

# TAKE ACTION

to prevent farm injuries



## Safety Must Come First!

Farming can be a dangerous job. It has the highest number of deaths of all jobs. Farming families live and play very close to workspaces where animals are kept and where machinery is operated. Because of this, safety must come first.

### Quick Facts

- More than 90 % of farm deaths occur to men and boys.
- More than 70 % of farm deaths involve machines and vehicles.
- People over age 59 make up 40% of farm deaths.
- Older farmers and children under five face the highest risks of injury on the farm.

### Prevent Tractor Rollovers.

Rollover injuries cause the most deaths on Canadian farms.

- Drive a tractor with rollover protective structures (ROPS). ROPS with seatbelts keep you in the safe zone and can stop you from being crushed in a rollover.
- Prevent sideway rollovers. Avoid slippery or steep slopes. Take it slow and avoid uphill turns. Keep away from ditches.
- Avoid backwards rollovers. Hitch loads to the drawbar only and keep the drawbar as low as possible. Add front end weights to balance the load.

### “No Rider” Rule.

- Never allow riders on farm vehicles.
- Most tractors and farm machines are *not* designed for riders. Seat belts keep drivers in the safe zone. Extra riders have no protection.
- A rollover is likely to severely injure or kill extra riders. Even with ROPS, extra riders are not protected.

### Avoid Runovers.

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Keep children away from the farmyard and driveway.
- Stop the motor and pocket the key before you get off a tractor. Idling tractors can slip into gear.
- Never stand in front of a machine that is running. Even in neutral a machine can move.
- Never allow extra riders. Extra riders can fall and be run over. They can be run over by the machine, an implement, or a wagon in tow.

### Handle Livestock with Care

Cattle and horses can weigh six times more than a man. They can crush bones with a single kick or charge.

- Move slowly and quietly around animals.
- Always be alert around livestock and have an escape route planned.
- Check equipment for restraining animals. Look for wear and tear. When needed, repair or replace the equipment.
- Wear steel-toed boots around livestock.
- Wear a helmet when riding horses.

## Keep Children Safe

Farm injuries are a serious problem for children. While most kids' parents work away from home, farm kids live and play at their parents' workplace.

- Lock or secure hazardous sites. Use latches to secure:
  - Barns.
  - Farm shops.
  - Chemical storage areas.
  - Livestock pens.
  - Grain bins/silos.
- Supervise preschool children closely at all times. Build a fenced-in play area to keep them safe.
- Do not allow children to ride on machinery.
- Keep children away from machines in use.
- Fence and enclose all open water areas to prevent kids from drowning.
- Give children the right task for their age **and ability**. Wait until children are old enough to take part safely in farm activities.
- Show children how to do specific tasks and to use equipment safely. Always watch them carefully.

## Avoid Entanglements

The farm is full of dangerous machines and devices. The machines can entangle, smash, cut and grab body parts injuring fingers, hands, toes and feet. Some machines can even kill.

- Check all safety guards. They should be in position and in good condition every time the machine/device is used.
- Wear close-fitting clothing with no loose ends.
- Keep long hair tied back. Machines can catch or tangle loose hair.
- Always turn the machine off before fixing it or clearing the way.
- Watch where you step. Never step over a running power take-off shaft or conveyor belt.

## General Safety

- Get proper training for the job. Don't take shortcuts. Don't ignore procedures.
- Keep children, co-workers and bystanders at a safe distance from moving parts. Then start or move the machine.

### Do you need more information on how to prevent farm injuries? Contact:

Alberta Government: [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca)

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association: [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca)


Canadian Federation of Agriculture: [www.cfa-fca.ca](http://www.cfa-fca.ca)

Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program: <http://meds.queensu.ca/~emresrch/caisp>

North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (For information to help assign farm jobs to children): [www.nagcat.org](http://www.nagcat.org)

Safe Kids Canada: [www.safekidscanada.ca](http://www.safekidscanada.ca)

### In your community contact:



**Learn more about injury prevention.** Learn how to prevent injuries from affecting you and your family. Call us at the *Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research*, at (780) 492-6019. You can also send us an e-mail at [acicr@ualberta.ca](mailto:acicr@ualberta.ca) or visit our website at [www.acicr.ualberta.ca](http://www.acicr.ualberta.ca).