

FARM SAFETY WALKABOUT

THE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY NETWORK



*"Take the walkabout, be prepared. You owe it to your family, and to yourself."
Murray Bedel, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Welcome to the Farm Safety Walkabout</i>	.....	3
<i>Introduction</i>	.....	4
<i>Directions</i>	.....	4
<i>People</i>	.....	5
<i>Communication Plans</i>	.....	6
<i>Farm Yard</i>	.....	7
<i>Farm and Livestock Buildings</i>	.....	8
<i>Machinery</i>	.....	9
<i>Keeping Children Safe on the Farm</i>	.....	11
<i>Training The New Worker</i>	.....	12
<i>Farm Emergency/First Aid Kit</i>	.....	13
<i>Truck/Tractor/Combine First Aid Kit</i>	.....	13
<i>The Agricultural Health & Safety Network</i>	.....	14
<i>Thank You</i>	.....	14
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	.....	15
<i>Emergency Contacts</i>	.....	15

WELCOME TO THE FARM SAFETY WALKABOUT

Dear Farm Family,

I am glad that you and your family are participating in the Farm Safety Walkabout. I was injured in a farm accident which resulted in the loss of both my arms above the elbows. My accident occurred during haying time on my farm, with a round baler I was not familiar with, at the end of a long day. Like most farm accidents, it was a family member, in my case my wife, who came on the accident scene.

In those days, before my accident, I may have felt that I did not have the time to do this type of survey. However, in the years since my accident I have learned the hard way that it would be time very well spent. When I struggle to remove a bolt, or replace a hitch pin with my artificial arms, I realize that I would have had plenty of time to take preventative measures.

I hope that this Farm Safety Walkabout will help you to find hazards in your operation that can be avoided. Also, this survey will help to prepare you and your family members for an emergency. As farm families, we sometimes are not aware of the dangers that our children face in our farm yards. But they are not protected from accidents, and they too can be the ones who have to get help during an emergency.



The bad decision I made only took a split second. It has profoundly affected the lives of my parents, my wife and children and even their children to come. This is something I must live with for the rest of my life. Take the walkabout, be prepared. You owe it to your family, and to yourself.

*Murray Bedel
Fort Qu'Appelle, SK*

A WALKABOUT:
*Australian term for a walk,
hike, or trip to discover
what is there.*

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is one of the most hazardous occupations worldwide. In Canada between 1991 and 2000 for example, 1,256 adults and children were killed in farm-related activities and 14,980 people were hospitalized due to traumatic injury caused by the farm occupational environment. This resource is aimed at assisting farm operators, parents who have children that are present on the farm, and new and young workers to increase their awareness of potential hazards that exist on the farm to minimize farm related injury and death.

The Farm Safety Walkabout is a family activity where parents guide their family through checklists, discussion, and activities focused on farm safety. Although this resource is structured for farm families the walkabout activity and discussion is very useful to encourage a farm safety culture with employers and young and new workers. Effective injury prevention on our farms must be a concern of all those that are present on the farm. This activity will increase your awareness of farm child safety, owner/operator safety and the safety of hired workers by facilitating positive safety related behavioral changes.

Family members are in the best position to encourage a farm safety culture. Each family member must play an ACTIVE role in injury prevention and control through the identification and reduction of farm hazards. Family members also should be prepared to properly respond to farm injuries that do occur.

DIRECTIONS

The guide is written in general terms so you can apply it to your specific family and farm setting. The RATIONALE section at the top of each page will give parents and or employers important information or reasons for the activities and questions.

1. Gather your family together when there is plenty of time to complete this activity. Allow approximately one and a half to two hours.
2. The Walkabout will start in your home and then take you outside to several areas of concern: the farm yard, farm buildings, and farm machinery.
3. As you complete the Walkabout in each of the areas, fill in the CHECKLIST in the guide book.
4. Next complete the ACTIVITIES and SAFETY DISCUSSIONS. These will get the whole family involved.
5. This Walkabout will be helpful for farm families and new worker/employer situations.

