

Teaching Farm Safety to Children

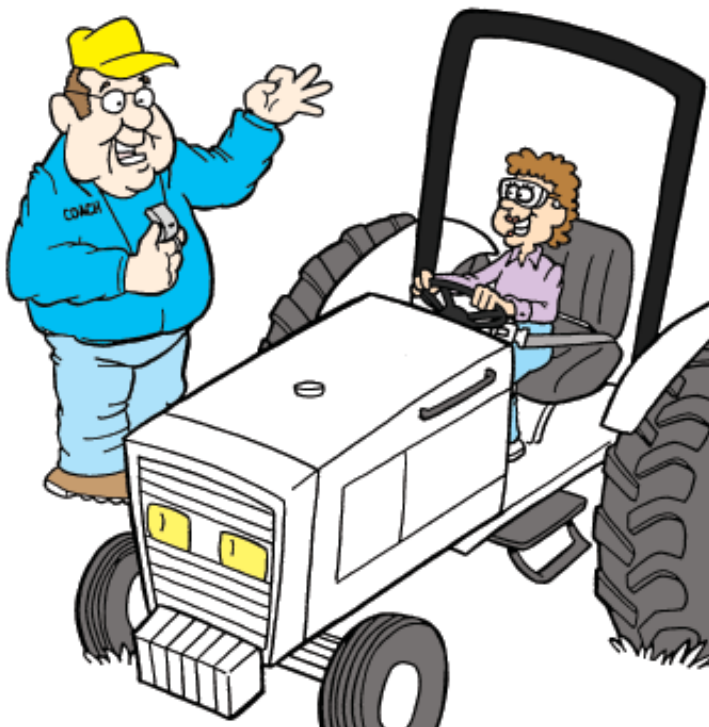
Farming is considered to be one of America's most hazardous occupations. Each year, too many family farm members are injured or die due to farm-related incidents.

How do we prevent these injuries and fatalities to our next generation of rural children? A combination of education, improved engineering, and enforced regulation are all needed to prohibit unnecessary injuries on the farm. As a parent, all three factors are your responsibility. You can make sure equipment is safe for your children to operate and you can enforce safety rules with consequences. But, one of the biggest impacts you can have on your child's behavior is in proper education and training.

How do you get the message of safety across without sounding "preachy"?

- Make the experience fun. Most kids want to be involved. Use that to your advantage and involve children at a young age with simple tasks.
- Take into consideration your child's physical, mental and emotional abilities to determine when to teach children about a specific task. Many farm-related incidents, occur when a child is doing something that is beyond his or her ability.
- After deciding your child is ready to be taught a task, gradually guide the child through the safe way of doing the assignment. Demonstrating safe operation is important.
- Keep the conversation light and informative, not rigid, while still stressing the importance of following "all the rules."

You can help prevent children from getting hurt on the farm by providing safety information and training to your kids. Often children learn best by seeing, touching, doing and having fun. If you are in the teaching role for either your own kids or others, there are many teaching tools and demonstrations that can help young learners understand the concepts of safety on the farm.



Call Farm Safety 4 Just Kids for ideas on how to make teaching the concepts of farm safety and health fun and interactive.

