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Racial Minority-Operated Farms, 2008

Youth, Injuries, & Safety



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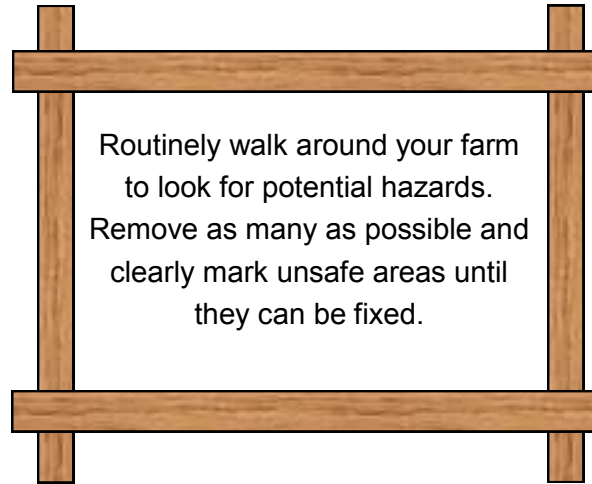


Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Racial Minority-Operated Farms

A survey* of racial minority[§] farm operators estimated that 56% of racial minority-operated farms had youth less than 20 years of age on their farm sometime during 2008.

- 37,443 youth lived on these farms
- 6,443 youth were hired by the farm operators
- 775,991 youth were visitors to these farms
 - 54% of youth visitors were relatives
 - 11% of youth relatives visiting the farms performed work



*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.

[§] Racial minorities include Blacks, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and Multi-racial persons. Race was self-reported.

Injuries on Racial Minority-Operated Farms

Racial minority farm operators reported an estimated 516 injuries to youth on their farms in 2008.

- 310 of these injuries were on American Indian/Alaskan Native-operated farms, 110 on farms with Multi-racial operators, 73 on Black-operated farms, and 23 on Asian/Pacific Islander-operated farms.
- More than half of the injuries were to youth living on the farm.
- 37% of the injuries occurred to youth who were working or completing chores on the farm.
- Almost three out of every four injuries occurred on livestock operations.

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

Falls were involved in 32% of injuries to youth on racial minority-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.

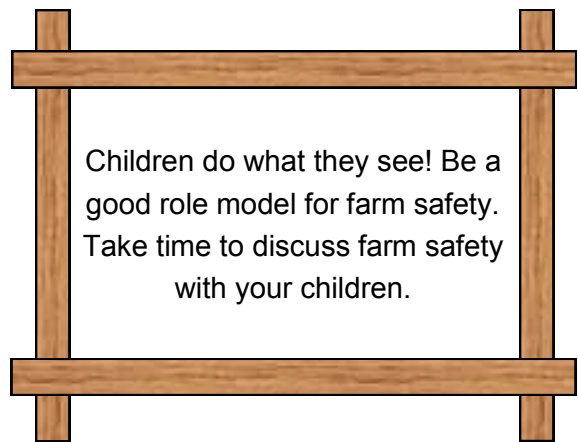


Three-point ladder safety rule

Animals were involved in one out of every five injuries to youth on racial minority-operated farms; 80% of animal injuries were horse-related.

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.



ATVs were the third leading cause of injuries for all youth on racial minority-operated farms. One in four youth living on these farms reported driving an ATV.

Reduce the risk of ATV injuries on your farm by:

- Following the “one seat—one rider” rule; do not allow extra riders on ATVs;
- Requiring use of a helmet and other protective gear, such as eye protection and boots;
- Teaching operators to scan ahead for visible hazards, such as rocks or stumps, low or fallen branches, fences, and rough or unstable trail surfaces;
- Encouraging operators to attend an ATV driver’s safety course;
- Recognizing that even if a child is old enough to operate an ATV, not all youth have the strength, skills, or maturity needed to operate it safely; and
- Teaching operators that ATVs can be difficult to control on paved roads.
- Ensuring that youth operating ATVs are supervised at all times.

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

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