.
- ❖ Locate and know the operation of all controls.
- ❖ Fasten seat belt.
- ❖ Start engine from operators seat with transmission in neutral, PTO disengaged and hydraulic controls in lowered position.
- ❖ Avoid accidental contact with shift lever while engine is running.
- ❖ Accelerate slowly.
- ❖ Slow down on turns, rough ground and slopes.
- ❖ Avoid, if possible, driving on steep slopes.
- ❖ When on slopes, keep the tractor on the uphill side and try to make downhill turns. Avoid driving across a slope, if possible.
- ❖ Remember that there is no safe place for passengers.
- ❖ Lock brakes together.
- ❖ Use warning lights and a slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem while driving on the road.
- ❖ Before leaving the operators seat: lower equipment, put transmission in neutral, stop engine and apply parking brake.
- ❖ Always apply the parking brake before dismounting the tractor.
- ❖ Keep safety shields in place for your protection.
- ❖ Tractors are unstable; therefore they should be equipped with a roll over protection structure (ROPS), which will protect the operator if the tractor happens to roll.



- ❖ When using a loader on the tractor:
  - Watch for overhead power lines.
  - When traveling, have bucket no higher than axles of front wheels.
  - Carry bales as low as possible.
- ❖ Never play near machinery, including tractors.
- ❖ Remember the blind spots in a tractor.
- ❖ Don't ever approach a working tractor.

# Chemicals

Fertilizers, herbicides, diesel fuels, gasoline, battery acid, veterinary medicines and pesticides are just some of the hazardous chemicals that you may come into contact with in the farm environment.

- ❖ When handling any of these, proper protection should be worn. Chemicals can be absorbed through the skin, so it is very important to cover up exposed areas with a non-permeable layer.
  - Wash clothes after using.
  - Dispose contaminated equipment after use.
  - Wash well afterwards.
- ❖ Always read safety instructions before using.
- ❖ Store out of reach of children and animals.
- ❖ Always use special care when handling.
- ❖ Wear a mask when working with chemicals so that you don't inhale the chemical.
- ❖ Never mix chemicals unless stated on label.
- ❖ If chemicals leak, keep animals and people away, report and decontaminate immediately.



## Hazardous Chemicals need to be stored:

- ❖ Well-ventilated, dry area.
- ❖ Must be clearly marked with warning signs.
- ❖ Must be secure and locked so animals and people can't get into them.

# Mission Statement

“Our mission is to be an open, enthusiastic and honest group dedicated to the improvement of ourselves, our group and our industry.

We exist to encourage, organize and unite all young Hereford supporters. While working towards this goal we will work together and enjoy ourselves and one another, and put the interests of the group above our own.”

## Reasons for Farm Accidents:

- \* Work site as well as a home (operate machines where children play).
- \* Wide variety of hazards.
- \* Wide variety of tasks.
- \* Long hours of working hard can lead to getting tired.
- \* Cold, wet and hot weather can be distracting to the farm worker.

## Did you know?

- \* Almost ¼ of farm fatalities in Canada are children under 18 years of age.
- \* Farming is one of the most dangerous jobs in the country.
- \* Canada Safety Council says that the death rate on farms is 20% higher than the national average.

## Tips to Stay Safe:

- \* Know your strengths and limits.
- \* Don't push yourself.
- \* Don't use equipment and tools that you haven't been taught to use.
- \* Be extra careful when you start to become tired.
- \* Take extra care when it is hot, wet or cold weather.
- \* Take short breaks.
- \* Drink lots of water.
- \* Always pay attention to what you are doing.

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