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DIRECTIONS

This Walkabout will be helpful for farm families and new worker/employer situations. It is written in general terms so you can apply it to your specific family and farm setting. The RATIONALE section at the top of each page will give parents and/or employers' important information or reasons for the activities and questions.

- 1 Gather your family or new employees together when there is plenty of time to complete this activity. Allow approximately one and a half to two hours.
- 2 The Walkabout will start in your home and then take you outside to several areas of concern: the farmyard, farm buildings and farm machinery.
- 3 As you complete the Walkabout in each of these areas fill in the CHECKLIST in the guidebook.
- 4 Next complete the ACTIVITIES and SAFETY DISCUSSIONS. These will get the whole family involved.



PEOPLE

People are the most important asset on the farm, not only are they workers, but they are family members.

DISCUSSION #1

How might you feel if someone in your family were hurt and you were responsible for helping them and calling for help?

DISCUSSION #2

How could you cope with these emotions and still be an effective emergency care-giver?

Acting responsibly in an emergency is very difficult, especially when injury of a family member is involved. In the event of a farm injury, a family member will most likely be the first person on the scene. Farm visitors need to be aware of the “off limit” areas of the farm, no different than the “staff only” areas at other worksites. Practicing emergency procedures and discussing emotional reactions (fear, panic, crying) can prepare a person to better handle a real crisis situation.

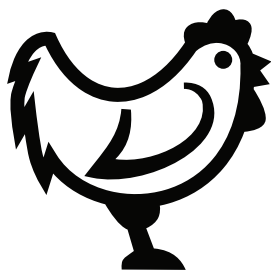
CHECKLIST

Do you have a list of emergency telephone numbers at each phone location or pre-programmed into all cell phones?	YES	NO
Do all family members know how to call for emergency help?	YES	NO
When friends and family visit are they made aware of the hazardous areas on your farm?	YES	NO
Have all adults, teens or employees been trained in first aid and CPR?	YES	NO
Do you hold regular staff and/or family meetings? If so, is safety on the agenda?	YES	NO
Do you hold regular safety meetings and encourage open dialogue?	YES	NO

ACTIVITIES (check if completed)

- ☐ As a family, use the “Emergency Contacts” information in this booklet to write directions to your farm for emergency responders. Fill in the necessary information and post near the phone.
 - What is your Municipal Address?
 - Not all farm incidents happen at the farmhouse, do you know how to give directions to all other working fields?
 - Use directions that do not require daylight sighting, like “turn west at the blue mailbox”.
 - Use specific land locations for the farm worksites.
 - Provide specific kilometers and road names or grid road numbers.
 - Be sure the YOUNGEST family member can read the directions.
- ☐ Have each child practice dialing and asking for emergency help. Use a disconnected phone while a parent role-plays the Emergency Dispatcher. Be sure the information given includes:
 - Child’s full name
 - Parent’s full name
 - Address and directions
 - What happened and where

Note: This activity could be enhanced for teens and new employees to include a mock emergency drill.



COMMUNICATION PLANS

Farm families can improve response time with emergency communication plans and proper first aid techniques.

DISCUSSION #1

Discuss the importance of a communication plan: letting someone know where you are, what you are doing and when you expect to return.

DISCUSSION #2

What should the family do if someone does not return when expected (emergency communication plan)? (i.e.: wait 15 minutes, call or go check).

DISCUSSION #3

What will happen if someone continually fails to return when expected, or to communicate a change in plans? How do you ensure family members or employees take this seriously?

Due to the isolation of farm work, there is often a long delay before an injured person is found. This delay results in a longer period before the first aid or medical treatment can be started which in turn increases the likelihood that the injury will be disabling or fatal. Developing a strong communication plan will help improve response times in unfortunate circumstances.

ESTABLISHING STRONG COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

Do you have a system to keep track of where family members are playing or working and when they are expected to return?	YES	NO
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Do you routinely check in with working and playing family members by phone, visit, CB or radio?	YES	NO
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Do you have an emergency communication plan (a set of directions to follow if someone does not return to make contact at the expected time)?	YES	NO
--	-----	----

LOCATING FIRST AID KITS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Do you have a stocked and maintained first aid kit including instructions?	YES	NO
--	-----	----

Do you have a first aid kit in all your trucks and tractors?	YES	NO
--	-----	----

Do you have fire extinguishers in the house, tractors and farm buildings?	YES	NO
---	-----	----

Do you have a smoke alarm in working order on each floor of your house?	YES	NO
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Do you have a smoke alarm in working order in all farm buildings?	YES	NO
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ACTIVITIES (check if completed)

- ☐ Go to the first aid kit (so everyone knows where it is) and check it for completeness (see first aid check list). Make a shopping list of missing items. If you do NOT have a first aid kit, identify where it should be kept and what might be in it—then get a first aid kit and put it there.
- ☐ Test smoke alarms and ensure all family members know how to change batteries.

