



**SAFE  
FARMS**

**S** SPOT THE HAZARD  
**A** ASSESS THE RISK  
**F** FIND A SAFER WAY  
**E** EVERYDAY

**The Farm Family's Safety Check List**

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Farming is a demanding business today and that is why safety and health protection is so important.

It is a hard fact that in addition to human suffering, farm injuries and illnesses cost money. That is why it is so important to take the necessary preventative safety and health measures in your operation.

Every farm has potential hazards. The extensive use of chemicals and heavy machinery coupled with long hours and sometimes lack of assistance increases the potential for accidents and serious injury.

You can effectively reduce the injury potential on your farm by periodically surveying for hazards. This will enable you to correct hazards before they become a problem. Keeping everyone well informed is also crucial.

The following safety and health check list is intended to assist you in your daily farm operations. The check list is general in nature and is not intended to cover safe work practices for every possible physical hazard, especially those associated with specialized farming operations.

Each subject area should alert you to planning and implementing a strategy to protect everyone who may come onto your farm.

By working through this check list, you should strengthen your commitment to safety and health. Work to ensure that everyone on your farm, including visitors and contractors, understands their safety and health responsibilities and follows the policies you have set for your farm.

For further information on farm safety and health, contact the Provincial Farm Safety Coordinator, 903 – 401 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 0P8; telephone: 204-945-2315



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<b>Worker / Family Involvement</b>			
Workers understand and agree with you on the safest way to do the job.			
Workers are encouraged to raise safety and health concerns and build solutions.			
<b>Hiring and Training</b>			
New workers' previous skills and experience are verified before they begin working independently on your farm.			
The farm owner / operator ensures that everyone is trained before beginning work.			
Training is verified by worker demonstration and close supervision.			
<b>Responsibilities</b>			
<i>The farm employer and owner:</i>			
know and follow safety and health requirements			
provide a safe workplace, equipment and tools			
provide safety training			
provide required safety equipment and systems			
provide first aid equipment / support			



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<b>Responsibilities</b> <i>continued</i>			
<i>The supervisors:</i>			
understand what safety and health requirements exist for the farm			
ensure inspections, training and procedures are followed			
<i>The workers:</i>			
understand and follow specific farm safety and health requirements			
use safety equipment and devices			
report workplace hazards and unsafe conditions			
<b>Contract Work</b>			
Agree who is responsible for safety and health matters.			
Provide relevant safety and health information on activities particular to the contract.			
<b>Suppliers</b>			
Instructions for safe use are provided with product.			
Products comply with legislation.			



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<b>Safety Program</b>			
Do farm workers (including family members) receive instruction in safe work practices and the safe use of equipment, vehicles, materials and chemicals?			
Are workers assigned work according to their physical and mental capabilities?			
<b>Medical Aid</b>			
Is a first aid kit available at work sites (farm, yard and field)?			
Is someone on the farm trained to administer first aid?			
<b>Farm Machinery</b>			
Are guards and shields kept in place on power takeoff shafts, belts, chains and other pinch points?			
Do farm machinery operators keep young children and bystanders away from farm machinery, whether moving or stationary?			
Is it a standard rule on your farm to not allow extra riders on farm equipment?			
Are seatbelts worn on tractors equipped with roll-over protection structures?			



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<b>Farm Machinery</b> <i>continued</i>			
When operating a tractor, particularly on slopes, are the wheels set in the widest practical position to increase stability and reduce the possibility of tipping?			
Is the power always turned off before adjusting, servicing or unclogging machinery?			
Are drawbar loads always hitched to a drawbar rather than the tractor's axle or three-point hitch?			
Are manufacturers' recommendations for adding front-end weights followed when using read-mounted implements on a tractor?			
Are tractors and self-propelled machines equipped with an ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher?			
To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, are doors and windows in the building always open when starting or running a tractor, truck or other engine indoors?			
Are slow-moving vehicle (SMV), reflective material or extremity lighting mounted on farm equipment being transported on public roadways?			
Do all lights work on self-propelled equipment?			
Have all equipment operators received training either by an experienced farm machinery operator or through other training programs?			
Are all reflectors clean? Have damaged reflectors been replaced?			
Do all farm machinery operators avoid wearing torn or ragged clothing when working near machinery?			





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<b>Agricultural Chemicals</b>			
Is the chemical storage location isolated from animal feed, seed and human living quarters?			
Is a sign posted next to chemical storage areas to warn others of the hazard inside?			
Are chemicals stored in their original containers with labels intact and not in unmarked containers?			
Are empty chemical containers disposed of promptly and safely?			
Is the chemical mixing area located outside or in an open, well-ventilated area of the building?			
Is the chemical storage area well ventilated?			
If a number of chemicals are stored in the same area, are the chemicals kept separate from each other?			
Is personal protective equipment available for farm workers applying or handling farm chemicals? (This includes rubber and chemical-proof gloves, goggles, cartridge respirators, aprons and a hard-shelled hat.)			
When applying anhydrous ammonia, is there at least a 23 L (5 gal.) supply of clean water available on the applicator tractor and the nurse tank?			





