
Farm & Ranch Safety Checklist

Farmers & Ranchers:

This checklist is designed to help you evaluate the level of safety on your farm or ranch. We hope you will be encouraged by recognizing the safe actions already in place, and motivated to address potential hazards that have not been tended to before now.

Some of the questions may not apply to your farm or ranch. The checklist is designed to help you think through how to make a safer work environment for you, your family, and your employees. Sit down and go through the checklist annually to recognize progress and identify any new areas that should be addressed.

Remember, farm and ranch safety is your best investment!

Brought to you by:



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Machinery

- Yes___ No___ 1. Are tractors equipped with a ROPS (Roll-Over Protective Structure) (i.e. rollbar/rollcage & seatbelt)?
- Yes___ No___ 2. Are SMV (Slow Moving Vehicle) signs in place and reflective?
- Yes___ No___ 3. Are PTO (Power Take-Off) shields in place and properly attached?
- Yes___ No___ 4. Are proper guards and shields in place on all equipment including balers, combines, and grain wagons?
- Yes___ No___ 5. Are danger and warning decals prominently displayed on all equipment?
- Yes___ No___ 6. Are all farm vehicles equipped with seatbelts?
- Yes___ No___ 7. Do tractors and equipment have working hazard lights for road travel, and do they work?
- Yes___ No___ 8. Is farm machinery equipped with fire extinguishers?
- Yes___ No___ 9. Are regular maintenance duties performed on all equipment?
- Yes___ No___ 10. Have all workers, including family members, been properly trained to safely operate tractors and equipment?
- Yes___ No___ 11. Are all safety stops and emergency shut-off switches in place and working properly?
- Yes___ No___ 12. Are keys removed from idle machinery?

Chemicals and Hazardous Materials

- Yes ___ No ___ 1. Are all agri-chemicals stored in original containers with easily read labels in a locked room, building or cabinet?
- Yes ___ No ___ 2. Are danger signs posted at your chemical storage area?
- Yes ___ No ___ 3. Are gasoline and other fuels stored in appropriate and clearly marked containers?
- Yes ___ No ___ 4. Are appropriate PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment) available when working with chemicals or hazardous materials?
- Yes ___ No ___ 5. Are appropriate equipment and materials available for cleaning up spills?
- Yes ___ No ___ 6. Are MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) available for all hazardous substances?

The Farm & Ranch Shop

- Yes ___ No ___ 1. Is shop floor clear of debris, tools, and spills?
- Yes ___ No ___ 2. Is shop well lighted and well ventilated?
- Yes ___ No ___ 3. Are safety guards in place on all power equipment such as bench grinders, table saws, and air compressors?
- Yes ___ No ___ 4. Are safety glasses or face shields available for use with power tools?
- Yes ___ No ___ 5. Are electrical cords in good condition without any cuts, frays, or exposed wires?
- Yes ___ No ___ 6. Are load ratings visibly marked on hoists?
- Yes ___ No ___ 7. Are air compressors equipped with pressure relief valves and pressure gauges?
- Yes ___ No ___ 8. Are compressed gas welding cylinders clearly marked?
- Yes ___ No ___ 9. Have all welding gauges, hoses, and fittings been checked for leaks?
- Yes ___ No ___ 10. Have work and electrode lead cables of arc welders been inspected for wear and damage?

The Farmstead

- Yes ___ No ___ 1. Are unattached dual tires securely fastened or lying down?
- Yes ___ No ___ 2. Have fuel storage tanks been checked for leaks and secured to prevent theft?
- Yes ___ No ___ 3. Are designated play areas for children fenced in, away from livestock, traffic and machinery areas?
- Yes ___ No ___ 4. Are livestock pens and working areas securely gated?
- Yes ___ No ___ 5. Are livestock pens and working areas designed to allow workers to enter and exit safely and quickly?
- Yes ___ No ___ 6. Are livestock barns sufficiently lighted?
- Yes ___ No ___ 7. Are hay bales stacked securely?
- Yes ___ No ___ 8. Are litter and manure storage areas secured?
- Yes ___ No ___ 9. Are feed and grain storage areas secured?
- Yes ___ No ___ 10. Can livestock be fed safely from outside of fences or without leaving equipment or vehicles?

Tips to address some common accident situations in South Dakota:

- 1) Before leaving a field to enter a roadway, make sure the SMV emblem is clear of dirt and debris.
- 2) Use pilot vehicles whenever possible while transporting equipment on a roadway.
- 3) Never allow passengers on tractors or equipment.
- 4) Be mindful of overhead power lines when using front-end loaders, forklifts, or augers.
- 5) Never allow anyone near the rear of a tractor or around a power unit when a PTO is in use.
- 6) A four-wheel ATV or utility vehicle can cause serious injury when used improperly or overloaded.
- 7) Remind children that the farm shop and the area around it are not safe places to play.