- ☐ Check that all fire extinguishers are fully charged; explain how and when to use a fire extinguisher. Orient all family members to the location of all extinguishers.
- ☐ Fill in your Emergency Contact Plan located at the back of this work book and identify family emergency contacts and how best to reach them.



FARM YARD

Children need designated play areas on the farm that are located safely away from machinery and traffic.

DISCUSSION #1

Ask children:

Where do you like to play?

Where do you wish you could play?

Then discuss if these are safe places to play, and explain why.

DISCUSSION #2

Identify your farm's designated play areas and explain what makes an area safe for play.

DISCUSSION #3

Discuss family members chores and jobs: job tasks and limits, hazards, required safety equipment and safety procedures. Reference the NAGCAT to have discussions around whether children are ready to take on certain chores. They may want to do certain things—such as drive the tractor—but consider if are they indeed capable of performing those tasks safely.

Children are an inherent part of many farms, but it can be difficult—if not impossible—to see or hear them while running machinery. Establishing and enforcing safe play areas for your children, will help reduce the risk of unwanted accidents. Most importantly, remind your children: if an area has NOT been identified as a safe play area, it is NOT a safe play area.

CHECKLIST

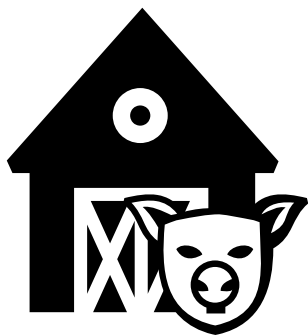
Do you have designated play areas for family, children and visitors?	YES	NO
Are these fenced-in areas?	YES	NO
Are children forbidden to play where farm machinery or tractors are working, or being parked and stored?	YES	NO
Do you have procedures in place that address the hazards of high voltage power lines?	YES	NO

ACTIVITIES (check if completed)

- ☐ As a family, complete the “Walkabout” in the farmyard. Point out and explain potential hazards including dugouts, grain storage, chemicals, bale storage, falling from heights or thin ice. Parents should point out any hazards that are missed. Be sure to include: shielding, electrical, noise, fuel storage, traffic, and machinery. Identify the different safety considerations with an auger including power line contact and spinning components.
- ☐ With the motor turned off, key out of the ignition, and brake engaged, have an adult take each child up to the driver's seat of a tractor or large truck. Have another adult stand behind the machine and ask the child:
 - With your hands on the steering wheel, look over your shoulder. Can you see me?
 - What would happen if you backed up right now?

Use this comparison to explain why it is dangerous to play near working machinery or the flow of traffic.





FARM BUILDINGS & LIVESTOCK

DISCUSSION #1

What should a person do if they discover someone unconscious in a manure storage area or grain storage area? Why?

DISCUSSION #2

Discuss the dangers of playing near farm animals (i.e. cows with young calves, bulls, dogs, etc.); as well as how to safely approach the animals on your farm (i.e. strange dogs).

DISCUSSION #3

Discuss the importance of pre-planned escape routes in corrals.

DISCUSSION #4

Discuss how new workers will be trained on the use of livestock handling including the use of the farms handling system.

DISCUSSION #5

Discuss the importance of supervision, training, and helmet use in all horse-related activities.

Each farm area will have specific hazards to be aware of, such as ladders, haylofts and animals. Never enter any kind of manure or grain storage area—including bags, bins, trucks and silos. The only safe way to enter a manure pit or grain storage area is with a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and with a team using a safety rope. If someone is down, call the emergency responders!

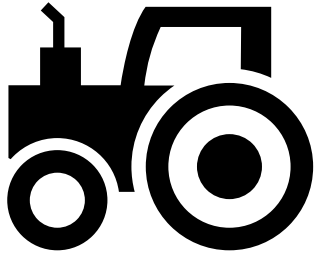
CHECKLIST

Are children forbidden to play in or around livestock areas?	YES	NO
Are all chemicals stored in a locked building, room or cabinet?	YES	NO
Are there warning signs posted about these chemical dangers?	YES	NO
Are all veterinary supplies in a locked or closed storage area?	YES	NO
Are manure pits covered with sturdy grates or locked covers to prevent entry?	YES	NO
Are there warning signs posted at these grates or covers?	YES	NO
Are confined spaces identified, locked and considered off limits?	YES	NO

ACTIVITY (check if completed)

- ☐ As a family, complete the Walkabout around your farm buildings and livestock areas: point out and explain potential hazards. Parents should point out areas where children and visitors are not permitted to go. What are the consequences for not following these rules?





MACHINERY

Farm machinery is the number one cause of farm related fatalities including rollover, run-over, pins/crushes and entanglements.

DISCUSSION #1

What farm machinery and vehicles should be included under a family rule: ONE SEAT = ONE RIDER.