PEOPLE

RATIONALE:

- In the event of a farm injury, a family member will most likely be the first person on the scene.
- Acting responsibly in an emergency is very difficult, especially when injury of a family member is involved.
- Practicing emergency procedures and discussing emotional reactions, (fear, panic, crying) can prepare a person to better handle a real crisis situation.
- Farm visitors may not be aware of common farm hazards.

CHECKLIST:

		YES	NO
1.	Do you have a list of emergency telephone numbers at each phone?		
2.	Do all family members know how to call for emergency help?		
3.	When friends and family visit, are they made aware of hazardous areas on your farm?		
4.	Have all adults been trained in first aid and CPR?		

ACTIVITIES: (please check if completed)

		YES	NO
1.	<p>As a family, use the “Emergency Contacts” information on this booklet to write directions to your farm for emergency responders. Fill in all the necessary information and post near the phone.</p> <p>REMEMBER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use directions that do not require daylight sighting, like “turn west at the blue mailbox.” • Use specific land locations for the farm worksites. • Provide specific kilometers and road names or grid road numbers. • Be sure the YOUNGEST family reader can read the directions. 		
2.	<p>Have each child practice dialing and asking for emergency help. Use a disconnected phone while a parent role-plays being the Emergency Dispatcher. Be sure the information given includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child’s full name. • Parent’s full name. • Address and directions. • What happened and where. 		

DISCUSSION: (please check if discussed)

		YES	NO
1.	How might you feel if someone in your family were hurt and you were responsible for helping them and calling for help?		
2.	How could you cope with these emotions and still be an effective emergency care-giver?		

COMMUNICATION PLANS

RATIONALE:

- Due to the isolation of farm work, there is often a long delay before an injured person is found.
- This delay results in a longer period before first aid or medical treatment can be started which in turn increases the likelihood that the injury will be disabling or fatal.
- Farm families can improve response time with emergency communication plans and proper first aid techniques.

ESTABLISHING STRONG COMMUNICATION NETWORKS:

		YES	NO
1.	Do you have a system to keep track of where family members are playing or working and when they are expected to return?		
2.	Do you routinely check in with working and playing family members by phone, visit, CB, or radio?		
3.	Do you have an emergency communication plan (a set of directions to follow if someone does not return or make contact at the expected time)?		

KNOWING WHERE TO FIND FIRST AID KITS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

		YES	NO
1.	Do you have a first aid kit including instructions?		
2.	Do you have a first aid kit in your truck?		
3.	Do you have a first aid kit in your tractor?		
4.	Do you have fire extinguishers in the house, tractor, and farm buildings?		
5.	Do you have a smoke alarm in working order on each floor of your house?		

ACTIVITIES: (please check if completed)

		YES	NO
1.	Go to the first aid kit (so everyone knows where it is) and check it for completeness. Make a shopping list of missing items. If you do NOT have a first aid kit, identify where it should be kept and what might be in it – then get a first aid kit and put it there.		
2.	Check that all fire extinguishers are fully charged.		
3.	Explain how and when to use the fire extinguisher.		
4.	Orientate family members to locations of where fire extinguishers can be found.		

DISCUSSION: (please check if discussed)

		YES	NO
1.	Discuss the importance of a communication plan: letting someone know where you are, what you are doing and when you expect to return.		
2.	What should the family do if someone does not return when expected (emergency communication plan)? (ie: wait 15 minutes, call or go check).		
3.	What will happen if someone continually fails to return when expected, or to communicate a change in plans?		

FARM YARD

RATIONALE:

- It is difficult if not impossible to see or hear children while you are running machinery.
- Children need designated play areas on the farm that are located away from machinery and traffic.
- Unknown and/or undesirable play areas may not be safe. Early identification of these areas could prevent future injuries.

CHECKLIST

		YES	NO
1.	Do you have designated play areas for family, children and visitors?		
2.	Are these fenced-in areas?		
3.	Are children forbidden to play where farm machinery or tractors are working?		
4.	Do you have procedures in place that address the hazard of high voltage overhead power lines?		

