

Falls and Slips on the Farm

Did you know that 6,435 or (20%) of the reported farm injuries to youth were listed floors, walkways, and ground surfaces as the source of injury. Sixty-nine (3.2%) of the fatalities to youth on the farm from 1982 to 1996 listed falls as the cause of death. Fifty-five deaths were to males and 14 were to females. The highest number were to youth 15 to 19 with the second highest being to children 5 to 9. The largest number of fatalities for ages 16 (23%) to youth on the farm took place in the Middle Atlantic United States (NY, PA, NJ, CT)

Not watching your step, slippery or dirty surfaces, improper footwear, hurrying, riding on machinery, improper use of ladders and equipment and equipment failure are the chief contributors to falls.

Ladders, hay lofts, and other elevated locations can be tempting to children as they climb and explore the farm yard. Children and their care givers need to be aware of the dangers present.

Here are things you can do to help prevent falls and slips from happening:

- Keep children off and away from machinery.
- Keep work areas clean of debris to eliminate tripping hazards.
- Establish a “no riders” rule for equipment so there are no passengers to fall.
- Keep platforms, foot plates, and steps clean.
- Wear shoes or boots with slip-resistant soles and heels. Keep them clean of mud, ice, snow, and manure.
- Watch your step at all times when working with farm equipment and on wagons.
- Secure barriers around ladders on grain bins, silos and other high machinery.
- Make sure ladders are well made and in good repair. Use ladders properly.
- Encourage the use of gates instead of climbing over fences.

Remember, falls and slips occur on the farm too often. You may be lucky and be able to just brush off the dirt and keep going, but you could acquire a serious injury instead. Keep children safe by teaching them the precautions needed to prevent a fall or slip.



Farm Safety



Just Kids