DISCUSSION #2

What farm machinery should be included under a family rule: DO NOT PLAY NEAR RUNNING EQUIPMENT.

DISCUSSION #3

What safety measures should be used when operating ATVs?

DISCUSSION #4

Are machinery operators appropriately trained? How are new and young workers trained? How are seasonal workers reacquainted with machinery?

It is important to prevent injury from farm machinery by always turning off equipment when making repairs or adjustments. This may be difficult because each piece of machinery operates differently. Each family member and employee should know how to shut off all pieces of machinery in emergency situations.

CHECKLIST

Do you remove all keys when leaving farm machinery?	YES	NO
Do you forbid extra riders on tractors? ONE SEAT = ONE RIDER	YES	NO
Do you forbid extra riders on farm machinery and wagons?	YES	NO
Are your slow moving vehicle (SMV) signs in place and still reflective? Are all lights in working condition? Are all mirrors, windows and SMV decal clean? If you use flags are they still functional?	YES	NO
Are all family members and employees trained in PTO safety? <i>This includes: Not stepping over the PTO, nor wearing loose clothing, and tying back long hair.</i>	YES	NO
Is proper shielding in place on farm machinery?	YES	NO
Do the driver and all passengers use seat belts or car seats in the farm truck?	YES	NO
Do all tractors have rollover protective structures in place?	YES	NO
Do all machinery operators walk around their vehicles prior to moving them?	YES	NO
Are employees trained in non verbal hand signals?	YES	NO
Are operators trained to watch for children/bystanders?	YES	NO
Are all family members trained on the use of ATVs? Are safety measures used including seat belts and helmets?	YES	NO

ACTIVITIES (check if completed)

- ☐ With the tractor turned off, explain what would happen to a person sitting on the fender who falls forward under the wheel, falls backward onto the PTO, or under any towed machinery. As a family, find a place to put the "No Riders" warning.
- ☐ Explain the dangers of flowing grain in a truck or bin.
- ☐ Demonstrate how to turn off each piece of equipment, including how to turn off the fuel for diesel machinery.
- ☐ With the auger turned off, explain what would happen to a person who slipped over an auger without the cover on.



Designated play areas and safety rules around the farm will not be effective if they are not enforced, talked about and incorporated into the daily farm lifestyle. This Farm Safety Walkabout is an activity that all the family members should be involved in to increase awareness of the hazards that exist on the farm.

NAGCAT

NORTH AMERICAN GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN'S AGRICULTURAL TASKS

[www.safekidscanada.ca]

The North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) was developed for parents in the farming community as a guide that will assist them in assigning safe farm activities to children age 7-16. Recommendations are made for the level of supervision required for farm tasks based on the child's level of physical and cognitive development. Children develop at different rates and this needs to be considered when assigning tasks.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ON THE FARM

The farm is both a home and work environment for many farm families. Without a deliberate separation between these two environments, children can become exposed to tremendous risks.

The Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) study indicates that 74% of child fatalities are work related. Of these deaths 73.5% involved an adult who was engaged in agricultural work. These types of incidents would include a child that was an extra rider that fell from a tractor or a pickup truck that reversed over a child bystander.

Providing a safe environment and appropriate supervision is key to keeping children safe. As children grow into youth and want to be part of the family farm activities, supervision remains fundamental to safety.

CREATING SAFE PLAY AREAS

A safe outdoor play area away from livestock, traffic and machinery is essential for children growing up on a farm. A fence helps separate play areas from work environments, but does not replace the need for close supervision.

- ☐ The best safeguard against farm injuries is for parents to understand the development of their children and to provide a safe environment for them to play.
- ☐ Identify areas where children can play with minimal adult supervision and be isolated from the farm work environment. For example: one area may be the porch of the house and the surrounding yard. A fence will reinforce this division between work and play.
- ☐ Discuss with children where they like to play on the farm and why? This might help identify potential problems, and give you the opportunity to explain why off-limit areas are dangerous. An explanation is more effective than a don't go there rule.
- ☐ Remember: Safety rules must be enforced and modeled.

SAFETY PRACTICES ADULTS CAN PASS ON TO CHILDREN

Often children will respond to adult concerns about safety if they see adults practicing safety rules in their daily routines. Adults can be strong safety models for children. Some key farm safety practices to pass on include:

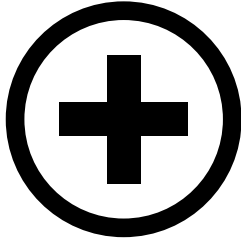
- ☐ Follow the "one seat, one rider" rule. Do not allow extra riders on tractors, or passengers on other mobile equipment.
- ☐ Read and follow safety instructions in the operators' manual for all equipment.
- ☐ Always stop equipment when a non-working person enters the work area.

