

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Safety Tips: General Farm Safety

Like many facets in our lives, regardless of our vocation, a reminder or “heads up” on aspects of our jobs and/or lives should be welcomed as a positive that helps to keep us in the “middle of the road” or “keeping our ox out of the ditch.” Farm safety and their potential hazards are included in these risks. As we look around potential hazards are everywhere. We take all the necessary steps with safety programs, safety newsletters and verbal reminders to endeavor to keep everything and everybody safe. But no matter how much we try to enforce safety, we can’t possibly protect every gamut from out-of-the-ordinary occurrences.

Following we shall discuss tips that, if practiced, can really be a help in reducing the potential for risks and/or hazards around the farm:

Farm Buildings and Farms-

- Set up a **periodic plan to check** around buildings, shops, etc. for potential fire hazards, hazardous materials and other areas where potential hazards may lurk.
- Secure farm chemicals in the chemical storage warehouse, and keep it locked when not in use. We have a policy that **requires bi-annual inventories** before spring planting and after harvest season. Copies of these bi-annual inventories should be submitted to your local fire department so that they are abreast of the chemicals, in case of a fire or other emergency.
- Keep weeds and grasses cut so that tractor and ATV drivers won’t have to be so concerned with running over hidden obstacles - or maybe holes that could cause them to turnover.
- Maintain clean and neat work areas. Keep tools stored out of the way.
- Establish safe boundaries around fuel tanks and other flammable materials.

Personal Farm Safety-

- Don’t wear loose clothing or jewelry around equipment or work areas.
- Use safety equipment the way that it was intended. Always refer to the MSDS or SDS and use the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as it is recommended by the MSDS or SDS. This means using the proper gloves, eye protection, foot protection and clothing as required in the respective MSDS.

- When working with silos, grain bins or other high risk areas, be sure to have a “buddy” or helper to assist you.
- Make time or take time to review safety concerns and areas with potential risk, with your fellow employees.

Tractors and Implements-

- Keep tractor rollover protective structures in good repair. If you have tractors without them, it is very important to remind the farm management to get ROPS installed on those that don’t have it. ROPS saves lives. Statistics shows that when ROPS are in use with seatbelts 98% of lives in tractor accidents can be saved.
- Prohibit riders from riding on fenders, standing on drawbars, hitches, attachments or implements. Always practice the “One –Seat –One Rider.”
- Make sure that guards and shields are in good repair and are on all equipment.
- Refrain from starting equipment, gas or diesel, in enclosed areas that are without good ventilation.
- Tractors and implements should be outfitted with fire extinguishers and first aid kits on the tractor and farm vehicles.
- Do not exit a tractor or implement without double checking that you have placed it in park and/or engaging the emergency brake.
- Do not leave any power equipment running and unattended.
- Check and maintain hoses and cables for wear, cracks or other signs of wear.

Livestock-

- Keep animals in good health. They are like us humans: Bad health puts them in a bad and sometimes an aggressive mood.
- Treat farm animals with respect. If you understand their behavior, then you will be prepared for their demeanor.
- Take extra care when females are birthing or breeding. They are protective during this time and can be aggressive.

SAFETY IS AS SIMPLE AS

***** A-B-C *****

ALWAYS BE CAREFUL!!

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Excerpts: www.hobbyfarms.com/farm-marketing-and-management