Farming is a lifestyle

Farming is caring for land and water

Farming is doing chores

Farming is family fun time

Farming is a family working together

Farming is long busy hours

Farming is a high risk occupation

Farming is working around cows, steers, mules

Farming is working with tractors or horses

Farming is working with a skid steer or a forklift

Farming is a family preventing fatalities by making safety their first priority.

Safety at home or on a farm doesn’t just happen. A family must choose to make safety a priority. Time spent encouraging safe behaviors can result in less medical costs, less suffering and prevent losing a child or an adult.

Two crucial steps include: 1. Identifying major injury causing hazards and then 2. Managing those hazards by using barriers or methods to isolate or eliminate them.
Children 2 to 6 years of age need lots of one-to-one care to keep them safe. They are slowly developing their muscles and balance. They learn by exploring. Little children have short attention spans and find it difficult to remember safety rules. Young children cannot fully understand the risks of being close to machinery, large animals, or bodies of water. They need the help of other family members to provide a safe environment.

Adapted from National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety 1000 North Oak Avenue, Marshfield, WI 54449-5790. Phone: 1-800-62-6900 or 715-389-4999 Fax: 715-389-4996 Email: nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu Website: http://marshfieldclinic.org/NCCRAHS
The following is a brief summary of true farm-related incidences that happened in the U. S. during 2011-2013. This list is only about children aged 0-6 who were injured or fatally injured by a tractor, skid steer, and forklift truck.

The clippings were taken from the Cultivate Safety website https://cultivatesafety.org/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevent Incident</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A 2½-year-old died after she was run over by a tractor at her home.</td>
<td>October 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. A 50-year-old man and his grandson died after the tractor they were riding flipped over backwards on top of them. They were going through a ditch from the yard to the road.</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. A 2½-year-old girl died when she was run over by a forklift that was backing.</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. A 5-year-old boy was fatally injured after falling from the bucket of a skid steer. The driver could not stop the equipment in time.</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
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<td>5. A 5-year-old girl was pinned between the barn and a skid loader. The girl climbed onto the right rear side of the loader (under the arms of the bucket). The driver did not know she was there until it was too late to stop.</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. A 6-year-old boy was helping to haul wood when he fell from the tractor. The tractor equipment run over the child causing a fatal injury.</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. A toddler was riding a tractor with her dad and two brothers (1 &amp; 4 years old) seeding a cover crop. The windows were open to help ventilate the heat of the sun and the toddler fell from the tractor and was fatally injured.</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. A 6-year-old boy lost his left leg after falling off a tractor that was pulling a bush hog. His legs were severely damaged but the doctors were able to save his right leg by doing surgery.</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. A 2-year-old was fatally injured when the arm of the skid steer controlling the bucket struck the boy on his head.</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. A 4-year-old boy died when he fell off a tractor he was riding. He lost his balance and the tractor driver tried to catch him but could not. The tractor tire struck him.</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. A 2-year-old child was injured after falling off a skid steer loader. He was severely injured and died later of a massive head injury.</td>
<td>November 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. A 3-year-old boy was playing on a tractor. He accidentally turned the tractor on which caused him to fall from the tractor. The tractor ran over the child and also hit another child causing minor injuries.</td>
<td>September 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. A 19-month-old child was run over by a skid steer operated by a family member who was moving round hay bales. The driver did not see the child until it was too late to stop.</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. A 5-year-old boy died when a tractor backed over him. They believe the boy ran behind the tractor and the driver did not see him until it was too late.</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. A 3-year-old boy was run over by a farm cab tractor he was riding with his 5-year-old brother and his father. The incident happened while they were plowing a field. The tractor hit a bump and the boy grabbed the door handle next to him causing him to fall out of the tractor. He was run over by the rear tractor tire.</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. A 4-year-old boy died when he fell from a large, dual-wheel-drive tractor. As the tractor was being turned around, the cab door flew open and the boy was thrown out of the tractor and was fatally injured.</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safety Barriers or Ways To Reduce Farm-Related Injuries

Use a barrier to create a small play area outside the kitchen window!

A barrier is a fence; shrub or building that blocks movement from one place to another. Barriers can protect children from injury by preventing them from getting to machinery, animals, chemicals, or sources of water.

Say NO to Children being in the work area or barn unless someone is caring for them.

Children fall off of machinery, down hay holes and can be exposed to chemicals. Covering hay holes prevents head trauma and serious injury.

Make children more visible to vehicle drivers.

Put up safety signs to alert drivers to slow down. Wear a bright vest on small children --drivers of cars, trucks, forklifts, skid steer loaders, team of horses or a tractor can’t see them. Children are short and close to the ground.

Don’t allow children to play in a work zone.

Teach children machinery is NOT to be played on, even if not in use. Don’t start taking them for rides on equipment. When the motor starts, they most likely will run to the equipment and you may not see them in time to stop.