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<b>Fuel Storage</b>			
Are farm fuels stored either underground or in elevated tanks at least 14 m (40 ft.) from the nearest building?			
Are fuel storage tanks located where they will not be struck by vehicles and machinery during the routine movement around the farmyard?			
Are fuel storage hoses, nozzles and pumps in good condition and vents clean and free of dirt?			
Is there an ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher readily available in every fuel storage area?			
Are propane storage tanks located at least 17 m (50 ft.) from the nearest building?			
Are propane system regulators and gauges protected from weather and dirt?			
Are small quantities of gasoline, kerosene or diesel fuel stored in approved safety containers?			
Is there an area around fuel tanks or pumps free of weeds and trash or other materials that could cause a fire?			
Are “No Smoking” signs posted in fuel storage and handling areas?			
Are all flammable products such as paint, solvents and other petroleum products, kept in original containers and stored away from heat sources?			



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<b>Electricity</b>			
Is all wiring in farm buildings and around the farmstead in good condition?			
Does the electrical system have ample capacity to handle all loads?			
Are all electrical appliances and power tools used around the farm CSA or UL approved?			
Are all electrical circuits equipped with the proper size fuses or circuit breakers?			
Are all electrical power tools in good operating condition and properly grounded when used?			
Are overhead wires in the farmyard area and those located near field entrances high enough to adequately clear machinery?			
Are irrigation pipes or other long objects stored and used away from high voltage power lines?			
Are power cords, plugs and switches free of defects?			
Are all light bulbs in storage and livestock buildings protected from breakage?			
In buildings where there is a potential for high moisture content, or where water is periodically sprayed, are electrical outlets moisture proof (weather tight)?			
Are round fault circuit interrupters installed or used to prevent electrical shock in damp work areas such as milking parlors, milkhouses, and animal confinements?			



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<b>Electricity</b> <i>continued</i>			
Is the main power switch that controls electrically operated farm equipment equipped with a lockout device to prevent accidental starting of equipment while servicing?			
<b>Ladders</b>			
Are wooden ladders either unpainted or coated with clear preservative so cracks or faults can be seen? (Ladders should never be painted.)			
Have loose, worn or damaged rungs or siderails on ladders been repaired or replaced?			
Are ladders stored and secured out of the way?			
<b>Buildings</b>			
Are buildings free of unnecessary accumulations of trash or litter, which could cause a fire, cause falls or get in your way when working?			
Do stairs have handrails?			
Are stairs clear of objects and substances that would make them slippery and cause falls?			
Are openings through floors protected with guardrails?			



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<b>Buildings</b> continued			
Have nails been removed from loose boards before stacking or storing them?			
Are materials and supplies properly stored so they do not fall or block passageways?			
Are all belts, chains and pulleys properly shielded on power equipment?			
Are buckets, tools and other objects hung to allow sufficient headroom?			
Are doors and gates to hazardous areas such as silo entrances, manure storage areas, chemical storage and animal quarters, kept closed and secured to keep children and visitors out?			
Is there an ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher mounted near the entrance to each building on the farm?			
Are “No Smoking” signs posted in buildings where combustible materials are located?			
<b>Animal Facilities</b>			
Are pens, gates, shoots and slot fences sturdy and in good condition?			
Are shields in place on belts, pulleys and chain drives on feed grinding and handling equipment?			



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<b>Animal Facilities</b> continued			
Are loading troughs on augers, elevators and conveyors covered with a guard or grating?			
Are floors and other walking surfaces kept clean and free of manure, snow, mud and debris?			
Are potentially slippery areas such as milking parlor steps and walkways roughened to prevent slips and falls?			
Are ventilation fans and vents in confinement housing operative and in good condition?			
Are heat lamps for farrowing and brooding well supported and at least 50 cm (2 ft.) from combustible materials?			
Are grates or covers over manure pit openings sturdy?			
Are manure lagoons (pits) fenced and posted with warning signs to keep children and animals out?			
Are electrical stock water heaters grounded?			
Are heaters installed away from combustible materials and properly vented to prevent leakage of carbon monoxide into buildings?			



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<b>Grain and Silage Storage Structures</b>			
Are entrances to grain and silage storage areas kept closed to keep children out?			
Are rotating augers, belts, pulleys and chains on loading and unloading machinery shielded?			
Is there a safety cage on silo or bin ladders that extends beyond 6 metres?			
Do grain bins have permanent ladders, both outside and inside?			
Can the power be locked-out so the unloading mechanism in a grain or silage structure cannot be started when someone is working in the bin?			
Are warnings posted at machinery locations where operation may begin automatically and could trap a worker unexpectedly?			
<b>Hand and Power Tools</b>			
Are all stationary power tools grounded?			
Are portable power tools either double insulated or the three-wire grounded type?			
Are all portable power tools disconnected when not in use?			



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<b>Hand and Power Tools</b> continued			
Are stationary tools such as grinders and saws properly shielded, with shields always in place when in use?			
Are cutting tools such as saws, axes and knives stored so they cannot fall?			
Do all axes, hammers, picks and other hand tools have sound, secure handles? (Handles should fit tightly and be free from splinters.)			
Are tools such as wedges, chisels and sledgehammers with mushroomed heads dressed and ground off?			
Are tools properly stored in a specific location, out of the way of the work area when not in use?			
Is the welding area well-ventilated?			
Are work areas well lit with extra light for bench work?			