ACTIVITIES: (please check if completed)

		YES	NO
1.	As a family, complete the “Walkabout” in the farmyard. Point out and explain potential hazards. Parents should point out any hazards that are missed. Be sure to include: shielding, electrical, noise, fuel storage, traffic, and machinery. Together, place warning decals on the auger.		
2.	With the motor turned off, have an adult take each child up to the driver’s seat of a tractor or large truck. Have another adult stand behind the machine and ask the child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With your hands on the steering wheel, look over your shoulder. Can you see me? • What would happen if you backed up right now? Use this comparison to explain why it is dangerous to play near working machinery or the flow of traffic.		

DISCUSSION

		YES	NO
1.	Ask children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you like to play? • Where do you wish you could play? Then discuss if these are safe places to play, and explain why.		
2.	Identify your farm’s designated play areas and explain why.		
3.	Discuss family members chores and jobs: job tasks and limits, hazards, required safety equipment and safety procedures.		

FARM AND LIVESTOCK BUILDINGS

RATIONALE:

- Each farm area will have dangers of which the family needs to be aware, such as ladders, hay lofts and animals.
- Everyone on the farm needs to know: **never enter a manure pit**. If someone is down, call the emergency responders! The only safe way to enter a manure pit is with a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and with a team using a safety rope.

CHECKLIST:

		YES	NO
1.	Are children forbidden to play in or around livestock areas?		
2.	Are all agrichemicals stored in a locked building, room, or cabinet?		
3.	Are there warning signs posted about these chemical dangers?		
4.	Are all veterinary supplies in a locked or closed storage area?		
5.	Are manure pits covered with sturdy grates or locked covers to prevent entry?		
6.	Are there warning signs posted at these grates or covers?		

ACTIVITIES: (please check if completed)

		YES	NO
1.	As a family, complete the Walkabout around your farm buildings and livestock areas: point out and explain potential hazards. Parents should point out unidentified hazards.		

DISCUSSION: (please check if discussed)

		YES	NO
1.	What should a person do if they discover someone unconscious in a manure pit? Why?		
2.	Discuss the dangers of playing near farm animals on your farm, i.e. cows with young calves, dairy bulls, dogs, etc.		
3.	Discuss how to safely approach the animals on your farm and other places, i.e. strange dogs.		
4.	Discuss the importance of pre-planned escape routes in corrals.		



MACHINERY

RATIONALE:

- Farm machinery, particularly tractors, account for over 75% of farm injuries and fatalities. Most victims are either run over or they fall off while riding or playing on the machinery.
- It is important to prevent additional injury from a farm machine by turning off machinery when working on it or making adjustments. This may be difficult because each piece of machinery operates differently. Changing a common practice, such as allowing extra riders for recreation or transportation, requires planning alternatives ahead of time.

Each family member should know how to shut off all pieces of machinery in emergency situations.

CHECKLIST:

		YES	NO
1.	Do you remove all keys when leaving farm machinery?		
2.	Do you forbid extra riders on tractors?		
3.	Do you forbid extra riders on farm machinery and wagons?		
4.	Are your slow moving vehicle (SMV) signs in place and still reflective?		
5.	Are PTO shields in place on farm machinery?		
6.	Is proper shielding in place on farm machinery?		
7.	Do the driver and all passengers use seat belts or car seats in the farm truck?		
8.	Do all tractors over 20 h.p. have roll over protective structures in place?		

ACTIVITIES: (please check if activities are completed)

		YES	NO
1.	With the tractor turned off, explain what would happen to a person sitting on the fender who falls forward under the wheel, falls backward onto the PTO, or under any towed machinery. As a family, find a place to put the "No Riders" warning.		
2.	Demonstrate how to turn off each piece of equipment, including how to turn off the fuel for diesel machinery.		
3.	Explain the dangers of flowing grain in a truck or bin.		

DISCUSSION: (please check if questions are discussed)

		YES	NO
1.	What farm machinery and vehicles should be included under a family rule: ONE SEAT ---- ONE RIDER?		
2.	What are some of the options that your family could use instead of having an extra rider on the tractor or farm machinery?		

