



# SAFE PLAY AREAS TIPS

## Facts

- Between 1995 and 2002, an estimated 907 children died on farms.
- Of these deaths, 23 percent involved machinery, 19 percent involved motor vehicles, including ATV's, and 16 percent were caused by drowning.
- Over 955,000 children and adolescents younger than 20 years of age resided on farms in 2012. 7,780 of these youth were injured on a farm.
- According to data from 2012, nearly 80 percent of injured children that experienced non-fatal injuries were not actively working when they were injured with falls, animals and vehicles being the leading causes
- Only 30 percent of farm households with children younger than eight years reported having an enclosed play area in 2006.

## Injury Prevention

- Never allow a second rider on farm equipment.
- Never allow children to play in or around grain transport equipment.
- Never allow children to play in or around farm ponds, farm shops or other farm buildings.
- Always be sure that safety shields are in place on equipment.
- Always supervise young children – hire a babysitter when both parents are in the field.
- Always remove the keys from tractors and other self-propelled machinery.

## Safe Play Areas, Cont'd

### **Here are some safety hazards to watch out for when building a safe play area:**

- Be situated away from farm work areas.
- Be visible from the house.
- Be fenced in and at least four feet high.
- Include a gate with a child-proof latch.
- Include nine to 12 inches of ground covering. Wood chips are best; but sand, bark mulch and chipped rubber work well, also.

### **Create a space that is safe and fun with:**

- A sand box with shovels, scoops and funnels. Kitchen utensils are also an inexpensive option.
- Commercially made swings and climbing structures assembled according to instructions.
- Tires used as swings, sandboxes or climbing structures.
- Boxes and crates for building.
- Tricycles and bicycles to ride on, including safety helmets.

### **Here are some safety hazards to watch out for when building a safe play area:**

- Keep at least 6 feet of spacing between climbing structures and other objects to prevent injury in the event of a fall.
- All wood items should be sanded smooth and splinter-free.
- Look for and eliminate location where head entrapment could occur.
- There should be no protrusions of nails or screws.

### **References**

- Ref. 1 - NIOSH (2013). Analyses of the 2012 Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (CAIS). Morgantown WV: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Division of Safety Research. Unpublished.
- Ref. 2 – NIOSH. Internal analysis of the CAIS database. Morgantown, WV: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 2007.
- Ref. 3 – Marshfield Clinic, National Children's Center, Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms, <http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/proxy/mcrf-centers-nfmc-keyprojects-booklet-safeplay-v2.1.pdf>