

# CHILD SAFETY ON FARMS

It's working **WORKPLACE SAFE**

## Checklist

Farms can be wonderful places where children can gain independence and responsibility, family relationships can be strengthened and children can be exposed to unique experiences. However, farms are workplaces as well as homes, and children may be placed at great risk when playing or helping out around the farm. There are also dangers for children who don't normally live on the farm. Children visiting during school holidays or children of farm workers can also be at risk.

Every year, about 30 children die on Australian farms. Many more children are seriously injured in farm-related incidents and need hospitalisation.

The greatest risk for toddlers is drowning – most commonly in dams, but rivers, pools, troughs and dips are also drowning hazards. For older children, working farm machinery, farm vehicles, motorcycles and horses are the biggest risks.

Here is a checklist to see how well you manage these child safety risks on your farm. This is not an exhaustive list, but a starting point to get you thinking.



### Play Areas

- Is there a safe play area (e.g. a fenced house yard) for small children; securely separated from farm machinery, vehicles, work activities and other hazards?
- Does the safe play area have shade and interesting things for children to do?
- Are there 'out-of-bounds' rules for children which are regularly reinforced?
- Do 'out-of-bounds' areas include all hazardous places (e.g. water storages, farm machinery and vehicles, silos, workshops, chemical storage areas and areas where stock is yarded)?



### Water

- Are swimming pools, ponds, channels or dams that are near the house securely fenced?
- Are tanks, wells and troughs near the house fitted with lids or covers?
- Are unused dips and ditches filled in?
- Do those in charge of your children know to keep watch for water danger?
- Do you know how to resuscitate a child?



### Farm Motorbikes

- Are children trained to ride two-wheeled motorbikes?
- Are children appropriately supervised when learning to ride two-wheeled motorbikes?
- Do all riders always wear a correctly-fitted motorbike helmet, long pants and sturdy footwear when riding farm motorbikes?

#### Do you adopt manufacturers' recommendations and:

- Prevent children under 16 from riding All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)?
- Prevent passengers from riding on ATVs?



## Horses

- Are children only allowed to ride horses suited to their age and riding ability?
- Are children appropriately instructed and supervised on your farm when they are learning to ride horses?
- Do children always wear well-fitting riding helmets and smooth-soled riding boots when riding horses?

## Tractors and Machinery

- Does your farm prevent children from riding as passengers on tractors and mobile farm plant?
- Are children encouraged to keep away from tractors and farm machinery on your farm?

**Tractors, farm machinery and children do not mix!**

## Farm Vehicles

- Do children always wear seatbelts and proper restraints?
- Is riding in the back of utes banned?
- Are drivers careful when moving vehicles near the house in case children are present?
- Are keys kept out of reach of children when vehicles are not being used?

**Watch out – Children about!**

## Other Hazards

- Have other hazards (e.g. firearms, chemicals, electrical, noise, silos) that children could access on your farm been identified and addressed?

Please note that this checklist is not a substitute for a comprehensive farm safety inspection and remember child safety relies on your vigilance.

For more information on how to improve safety on your farm, contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on 1300 366 322 or Farmsafe Australia on (02) 6752 8210 or go to their website at [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au)



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