



WORKSAFE VICTORIA

15 MINUTE FARM SAFETY CHECK

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The farm is one of our most dangerous workplaces. How safe is your farm ? See how you rate.

This easy to follow document has been developed to help you quickly check your farm for hazards and risks. It is not designed to cover all of the hazards and risks on the farm but to help you indentify and control those hazards and risks that may cause an injury or death to yourself, your family, friends or employees.

The law says every farm must be a safe workplace

Occupational Health and Safety legislation applies to all workplaces, including farms. Under OHS legislation - self employed people, employers and employees, or a person in control of a workplace all have responsibilities to make the workplace safe. All primary producers, whether an employer or self employed, have a legal responsibility, called a duty of care, to ensure that they provide a safe working environment. Anyone who enters the farm, whether as a full-time employee, a casual worker, a contractor, a truck driver or just a visitor, has the right to be protected from any hazard that may exist. Specifically, primary producers must provide and maintain a safe and healthy working environment and this includes all equipment and substances that are in their control.

What must be done to ensure safety on your farm

OHS Regulations made under the Act require all employers, in consultation with their employees, to identify any foreseeable hazards that may arise and that have the potential to harm the health and safety of employees or any person at the employer's place of work. The employer must ensure that the hazards and risks are identified and that effective procedures are in place and implemented to assess and control those hazards and risks. Farmers should be familiar with the OHS Regulations, Australian Standards, and Industry Guides associated with their industry/workplace.

Getting started

In order to help make your farm a safer place, we have included a checklist of common hazards found around the farm. This is not an exhaustive checklist but rather a starting point.

Please read explanations for Steps 1, 2 and 3 before starting.

1. Steps

Step 1

Inspect the locations listed under the subject heading and answer the questions listed by ticking either the Yes or No box.

Step 2

Use the rating table to rate the hazards that receive a NO. You do this by asking yourself the questions in the rating table and entering a rating from 1 to 6 in the rating column. For example, an accident involving an unguarded PTO could kill or cause a permanent injury and could happen any time the PTO is being used, therefore this hazard would receive a rating of 1.

How severely could it hurt someone or make them ill ?	How likely is it to occur?			
	Could happen at any time	Could happen sometime	Could happen, but very rarely	Could happen, but probably never will
Kill or cause permanent ill health or disability	1	1	2	3
Long term illness or serious injury	1	2	3	4
Medical attention and days off work	2	3	4	5
First aid needed	3	4	5	6

Step 3

Now prioritise the hazards from 1-6. Those hazards that require immediate attention receive a 1. Once you have done this, you should list what control measure is required to control the hazard in the control measure column. And once you have put this in place, you can tick the hazard off in the completed column.

Step 1		Step 2		Step 3	
	Yes	No	Rating 1-6	Control measure required	Completed
1) Is the tractor fitted with an approved ROPS?		✓	1	Fit an approved ROPS.	✓
2) Are guards fitted to equipment where there is a risk of limbs, hair or clothing being caught (e.g. PTO, auger, unguarded belts and pulleys)?		✓	1	Replace broken PTO guard and repair broken belt guard on air compressor in machine shed.	✓

2. Farm Safety Check List

Step 1		Step 2		Step 3 Farm Safety Check	
	Yes	No	Rating 1-6	Control measure required	Date Completed
Tractors and Equipment:					
1) Is the tractor fitted with an approved ROPS?					
2) Are guards fitted to equipment where there is a risk of limbs, hair or clothing being caught (e.g. PTO, auger, unguarded belts and pulleys)?					
3) Are children and adults prevented from riding on tractors/towed implements?					
4) Do vehicles, such as quad bikes, carry loads in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended limits?					
5) Are operators of vehicles familiar with the manufacturer's instructions?					
6) Is hearing protection worn when using noisy equipment?					
7) Is there regular inspection and maintenance of equipment, e.g. all guards in place?					
8) When inflating tyres, are precautions taken to prevent injury from a tyre blowout?					
9) When moving equipment do you watch for power lines and maintain safe distances?					
10) Are the tractor brakes functioning correctly?					
11) Is the tractor only ever started from the operator's seat?					
Silos and Field Bins:					
1) Are augers and/or conveyors guarded to prevent limbs, hair or clothing from getting caught?					
2) Are silos and field bins regularly inspected for structural damage or wear?					
3) Do you secure hatches to prevent unauthorised access to the silo or field bin?					
4) Is fall protection provided and worn when: a) climbing vertical ladders, or b) working on top of the silo or bin?					
5) When moving or transporting equipment do you watch for power lines and maintain safety clearances?					
6) Are confined spaces procedures followed when entering silos or field bins?					
7) Are appropriate respirators worn when loading dusty grains?					
8) Are respirators kept clean in accordance with manufacturer's instructions?					
9) Are silo ladders far enough above the ground to be out of reach of children?					

2. Farm Safety Check List (cont.)

Step 1		Step 2		Step 3 Farm Safety Check	
	Yes	No	Rating 1-6	Control measure required	Date Completed
Chemicals:					
1) Is there a register of hazardous substances used on the farm?					
2) Are material safety data sheets available on the farm for those using hazardous substances?					
3) Are the users of farm chemicals trained in the safe use of those chemicals?					
4) Are appropriate respirators, gloves, safety glasses and clothing provided when using chemicals?					
5) Is safety equipment regularly inspected and maintained as recommended by the manufacturer?					
6) Are chemicals stored in a secure location?					
7) Are procedures in place to handle chemical spills?					
8) Are all flammable liquids (Class 3) stored away from ignition sources?					
9) Are fire extinguishers located near chemical/fuel storage areas?					
10) Are chemical containers labelled correctly, e.g. not in soft drink bottles?					
General:					
1) Are electrical leads, cables and equipment regularly inspected and maintained?					
2) Have you replaced/repared any exposed electrical wires, damaged electrical switches, power points, conduits, or appliances likely to cause an electric shock/death?					
3) Is a safety switch or residual current device (RCD) or an earth leakage protection device used when using portable electrical equipment, e.g. tools, irrigation pumps?					
4) Prior to lifting anything, do you adopt correct manual handling procedures?					
5) Is hearing protection worn in areas where you need to raise your voice to talk to others?					
6) Are your firearms and ammunition stored in a safe place and out of reach of children?					
7) Do you adopt correct handling techniques when working with animals?					
8) Have you identified the hazards associated with dams and waterways?					

By completing the checklist and putting in place the necessary control measures you have made your farm a safer place. You should now perform a broader check of your farm using the same principals of identifying the hazards, assessing the risks and putting in place control measures to control risks.

Why not do a Managing Farm Safety Course?

A Managing Farm Safety Course has been developed to give farmers the skills to manage health and safety on their farms. The program is delivered in local regions by local training providers.

For further information contact the Victorian Farm Safety Training Centre on (03) 5327 9802.

For further advice, or information on how to improve safety on your farm, contact your local WorkSafe Victoria office.