



# AVOID HARM ON THE FARM



## Farm Safety

An Adult's Guide



# Avoid Harm on

## Farms are Dangerous Places for Children

Tragically almost every year, children are killed as a result of coming into contact with agricultural work activities on Northern Ireland farms.

### **HOW SAFE IS A CHILD ON YOUR FARM?**

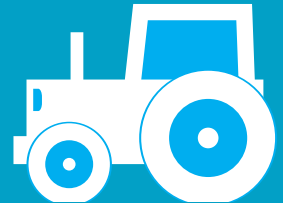


## Children and Machinery

The law says that no child under 13 may drive or ride on tractors and other self-propelled machines used in agriculture. Remember children are not safe in the cab of a tractor. Falling from and being run over by such vehicles is a common cause of fatal accidents.

A child aged 13 or over can, with supervision, drive a tractor on agricultural land provided they hold a recognised certificate of competence in the safe driving and operation of tractors. Further information on the certificate of competence can be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland.





## Keep Children Away from Moving Machines

The natural curiosity of children and their fascination for working machines tends to draw them towards busy work areas. They are in great danger from being run over by moving machines – especially at busy times, such as during silage making, grain harvesting and slurry spreading. They also need to be kept away from other vehicles which visit the



farm for collection of milk or delivery of feed.

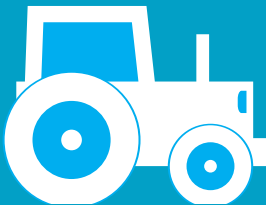
## Drowning Risks



Children will get into places which are apparently inaccessible. Make sure slurry pits and lagoons are securely fenced and sheep dippers are securely covered when not in use. Always ensure

tank covers are in place and keep children away from livestock buildings during slurry mixing.





# Avoid Harm

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## Farm Animals

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Most people realise that bulls, boars and rams are dangerous. Female animals may attack when protecting their young. Furthermore, children who come too close to a playful cow, sheep, pig or horse may be injured.

Children must be excluded from yards and pens where potentially dangerous animals are kept. Gates and fences should be built so that they cannot be climbed easily.

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## Hygiene

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Even apparently healthy livestock can carry disease which may be transmitted to humans – particularly children. After touching animals or their surroundings, hands must be well washed, especially before meals.



# On the Farm

## Children and ATVs

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Quads are not toys and have been involved in serious and fatal accidents involving children. Only properly trained people within the age range recommended for the machine should be allowed to operate it. They must wear the correct helmet and be adequately supervised. Passengers must never be carried.



## Harmful Substances



Lock away all harmful poisonous substances. Children must not be allowed to pick up spray containers or touch drums containing chemicals for use in the dairy. Animal medicines, dosing guns and syringes must also be safely put away.



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## The General Workplace

Heavy objects such as detached tractor wheels, detached gates and parked implements can be knocked over by children so care is needed to make them secure. Stacks of hay or straw are not play areas and can collapse or catch fire, killing those under or on top of them. Check that ladders have been stored safely where children cannot get access to them.

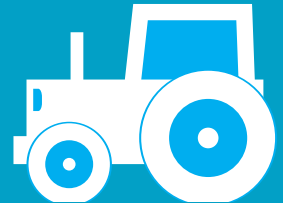


## A Safe Play Area



A safe play area is essential where children live close to a working farmyard to protect them from the dangers. It should be securely enclosed, provided with interesting toys and located close to the dwelling for ease of supervision.





## How Safe is Your Farm? – Check it out!

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- Is there a system in place to **keep track** of where family members are **playing or working** and when they are expected back?
  - Do you prevent all children under 13 years from riding on **tractors and farm machinery**?
  - Is your **slurry lagoon** securely fenced to prevent children from gaining access and do you ensure **tank covers** are always in place?
  - Do you prevent children from playing in or around **livestock areas**?
  - Do you secure all **heavy wheels, gates, parked implements and stacked materials** to prevent them from toppling over?
  - Do you keep young children in a designated, supervised **play area** that is securely enclosed?



# Avoid Hqtn on the Fqtn

## For Further Details Contact:

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