Do a “360” or walk around the machinery or horses before moving.

If a child comes near you when you are using machinery, STOP the machine.

Keep children away from water hazards!

Fences around ponds, pools, manure pits, and ditches prevent children from drowning. It only takes 1-3 “ or enough liquid to cover their face. Don’t swim alone and wear a flotation vest. Use a heaving jug and blow 3 short blasts on a whistle to get help fast.

Put a fence around a pond.

Planning what to do before there is an injury or fire helps save lives and property.

Talk about what to do in an emergency before there is an emergency. Teach everyone how to call 9-1-1 and CPR and first aid. Make small first aid kits and put them in the barn, work shop, home and buggy/car.

Have an idea of what to do in an emergency!

Teach and encourage every family member to look for safety hazards and report them at promptly. Then isolated or eliminated the hazard before there is a severe injury.

Make safety a family goal!

Have someone assigned to caring for small children.

Arrange off-farm childcare or have a child cared for by a responsible older sibling, grandparent or neighbor during busy times. Children have fun and you can work faster and more efficiently without worrying if they are safe.
Run-overs are the leading cause of farm-related deaths for children under 12 years old

Most of the run overs occur because the person was a rider on the equipment and was thrown off under the wheel or farm equipment. Some children are injured because they were playing in the work area and the driver did not know they were there until it was too late to stop. Small children are close to the ground and very hard to see from the equipment and a driver cannot hear them call out because of the noise of the equipment. Most of all small children do not recognize or understand the dangers of moving machinery.

Skid steer loaders are compact, powerful, and versatile machines. They fit into small spaces and therefore are able to scoop out animal wastes, lift a tree, and quickly move feed, manure, or other materials. A fork lift is a powered industrial truck that is used to lift and move heavy materials short distances like bales of hay or feed.

Fork lift equipment and skid steer loaders have been used on farms for the past 4-5 years. The farmers of today did not grow up using or knowing how to run a skid steer or forklift. Farmers often purchase older used equipment which does not have some of the safety features found on new equipment.

Farmers of today did not have to be as concerned when they were a child living on the farm about being close to the work area; there were no forklifts or steer skid machines in use. Amish farmers use horses to work in the fields.

Some if the causes of run over incidences include:
1. Poorly trained drivers.
2. Speeding
3. Operating a fork lift while the load is elevated
4. Improper turning --- too sharp a turn and too fast
5. No warning signs and reminders of how to run the equipment safely
6. Extra riders

Run over and injuries occur when:
- The operator falls out of the machine because they did not have their safety belt on to keep them safely in the operator’s seat.
- Extra riders inside or in the bucket of a skid steer are not secure and fall out in harms way.
- Children or others (bystanders) wander into the worksite are not seen until it is too late.
- A driver or child is caught in an attachment; crushed between machine parts’ trapped by loads that roll or drop into the operator station, and pinned by rollover or tipping of the machine.

The definition of center of gravity is the place in a system or body where the weight is evenly dispersed and all sides are in balance like the seesaw with the same sized children below.

![Diagram of a seesaw with children]  
80 lbs X 3.75 feet = 300 foot-pounds  
50 lbs X 4.00 feet = 300 foot-pounds  
Seesaw is balanced

Stability is the position of the center of gravity of an object. The lower the center of gravity, the more stable the object. The higher it is the more likely the object will topple over. Stability baselines are imaginary lines drawn between points where the tires meet the ground.

Adding weights will affect the center of gravity as will the width of the rear wheel settings.

![Diagram of a tractor and forklift]
Fork lift Stability: The Basics

Forklift stability is affected many factors including the forklift design, load, and the skill of the driver. Most forklifts have a three-point suspension even though they have 4 wheels. The steer axle is able to pivot in the centre and therefore, the forklift is supported only at this point of the rear and 2 wheels at the front which is a stability triangle.

The operator must keep the center of gravity within this triangle so that the machine does not overturn or tip. Sudden turns or deceleration as well as the load can greatly affect the stability. See the shift in the Center of Gravity below.

Inexperienced operators assume that they can drive faster without a load, but look at the location of the CG with unloaded forks. It is much closer to the sides of the triangle compared with the unloaded location. On the other hand a loaded forklift is more likely to tip forward with the CG now closer to the front axle.

The blind spots on a forklift are dependent on the size of the vehicle (the larger the vehicle, the larger the blind spot) and the height of the driver. A moderately-sized forklift will have blind spots around 8 feet to the front left, 6 feet on the left rear, and 3-4 feet on each side.
## Forklift Safety Rules To Prevent Rollovers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Keep it slow---it’s not a race!</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Don’t travel or turn with a raised load, the forklift can turnover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Face your load uphill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Going downhill?---travel in reverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Be careful of rear end swing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Brace Yourself in a tip over</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/pit/app_a.html