

# Working with large animals

horses, cattle, emu, llama, ostrich, etc.

## Adult responsibilities

### ADULTS NEED TO MAKE SURE:

- Ventilation system is working before the child enters a closed building
- All guards and shields are in place on feed conveyor system
- Work area has no hazards
- Child knows an escape route
- Animals have no disease
- Child has been fitted for a respirator and shown how to use it
- Child changes outer clothing and washes hands after job



## Can your child do this job?

### ABILITY

Is the child comfortable around large animals?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children who are uncomfortable around animals are more likely to be injured.

Does the child lift or weigh less than 10-15% of the child's body weight?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children lifting more than 15% of their body weight are more likely to injure their backs.

Can the child easily push up to 10-15% of his or her body weight?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children who have to strain to push heavy objects are more likely to injure their backs.

If a cart is used for the conveyor system, can the child maneuver it? For example, can he or she steer a grocery cart through the store?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children who can't handle the cart are more likely to be injured.

Does the child have good peripheral vision? For example, while looking straight ahead, can the child see your finger entering his or her field of vision at shoulder level?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children with limited vision may not see people or obstacles in the work area.

Can the child react quickly?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Because animals behave unpredictably, children need quick reactions to avoid injury.

Can the child recognize a hazard and solve the problem without getting upset?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children must be able to recognize hazards, think about how to respond, and stay calm to prevent injury.

Does the child usually go with his or her "gut" feeling without thinking too much about what could happen next?

- Yes. **!** CAUTION! Children who act on impulse need close supervision.
- No.

Is your child responsible? Do you trust your child to do what's expected without anyone checking?

- Yes.
- No. **!** CAUTION! Children who behave irresponsibly need close supervision.

### TRAINING

Has the child been trained on animal behavior?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children who don't understand animal behavior are more likely to be injured.

Has the child been trained on lifting techniques?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Lifting incorrectly can cause back injury.

Has an adult demonstrated working with large animals on site?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children learn best when shown how to do the job on site.

Has the child shown he or she can do the job safely 4 to 5 times under close supervision?

- Yes.
- No. **!** CAUTION! An adult must watch constantly until the child shows he or she can do the job.

### SUPERVISION

Can an adult supervise as recommended?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! The right level of supervision is key to preventing injuries.

## Main Hazards



Animal movements, kicks and bites can cause injury



Weight of feed can strain muscles



Moving parts of conveyor can entangle fingers, hands, hair and clothing

## Remember



Good handwashing



Steel-toed shoes with non-skid soles



Respirator as needed

## Supervision

What's the right amount? Here are suggestions—but remember, it depends on the child.

**Feeding animals**  
Using a feed cart:

**Age 12-13:**  
**WATCH** nearly constantly.

**Age 14-15:** **CHECK** every few minutes at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes.

**Feeding animals**  
Using a feed conveyor system:

**Age 14-15:**  
**WATCH** nearly constantly.

**Age 16+:**  
**CHECK** every few minutes.

**Confinement tasks:**

**Age 14-15:** **WATCH** constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **CHECK** every few minutes.

**Age 16+:** **CHECK** every few minutes at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes.