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Hispanic-Operated Farms, 2008

Youth, Injuries, & Safety



Hispanic-Operated Farms

A survey* of Hispanic[§] farm operators estimated that 55% of Hispanic-operated farms had youth less than 20 years of age on their farm sometime during 2008.

- 26,185 youth lived on these farms
- 3,969 youth were hired by the farm operators
- 470,829 youth were visitors to these farms
 - 50% of youth visitors were relatives
 - 7% of youth relatives visiting the farms performed work

Injuries on Hispanic-Operated Farms

Hispanic farm operators reported an estimated 254 injuries to youth on their farms in 2008.

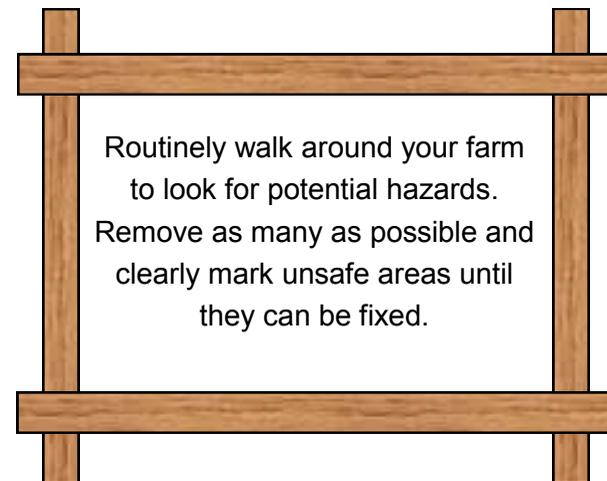
- 57% of the injuries were to youth living on the farm
- About one-third of the injuries occurred to youth who were working or completing chores on the farm
- About two out of every three injuries occurred on livestock operations

*The 2008 Minority Farm Operator Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey was conducted by the US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

[§] Ethnicity was self-reported.

General Farm Safety

- Restrict access to ponds, lagoons, pools and manure pits with locking gates
- Have water safety and rescue equipment at all farm ponds and train youth on proper usage
- Do not leave keys in the ignition of machinery or vehicles
- Talk to youth about the importance of roll-over protective structures (ROPS) and seatbelt use on tractors
- Do not permit anyone without a driver's license to operate tractors or other vehicles on public roads
- Keep hazardous items, such as chemicals, fuel, and pesticides in a secure, locked area



Animals were involved in 29% of injuries to youth on Hispanic-operated farms.

Reduce the risk of animal-related injuries on your farm by:

- Teaching how to safely handle and work around animals;
- Making sure youth have no contact with:
 - mature male livestock;
 - animals that are breeding;
 - animals with newborns; or
 - animals that are aggressive;
- Requiring that proper clothing be worn when handling animals; proper clothing includes closed-toe shoes with skid-resistant soles;
- Teaching the importance of hand washing after handling animals; and
- Requiring use of a helmet when riding horses for any purpose.

Falls were involved in 27% of injuries to youth on Hispanic-operated farms.

Reduce the risk of falls on your farm by:

- Providing adequate lighting and making sure floors are properly cleaned;
- Requiring use of helmets when riding horses and operating all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) for any purpose;
- Covering all hay and grain chutes and openings, and stowing and locking all access ladders on bins and silos when not in use;
- Making sure ladders are properly set-up prior to climbing; and
- Teaching the “three-point rule:” three of your four limbs should be in contact with the ladder or vehicle at all times; either one hand and two feet, or two hands and one foot.

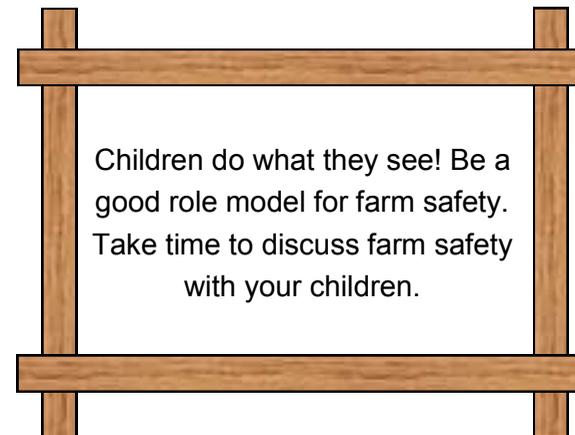


Three-point ladder safety rule

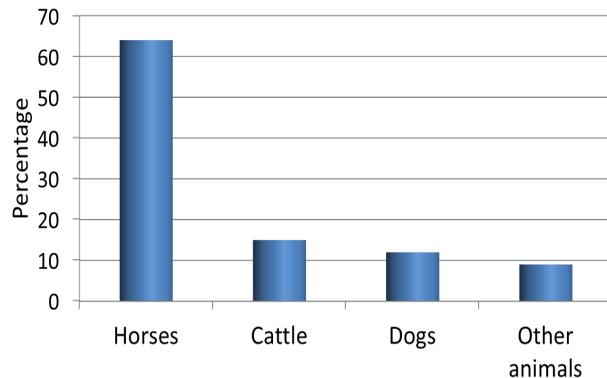
Youth less than 16 years of age were involved in 75% of youth injuries on Hispanic-operated farms.

Keep younger children safe on your farm by:

- Providing an enclosed and supervised safe play area. Do not allow children to play around machinery, workshops, storage buildings, or where work is actively occurring;
- Assigning farm chores that are age-appropriate, such as those recommended in the North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT);
- Following the “one seat — one rider” rule; do not allow extra riders on tractors, ATVs or other farm equipment; and
- Placing shock-absorbing ground cover, such as sand, mulch, or wood chips under all elevated play equipment.



Animals involved in youth injuries on Hispanic-operated farms, 2008



For More Safety 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/NCCRAHS

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
 11304 Aurora
 Urbandale, Iowa 50322
 Telephone: 1-800-423-5437; 515-331-8506
 Web: www.fs4jk.org

Web Resources

North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT):
www.nagcat.org

Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms:
www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay

Tractor Operation for Hispanic Youth:
www.extension.org/pages/67041/tractor_operation_for_youth

NIOSH Ladder Safety App for Mobile Devices:
www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls

Additional results from the Minority Farm Operator Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (M-CAIS):
www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/childag/MCAIS

NIOSH Agricultural Safety Topic Page:
www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/aginjury