



# FARM SAFETY CHECK

## Silage Storage Safety Checklist: Piles and Bunkers

Silage is vital to the cattle industries. The smell of silage on any cattle operation brings a sense of habitual chore time activities. However, silage bunkers and silos have unique hazards, like silo gas, dust that may contain mold, avalanches, falls, and more. Silage gas formation during the fermentation process has lethal potential, especially with silos. Take precaution during crop production, during ensiling, and when working with silage to keep everyone on the farm safe

You and/or your employee(s) can use this form to complete safety checks on your farm. Use the form below to list additional safety checks you think are important when inspecting your farm. 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/>

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Are you practicing lock-out-tag-out when entering a silo, and only entering after running the blower?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you conscious of timing when entering a silo? Silage gas is elevated for or up to 10 days after filling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you using the buddy system when working around a silo or bunker so that you are not working alone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there signs or markings to manage traffic in the area of the silo or silage bunkers? (packing tractors, trucks, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you properly filling storage structure to the capacity for which it was built?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you keeping a safe distance from the face of the silage pile to avoid an avalanche? No one should be closer to the face of a pile than 3 times its height.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you providing proper ventilation whenever working in and around silage storage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when making an emergency entrance into a silo? The only method for this gas is a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the storage area marked with signage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is everyone trained on symptoms and how to prevent silage gas exposure, with an emergency plan in place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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

**SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**



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Additional Hazards	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### **Corn Silage: Part 4 Feed Out Safety**

University of Wisconsin-Extension

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/agpodcasts/2016/09/08/corn-silage-part-4-feed-out-safety/>

### **NASD: Watch Out For Silage Gas!**

University of Wisconsin-Extension

[http://nasdonline.org/static\\_content/documents/901/d000741.pdf](http://nasdonline.org/static_content/documents/901/d000741.pdf)

### **Silo Gas - What is it?**

University of Wisconsin-Extension

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety/files/2012/07/Silo-Gas-7.27.12-final1.pdf>

### **Silo Gas - the Hidden Danger**

PennState Extension

<https://extension.psu.edu/silo-gases-the-hidden-danger>

### **Silage Safety**

Kansas State University Beef

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdTOBDhVCUg>

*The facts and information provided are suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all actions needed to insure your safety, and are not an endorsement of any products mentioned.*

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

To receive Farm Safety Check topics via email, join the UMASH email list at <http://umash.umn.edu/join-our-email-list>

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