Supervising Youth Working in Agriculture

Adult supervision is careful, directed attention provided to a child or teenager doing farm work. The amount of supervision depends on the age of the child/youth and the task being performed.

Levels of Supervision

- **Constant** – an adult is always within sight, sound and reach of a youth
- **Intermittent** – an adult is out of sight and sound for up to 15 minutes
- **Periodic** – an adult observes the youth at least every 15-30 minutes

Key Points:

- No task is too easy; youth must always be supervised by an adult.
- All children under 10 years need constant supervision.
- Recommended levels of supervision for youth over 10 years depends on the youth’s age and the task.
- Youth performing a new task should be constantly supervised until competent.
- Adults should not perform farm work while supervising youth, unless demonstrating a task or training him/her.
- Provide frequent rest periods, and monitor youth for fatigue.
- Adults should monitor youth for good body mechanics and provide training as needed.
- Adults should immediately correct youth’s unsafe behaviors.

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