



# FARM SAFETY CHECK



## Safety for Working Youth

Farms and ranches are home to many things that are beneficial to both children and adults (plants, animals, family, chores, business features, etc.). Many adults who grew up on farms are happy to talk about the benefits of being raised on a farm – from instilling a good work ethic and teaching responsibility to building character and a passion, love and respect for the land. However, youth doing work that doesn't match their developmental level and abilities increases the risk of injury.

Children, teens, and adults working on farms face hazards not encountered in other jobs. Use these guidelines to help determine if a youth is ready to perform a job and learn about hazards and keeping working youth safe. Keep the completed forms for follow-up, future reference and inspections.

Additional copies of this form can be downloaded at: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

Adapted with permission from the [NCCRAHS Child/Youth Agricultural Safety Checklist](#)

Working Youth			
Checklist Item	Yes	No	Corrected / Notes
Are youth assigned farm tasks or chores appropriate for their age and ability?			
When a youth is working, is an adult providing adequate supervision, based on the youth's age/ability and the task?			
Does an adult train youth on how to do a task safely and demonstrate the task before having them attempt it?			
Do youth demonstrate safely performing a task 4-5 times before they are allowed to perform the task on their own?			
Are youth encouraged to ask questions when unsure about how to perform a task or address a hazard?			
Does an adult check the work area, ensuring it is free from as many hazards as possible, and educate youth how to avoid/address any remaining hazards?			
Do youth wear appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, hearing protection, etc.) when working?			
Does an adult ensure that ventilation systems are working properly and work areas are well ventilated before youth enter the building/area?			
Does an adult verify equipment is mechanically sound and safety features are in place (e.g. guards, shields, ROPS)?			

If working with animals, does an adult ensure the animals are free of disease/injury and keep youth away from unpredictable or dangerous animals?			
Are youth dressed appropriately to be working in the farm worksite (no loose clothing or clothes with strings, non-skid shoes/boots, hair tied back, etc.)?			
Are youth trained to recognize the signs of heat exhaustion and/or hypothermia, and how to respond?			
Are drinking water and bathroom/handwashing facilities available near the work area?			
Are frequent rest and stretch breaks provided for youth, and the youth trained to drink adequate amounts of water during their breaks (e.g. 1 quart per hour when working in hot conditions)?			
Are youth at least 16 years old who perform tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● involving dangerous or unpredictable animals (e.g. bull, boar, stud horse, sow w/ suckling pigs)?</li> <li>● involving working from a ladder or scaffolding at higher heights?</li> </ul>			
Are exceptionally dangerous tasks reserved for adults to perform (working in a manure pit, around flowing grain, with a chain saw, with pesticides/dangerous chemicals, etc.)?			
Are youth trained to wash their hands and change their clothing when finished working?			

Name of person completing safety check: \_\_\_\_\_ Date completed: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

For additional Farm Safety Check topics and resources, visit: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

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