

# **Child Safety on the Farm & Ranch**

**AgrAbility National Training Workshop**  
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**Maine AgrAbility**  
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## Objective #1

Session participants will learn how children of different ages and stages of development can be at risk on the farm/ranch.

## Objective #2

Participants will discuss ways to educate and encourage families to become more intentional about safety, identify dangerous situations and prevent injury to children.



## The situation – children on farms & ranches

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  - Neighbors
  - Visitors: customers, school groups, others,
    - Consider agritourism enterprises





## Youth Statistics - Fatalities

- On average, every 3 days a child dies in an agriculture-related incident
  - The leading causes are
    - machinery (25%)
    - motor vehicles/ATVs (17%) and
    - drowning (16%).



Source: the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS)

<http://nasdonline.org/7114/d002364/childhood-agricultural-injuries-in-the-u-s-2016.html>

## Youth Statistics - Injuries

- Each day, 33 children are injured on farms
  - In 2014, an estimated 7,469 youth were injured on a farm and 60% of them were not working when the injury occurred.
  - Approximately 3,735 visiting youth were injured on farms in 2014.
  - Vehicles were the leading source of injury for household working youth.
  - Animals were the leading source of injury for both household non-working youth and visitors.

Source: the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS)

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## The Developing Child

- Brain & Psyche
  - Inquisitiveness
  - Wanting to be like mom & dad (or big brother/big sister)
  - May be unaware of dangers and potential hazards
- Physical growth
  - Lack of size
  - Lack of strength
  - Lack of stamina

FMI

[http://www.nagcat.org/nagcat/?page=nagcat\\_prm\\_childdev](http://www.nagcat.org/nagcat/?page=nagcat_prm_childdev)



## Why do some farmers and ranchers put their children at risk (usually unintentionally)?



## **Why do some farmers and ranchers put their children at risk (usually unintentionally)?**

They may believe . . .

- It's a part of the farm culture.
- They are teaching children about work.
- They think the child automatically knows or has the basic skills (osmosis).
- They are equipping children with practical skills & knowledge.
- There is a sense of pride for their children.
- A child could be the “extra” worker when there is a need.

## **The Real Costs of Injuries & Accidents**

- Economic costs
- Emotional costs
- Physical pain
- Lost time



## What can we do?

- As farmers and ranchers
  - Job analysis
- As family members
- As AgrAbility staff and agricultural service providers







**Where are the hazards?**



## Participant Testimonials from You

- Without using names, describe what happened and how could it have been avoided.
  - Real life stories of children being asked to perform certain chores or tasks on farms
  - Real life stories of children being injured or killed on farms/ranches

## Resources

**SAY National Clearinghouse.** The SAY Project has developed a National Clearinghouse that shows the alignment of agricultural safety and health curriculum and educational resources to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards used by agricultural educators.

<http://extension.psu.edu/business/ag-safety/youth-safety/say-project>


















## Agricultural Safety and Health Resources



National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health & National Farm Medicine Center

Title	Focus & Features	Comments
	Cultivate safety is a website that includes easy-to-use information about child development and best-practice work guidelines to prevent childhood agricultural injuries on the farm.	Designed for farm parents, this website provides information on age appropriate tasks. It includes information on child development, work guidelines for both family farm and hired youth, a model policy for employing young workers and a repository of child farm injury news clippings. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.cultivatesafety.com">www.cultivatesafety.com</a>
	NAGCAT Guideline Posters are available for 62 farm tasks and provide information about agricultural hazards, supervision, and parental responsibilities.	NAGCAT posters are a resource to assist parents in assigning farm jobs to their children 7 - 16 years of age. They provide information on the role of children in developmentally appropriate work. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.nagcat.org/nagcat/?page=nagcat_guidelines_posters">http://www.nagcat.org/nagcat/?page=nagcat_guidelines_posters</a>
	Safety Guidelines for Hired Adolescent Farm Workers (SAGHAF) is a 20 page booklet containing two training tip sheets along with seven guideline posters in English and Spanish.	These guideline posters address supervisor responsibilities, teen characteristics, training and supervision tips, and pertinent federal regulations with referrals to obtain state-specific child labor regulations. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/saghaf">www.marshfieldclinic.org/saghaf</a>
	Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms is a 30 page booklet that provides comprehensive guidelines for designing and building an outdoor safe play area on a farm.	The Safe Play booklet is a resource to assist in designing a play area that is based on characteristics of children who will use the area, adult supervision, and the site's agricultural and environmental conditions. Recommendations for play activities are provided. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay">http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay</a>
	Seeds of Safety are a single page safety sheet. Topics include: • ATV Safety • Equestrian Safety • Rural Water Safety	These safety sheets contain basic facts and prevention strategies to assist states and communities with preventing injury to children and adolescents. They can be distributed at clinics, hospitals, etc. Resources available at: <a href="http://marshfieldclinic.org/nfmchildrensresources/">http://marshfieldclinic.org/nfmchildrensresources/</a>
	Model Policy: Youth Employment in Agriculture addresses age- and developmentally- appropriate assignments, training needs for adolescent workers, and supervision and mentoring by adult workers.	This policy can be adopted in both employment and non-employment settings to help safeguard young farm workers. The policy, recommendations for its use and resources are available at: <a href="http://marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/modelpolicy">http://marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/modelpolicy</a>

	Agritourism Health and Safety Guidelines are health and safety guidelines used to ensure the health and safety of children visiting farms or ranches.	An interactive website, "Integrating Safety into Agritourism" provides access to the guidelines, checklists and resources. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/agritourism">www.marshfieldclinic.org/agritourism</a> Interactive website: <a href="http://www.safefarmtourism.com">www.safefarmtourism.com</a>
	Pesticides Nearby... But Staying Healthy is a 16-page educational comic book, available in English or Spanish.	This comic book targets migrant and seasonal farmworker families and helps educate parents about pesticide safety and ways to minimize risks to children. Resources available at: <a href="http://marshfieldclinic.org/nfmchildrensresources/">http://marshfieldclinic.org/nfmchildrensresources/</a>
	"Bury a Tradition" campaign includes different posters available in English, Spanish and French. TV and radio public service announcements are also available for download.	This national campaign aims to keep kids younger than 12 away from tractors. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.childsafety.org/products/">http://www.childsafety.org/products/</a> (Tractor Tab)
	"I didn't know" campaign educates children and adults about the dangers of ATV riding. Posters and rack cards are available.	The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under 16 years of age not operate ATVs. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.childsafety.org/products/">http://www.childsafety.org/products/</a> (ATV tab)
	Harvesting Health is a series of single page sheets that answers frequently asked questions about health and safety issues commonly found on farms.	Selected topics in the Harvesting Health series include: • Children and Dairy Chemicals • Skin Cancer (Sun Protection) • Eye Protection • Hearing Loss Resources available at: <a href="http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfm/harvestinghealth">www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfm/harvestinghealth</a>
	Media Guidelines is a single sheet resource that discusses the Dos & Don'ts for depicting agricultural practices safely in text and pictures. It is available in English and French.	Reporters often seek comments from health care providers when writing about local agricultural incidents or deaths. Guidelines can also be used by advertising professionals to ensure safe depiction of agriculture practices. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.childsafety.org/products/">http://www.childsafety.org/products/</a> (Resources Tab)
	Lyme Disease/Tick Resources were created to help identify disease-carrying ticks. • Tick ID Business Card • Tick ID Card • Tick ID Field Guide	Get the facts about Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Resources available at: <a href="http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfm/lymedisease">http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfm/lymedisease</a>

## Another Resource

<http://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc/other-resources>