ACTIVITIES: (please check if activities are completed)

		YES	NO
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PESTICIDE/POISON
EMERGENCY:

Dial 9-1-1
or your local emergency
and/or
Poison Control Centre number at:

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KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ON THE FARM

The farm is both a work and home environment for many farm families. Without a deliberate separation between these two environments, children can be exposed to tremendous risks. With care and guidance from adults farm families can enjoy all the positives of farm living to reduce the risks for children living on the farm.

The Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) study indicates that 74% of child fatalities are work related. Of these deaths 73.5 % involved an adult who was engaged in agricultural work. These types of incidents would include a child that was an extra rider that fell from a tractor or a pickup truck that reversed over a child bystander.

Providing a safe environment and appropriate supervision is key to keeping children safe. As children grow into youth and want to be part of family farm activities supervision remains fundamental to safety.

CREATING SAFE PLAY AREAS

A safe outdoor play area away from livestock, traffic, and machinery is essential for children growing up on a farm. A fence helps separate play areas from work environments, but does not replace the need for close supervision.

- The best safe guard against farm injuries is for parents to understand the development of their children and to provide a safe environment for them to play.
- Identify areas where children can play with minimal adult supervision and be isolated from the farm work environment. For example: One play area may be the porch of the house and the surrounding yard. A fence will reinforce this division between work and play.
- Discuss with children where they like to play on the farm and why? This might help identify potential problems, and it will give you the opportunity to explain why off-limit areas are dangerous.
- An explanation is more effective than a don't go there rule.
- Remember: Safety Rules must be enforced and modeled

For a resource on creating Safe Play Spaces visit the National Children's Centre for Rural Safety and Health website: www.marshfieldclinic.org/research/children/safeplay.



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SAFETY PRACTICES ADULTS CAN PASS ON TO CHILDREN:

Adults can be strong safety conscious examples for children. Children will respond to adult concerns about safety if they see adults practicing safety rules in their daily routines. Adults can be strong safety models for children. Children will respond to adult concerns about safety if they see adults practicing safety precautions in their daily work routines. Some key farm safety practices to pass on include:

- Follow the “one seat-one rider” rule. Do not allow extra riders on tractors, or passengers on other mobile equipment.
- Read and follow safety instructions in the operator’s manual for all equipment.
- Always stop equipment when a non-working person enters the work area.

REMEMBER:

Designated play areas and safety rules around the farm will not be effective if they are not enforced, talked about as a family and incorporated into the daily farm lifestyle. This Farm Safety Walkabout is an activity that all family members should be involved in to increase awareness of the hazards that exist on the farm.

NORTH AMERICAN GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN’S AGRICULTURAL TASKS (NAGCAT) www.safekidscanada.ca

The North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) was developed for parents in the farming community as a guide that will assist them in assigning safe farm activities to children age 7-16. Recommendations are made for the level of supervision required for farm tasks based on the child’s level of physical and cognitive development. Children develop at different rates and this needs to be considered when assigning tasks.

The NAGCAT guideline can be found at: www.safekidscanada.ca

TRAINING THE NEW WORKER

It is very important that the developmental stages of new workers are considered when they are being trained for agricultural tasks. This includes understanding how adolescents and adults learn best. Even if novice workers see you perform a task many times, it doesn’t mean they are able to perform the same function at a safe level. A useful process to train new workers is to:

- **Review** the task and process even if the worker tells you that they know how to do the job.
- **Identify** all the parts of the task and why it is important to do it that way.
- **Demonstrate** the task in the format that you are requesting the worker to repeat.
- **Watch** the beginner perform the task
- **Stay** with the new worker while he/she continues to do the task until you are comfortable.
- **Check** on the new worker frequently.

Help all workers to enjoy a safe and productive workplace!



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FARM EMERGENCY/FIRST AID KIT

This is a basic list for a well-equipped emergency/first aid kit for a rural home.

