



AGE APPROPRIATE TASKS TIPS

Although children and teens may be eager to help out around the farm, it is important to remember that they may not be physically or mentally capable of completing the same tasks as an adult. Ensure that children and teens are trained and supervised performing these tasks before they may complete them unsupervised.

Facts

- In 2012, an estimated 7,780 household youth were injured on a farm and 80% of them were not working when the injury occurred.
- About every three days, a child dies in an agriculture-related incident.
- 2006 indicated that an estimated 30.7 million youth lived on, worked on, or visited U.S. farms. These youth experienced almost 23,000 injuries while on the farm.

Age-Appropriate Tasks for 12-13 Year Olds:

- Hand raking, digging and limited power tool use
- Operating a lawn mower or garden tractor
- Handling or assisting with animals

Age-Appropriate Tasks for 14-15 Year Olds:

- Equipment maintenance
- Manual feeding of livestock
- Operating non-articulated tractors for field work
- Raking hay
- Operating a pressure washer

Age Appropriate Tasks Cont'd

Age-Appropriate Tasks for 16-18 Year Olds:

- Ordinary use of tractors, self-propelled machinery, augers and other farm equipment
- Pulling oversized loads, simultaneous use of multiple vehicles and application of chemicals with specific training and close supervision

If you hire youth on your farm, be sure to follow all current child labor laws for the above tasks.

Prevention

Regardless of their age, assess your child's ability to perform any task in order to prevent injury or death.

- Can the child reach and operate all controls while remaining seated on the equipment?
- Does the child have the strength to operate controls without using both feet or excess strain?
- Can the child use their hands and feet simultaneously?
- Does the child have quick reaction time and good peripheral vision?
- Can the child understand and consistently complete a 10-step process without instructions?
- Has the child successfully and safely completed the task four to five times with supervision?
- Do you feel comfortable leaving your child alone with tasks while not under adult supervision?

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 – Goldcamp M, Hendricks KJ, Meyers JR. (2004). Farm Fatalities to youth 1995-2000: A comparison by age groups. *Journal of Safety Research*. Vol. 35(2): 151-157.
- Ref 3 – **Citation:** Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health. 16(4): 279-291. (doi: 10.13031/2013.34838) @2010 **Authors:** K. J. Hendricks, E. M. Goldcamp
- Ref 4 – Marshfield Clinic. North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) Guidelines. <http://www.nagcat.org/nagcat/>