

## Chemical safety checklist

- Keep all chemicals in a locked area to prevent entry by children or animals. Make sure the storage area is away from animal feed, seeds, and living quarters.
- Store all poisons in their original containers with labels intact. Properly dispose of empty containers.
- Have workers use appropriate personal protective equipment, such as chemical-resistant gloves, aprons, safety goggles, respirators, hard hats, and other protective gear when needed.
- Read labels thoroughly before opening a chemical container.

## Animal safety

Most farms include at least some livestock. It's important to treat animals with respect and recognize the dangers:

- Never walk behind even the most docile large animal — it may kick!
- Children should never play with unfamiliar dogs or farm animals without adult supervision.
- Horses should only be ridden when wearing a helmet and with adult supervision.
- Pens, chutes, and fences should be sturdy and in good condition.
- Make sure manure pits, lagoons, and ponds are fenced to keep out animals and small children.



## Miscellaneous hazards

- Ventilation fans must be properly guarded and have screens to prevent fingers from reaching the blades.
- ATVs should only be driven by someone who is large enough to handle the machine and has passed an ATV safety course. All riders should wear helmets.
- Are floors kept clean? Potentially slippery areas (like milking parlor steps) should be "roughened" to prevent falls.

Farm safety is not easy — but consider what you have to lose! **Grinnell Mutual urges you to cultivate safety measures on your farm.**

*Grinnell Mutual — it's our policy to work together for your safety.*

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**FARM SAFETY**  
*Play it safe on the farm*



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# Reap the benefits of farm safety

**F**arm life seems peaceful and safe, but the family farm can be very dangerous — especially for children.

Because your family's safety is all-

important, do everything you can to ensure your farming operation is safe.

## Child safety

Thousands of children are injured on farms each year and approximately 100 are killed.

There are many things you can do to protect children on your farm, such as:

- Don't let children play on farm equipment — the farm is not a playground.
- Take children on a tour of the farm and point out dangerous areas.
- Establish a "no extra rider" rule for all farm machinery — especially tractors. No seat means no rider!
- Give children age-appropriate tasks — remember kids are not small adults! Provide children with proper safety training for each job.

## Equipment Safety

### Top 10 Tractor Safety Tips

1. No extra riders allowed!
2. PTO equipment should be properly shielded.

3. Equip tractors, combines, and towed trailers with an SMV (Slow Moving Vehicle) sign.
4. Install handrails and grips to prevent an operator from falling from the platform.
5. All tractors should have ROPS and riders should wear a seatbelt.
6. Before using a tractor, perform a complete safety check.
7. Always let a hot engine cool before refueling and never fuel a tractor indoors where fumes can collect.
8. Keep front-end loader buckets as low as possible during transport to prevent tipping.
9. Never hitch a load higher than the tractor drawbar and use weights to increase tractor stability.
10. When finished — lower hydraulic equipment, set the parking brake, turn off all electrical switches and remove the key.

### *Elevators and Grain Augers*

Portable elevators and grain augers save time and labor. Here are a few ways to make them safer for farm workers:

- Hoisting cranks should stop automatically in case you should lose your grip.
- Replace worn-out hoist cables.
- Properly shield auger intakes — many injuries occur where grain enters the auger.
- Make certain all safety shields and guards are in place.

## Fireproofing your farm

A rural fire can be far more serious than where there is a fire department nearby and an adequate supply of water for fighting fires.

- Almost all fires start small! Install smoke detectors in homes. Place fire extinguishers in your home and farm buildings and on your tractors and combines.
- Learn how to properly extinguish a fire, but know when you can't control a fire.
- In the event of a fire, call the fire department immediately!
- Develop a fire exit plan for the home and each farm building.
- Invite the fire department to your farm to inspect the buildings and create a "plan of attack" in case of fire.
- Equip all major buildings with UL approved lightning protection systems and surge arrestors.
- Inspect your electrical wiring to avoid dangerously frayed or exposed wiring.
- Keep areas clean and tidy. Store flammable liquids at least 40 feet from buildings.
- Heat lamps should be well-supported and located at least two feet from combustible materials.