For a resource on creating safe play spaces visit the National Children's Centre for Rural Safety and Health website: www.marshfield.org/research/children/safeplay.



Help all workers to enjoy a safe and productive workplace!





FARM EMERGENCY & FIRST AID

CHECK YOUR KIT
for completeness every 3
months—especially in areas
where the kits will freeze
and thaw; our winters are
hard on things.

This is a basic list for a well-equipped emergency/first aid kit for a rural home. Personalize your kit by adding items that are related to potential injuries specific to your home and operation. This kit should not be used for treatment of routine or day to day minor injuries. Instead, it should be kept intact in case a major trauma occurs. This kit could be stored in a large nylon travel or sports bag. It is helpful to store similar kit items (i.e. dressing supplies or flares and matches) in labeled small plastic bags.

The basic kit can be used by the victim to treat themselves or by the first person on the scene to deliver basic first aid: clean a small wound, stop bleeding, support a fracture or sprain, and preserve a severed limb. The kit should be stored in an airtight container, i.e. coffee can with lid, plastic kitchen container or large sealable bag. The kit should be labeled for easy identification. Personalize the kit to meet your needs.

BASIC KIT

Dressing supplies

- ☐ Sterile 2" x 2", 4" x 4" compresses
- ☐ Gauze roller bandages; 1", 2", 6"
- ☐ Adhesive tape (assorted widths)
- ☐ Triangle bandage
- ☐ Tongue depressors
- ☐ Heavy duty scissors (to cut clothing)
- ☐ Bandage scissors
- ☐ Splints (1/4" x 3'x 12" or 15" or air inflatable)
- ☐ Ice packs (chemical)
- ☐ Disposable rubber gloves and goggles (Store near pesticide poisoning kit)

Other supplies

- ☐ Canadian Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance First Aid Manual or First Aid Chart
- ☐ Bottled water
- ☐ Tweezers
- ☐ Safety pins
- ☐ Pocket mask for resuscitation
- ☐ Blanket
- ☐ Tensor bandages
- ☐ Sports drinks (i.e. Gatorade)
- ☐ Emergency numbers and Contact information card
- ☐ Flares and waterproof matches
- ☐ Flashlight

AMPUTATION PRESERVATION KIT

- ☐ 1 large garbage bag
- ☐ 4 tall kitchen bags
- ☐ 4 bread loaf bags
- ☐ 4 sandwich bags

TRUCK/TRACTOR/COMBINE KIT

Dressing supplies

- ☐ Sterile 2" x 2", 4" x 4" compresses
- ☐ 1 roll adhesive tape
- ☐ 6 pressure bandages
- ☐ Heavy duty scissors (to cut clothing)
- ☐ Tensor bandage
- ☐ Amputation Preservation Kit

Other supplies

- ☐ First aid chart
- ☐ 2 triangle bandages with 36" sides
- ☐ 4 safety pins
- ☐ 12 band-aids

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

	PHONE NUMBER	CONTACT
Fire		
Police		
Health care		
Ambulance		
Poison control		
Doctor		
Mom's work		
Mom's cell		
Dad's work		
Dad's cell		
Emergency contact		

FARM INFORMATION

Municipal address _____

Directions to farm _____

Legal Land Location _____

GPS Land Coordinators _____



PESTICIDE/POISON EMERGENCY

DIAL 9-1-1 or your local emergency
and/or Poison and Drug Information
Services number at: **1-800-332-1414**



agricultureforlife.ca

AGRICULTURE FOR LIFE

Agriculture for Life (Ag for Life) is an Alberta-based not-for-profit and registered charitable organization dedicated to building a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture and its fundamental connection to life.

Through close collaboration with stakeholders, Ag for Life develops, expands and offers hands-on educational programming to children, youth and adults with the goal of closing the knowledge gap between rural and urban populations, strengthening the agriculture sector so that it is sustainable over the long term, eliminating the number of farm injuries and fatalities and elevating the fundamental importance of having a strong and sustainable food producing community.

SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

AG EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAMMING

Ag101*
Agriculture Education Teacher's Symposium*
City Slickers Student Farm Tours
Classroom Agriculture Program
Growing Minds (Neubauer Farms)
Made in Alberta Breakfast*
Meet Your Farmer*
Teacher Farm Tours*
ThinkAg Careers*

RURAL & FARM SAFETY PROGRAMMING

Ag for Life Rural Safety Unit*
AGR 3000 Credit Course
Ladies Safety Training*
Safety Days
Ag for Life Safety Days*
Community Safety Days
Young Farm Workers Safety Days

**Ag for Life Signature Programs*

THANK YOU

to the following partners for supporting Ag for Life Rural and Farm Safety Programming:

FOUNDING MEMBERS



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Thank you to the **University of Iowa, Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health** and **The Agricultural Health and Safety Network** for sharing their checklists with us.

