Injuries to Youth on Farms and Safety Recommendations, U.S. 2006

To receive NIOSH documents or for more information about occupational safety and health topics, contact:

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
1-888-232-6348 (TTY)
E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

Visit the NIOSH Web site at:
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh

Visit the NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Initiative site at:
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/childag/

Youth on U.S. Farm Operations, 2006

- In 2006, 2.1 million farms were in operation in the U.S.
- There was an estimated 1.1 million youth living on these farms, 307,000 youth hired to work on the farm, and 29.3 million youth who visited a farm.
- Over 25% (571,000) of farms reported having youth less than 20 years old living on them.

Understanding how to create a safe farm environment is important for farm operators and their families. Youth who live and work on farms are exposed to potentially dangerous farm-related hazards.

Youth Fatalities on U.S. Farms, 1995-2002

- In the 8-year period, 1995 through 2002, 907 youth died on farms (8.4 deaths/100,000 youth). 13% of these deaths were work-related.
- Of the 907 youth who died on farms in the U.S., most were between the ages of 16 and 19 years.
- The majority of deaths to youth on U.S. farms were due to machinery (23%), motor vehicles (19%), and drowning (16%).

Youth Farm Injuries, 2006

- Results from the 2006 Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (CAIS) estimated 22,900 injuries occurring to youth who lived on, worked on, or visited farms in 2006.
- Over 50% (11,700) of the injuries were to youth who lived on the farm.
- Over 10,000 of these injuries occurred to youth between the ages of 10 and 15 years.
- The most common types of injuries were fractures (27%) and cuts (21%).
- The body parts most commonly injured were the arm (19%), leg (16%), and hand, wrist, and finger (14%).
- Between 1998 to 2006, the injury rate for youth living on farms has decreased from 19.2 injuries/1,000 youth to 10.4 injuries/1,000 youth.

Non-fatal injury rates (per 1,000) for youth living on U.S. farms by age group, 2006

In 2006, household youth between the ages of 10 and 15 years had the highest rate of injury.
How to Keep the Youth on Your Farm Safe

Keeping Youth Safe Around Machinery

- Do not allow extra riders on tractors, all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other farm equipment; follow the “ONE SEAT—ONE RIDER” rule*.
- NEVER leave keys in the ignition of machinery or vehicles.
- Limit operation of ATVs, tractors, and machinery to older youth. The ATV institute recommends that youth less than 16 years only ride ATVs 90 cc or less. Youth should not operate any ATV without wearing a helmet.
- Child labor laws do not apply to youth on their family’s farm. The laws do help parents determine which farm tasks are especially hazardous. Youth between the ages of 10 and 15, a time period of high injury rates, are not old enough to do hazardous work safely.

Keeping Youth Safe from Falls

- Provide an enclosed and supervised safe play area away from hay lofts and machinery.
- Place a shock absorbing ground cover, such as sand, mulch, or wood chips, under all elevated play equipment.
- Youth should wear proper riding helmets when riding horses.
- All fixed ladders on grain bins and silos should be equipped with locks.
- Inspect your farm regularly. Provide adequate lighting and make sure floors are properly cleaned.

Keeping Youth Safe Around Animals

- Teach youth how to handle and work with animals safely.
- Farm animals that are breeding, have newborns, or are sick can be aggressive; make sure children have no contact with these animals.
- Children should wear proper protective clothing when handling animals, such as closed toe, non-skid shoes.
- All household pets should have proper health checks and shots.

For More Information

| National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety |
| 1000 North Oak Avenue |
| Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449 |
| Telephone: 1-888-924-SAFE (7233) | Web: www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc |
| North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) |
| Web: www.nagcat.org |

| Farm Safety 4 Just Kids |
| 11304 Aurora Avenue |
| Urbandale, Iowa 50322 |
| Telephone: 1-800-423-5437; 515-331-6506 | Web: www.fs4jk.org |

| U.S. Department of Labor |
| Frances Perkins Building |
| 200 Constitution Avenue, NW |
| Washington, DC 20210 |
| Telephone: 1-866-4-USA-DOL | Web: www.dol.gov/dol/topic/youthlabor/AgricultureEmployment.htm |

| Childhood Agricultural Safety Network |
| Web: www.childagsafety.org |

| American Association of Poison Control Centers |
| Telephone: 1-800-222-1222 | Web: www.aapcc.org |

* Training seats are designated for training purposes only.