Personalize your kit by adding items that are related to potential injuries specific to your home and operation. This kit should not be used for treatment of routine or day to day minor injuries. Instead, it should be kept intact ready to take when a major trauma occurs. This kit could be stored in a large nylon travel or sports bag. It is helpful to store similar kit items (ie; dressing supplies or flares and matches) in labelled small plastic bags.

- Canadian Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance First Aid Manual or First Aid Chart
- Emergency numbers and information card
- Flares and waterproof matches
- Flashlight



DRESSING SUPPLIES	OTHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile 2"x2", 4"x4" compresses • Gauze roller bandages; 1", 2" and 6" • Adhesive tape (assorted widths) • Triangle bandage • Tongue depressors • Heavy duty scissors (to cut clothing) • Bandage scissors • Splints (1/4" x3"x12" or 15" or air inflatable) • Ice packs (chemical) • Disposable rubber gloves and goggles (Store near pesticide poisoning kit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottled water • Tweezers • Safety pins • Pocket mask for resuscitation • Blanket • Tensor bandages • Sports drinks (eg. Gatorade TM)
AMPUTATION PRESERVATION KIT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 large garbage bag • 4 tall kitchen bags • 4 bread loaf bags • 4 sandwich bags 	

TRUCK/TRACTOR/COMBINE FIRST AID KIT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid chart • Two triangular bandages with 36" sides • Four safety pins • Twelve bandaids
DRESSING SUPPLIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 compress bandages, 2" x 2", 4" x 4" • One roll adhesive tape • Six pressure bandages • Heavy duty scissors (to cut clothing) • One tensor bandage (with holding clips attached) • Amputation Preservation Kit

This basic kit can be used by the victim to treat himself or by the first person on the scene to deliver basic first aid: clean a small wound, stop bleeding, support a fracture or sprain, and preserve a severed limb. The kit should be stored in an airtight container, ie, a coffee can with lid, plastic kitchen container or a larger sealable plastic bag. The kit should be labeled for easy identification. Personalize the kit to meet your needs.

THE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH & SAFETY NETWORK

The Agricultural Health and Safety Network was organized in 1988 as a joint initiative between the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the former Centre for Agricultural Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. The Network is a voluntary association of rural municipal councils providing families with access to information on farm health and safety issues, screening, health education and training. The concept of the Network grew out of a need to translate research results into practical, useful information for active farm families and people working in related industries.

The mission of the Network is to improve health and safety on the farm through education, service, and evaluation research. The ultimate goal is to reduce injury and illness related to the farm environment through co-operative efforts with our partners.

By working together as a community interested in farm health and safety, we can make our area a safer place to work and live.

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- The Network belongs to its members. Members are encouraged to provide suggestions to Network staff about programs, services and future activities directly or through the elected municipal steering committee.
- Member families receive programs in their home communities including Respiratory Health and Hearing Conservation Clinics and various workshops for farmers, their families and their workers.
- Active farm families are placed on a mailing list and receive agricultural health and safety resources from the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA).
- The Network News is printed twice a year to provide members with information on health and safety and updates about Network activities and programs.
- An annual package is also sent to each member farm family that focuses on a current agriculture health and safety issue.
- Speakers and displays are available for council meetings, annual ratepayers' meetings, trade shows, and other community events.

For more information about The Agricultural Health and Safety Network
visit our website: www.aghealth.usask.ca

THANK YOU!

*to the Following Organizations for Supporting the
Farm Safety Walkabout*



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Every care has been taken to provide accurate information in the *Farm Safety Walkabout* but authors are not liable for any results that arise from the application of this material. Reprints only with written permission from The Agricultural Health & Safety Network, University of Saskatchewan

Thank you to the Iowa State University for sharing their checklist with us.

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

	Phone Number	Contact
Fire		
Police		
Health Centre		
Ambulance		
Poison Control		
Doctor		
Mom's Work		
Dad's Work		
Emergency Contact		

Directions to Farm:

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Land Location:

.....

GPS Land Coordinates:

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CCHSA **CCSSMA**
Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture Centre canadien de santé et sécurité en milieu agricole
25 years **25 ans**



A list of resources can be accessed at: www.aghealth.usask.ca