

## Working Youth Interactive Activity

**Instructions:** Each table will be given a youth ag injury incident that “just occurred in your area”. Each table will represent people that media would want to ask questions of (Sherriff’s department at the scene, neighbor of the victim, health and safety expert, etc.). As that “person”, you (the table) have been asked to participate in a media interview about the incident. A set of questions that will be asked in the interview are listed with the incident below. Your table will be given 20 minutes to develop answers to your set of questions.

A “media person” will conduct the interview with each table.

Below are the scenarios and questions for each table. These scenarios are based on real incidents pulled from AgInjuryNews.org. Some incidents have been embellished for the sake of discussion.

Resources included in Workbook and/or on the table that may be helpful:

Resources included in Workbook

- PowerPoint Slides
- Ag Youth Work Guidelines (examples)
- Model Policy for Youth
- Fair Labor Standards Act (child labor requirements in agriculture)
- Supervisor Training
- 2018 Child Ag Injury Fact Sheet

Additional resources you may want to use:

- [AgInjuryNews.org](http://AgInjuryNews.org)
- [CultivateSafety.org](http://CultivateSafety.org) (child development, communication plan, prevention briefs, bending/lifting/climbing videos, AYWG, etc.)

**Table 1 – Services Wednesday for boy killed in farm accident**

Memorial services for 3-year-old Isaac Decker will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Isaac died in an accident at his family's sod farm. Authorities said the boy either fell or jumped from a sod cutter and was run over by one of the vehicle's wheels.

According to the Associated Press, the boy's 18-year-old cousin jumped from a forklift and tried to pull the child to safety but could not save him. The cousin suffered a broken hand and arm in the rescue attempt. The boy was pronounced dead at the scene from massive head injuries.

Lt. Greg Elwin, of the Sheriff's Office, said the 3-year-old was riding on the running board of the sod-cutting tractor being driven by his 7-year-old brother. A man on a platform at the back of the tractor was stacking chunks of sod on pallets, and the teen on the forklift was moving the pallets to a delivery truck. Elwin said it was apparently common practice at the farm for everyone in the family to help with the sod harvest.

Questions:

1. How common is this type of incident?
2. What are the major safety issues you see with this incident?
3. Does the presence of the adult cousin constitute adequate supervision? Why or why not?
4. Is this really an accident?
5. Could this have been prevented? If yes, how?
6. How do you respond to the statement "it is common practice at the farm for everyone in the family to help with the sod harvest"?
7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

## **Table 2 – 14 year old killed operating a skid steer**

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the arrest of Luke Park, owner of the Park Family Farm located in Homer, New York, for multiple alleged Penal Law and Labor Law violations related to the death of 14-year-old Alex Smith. According to the felony complaint filed by the Attorney General's Office, the boy died when he was allegedly operating a New Holland LS170 Skidloader with a hydraulic lift and fork attachment. Child labor laws explicitly prohibit the operation of such equipment by minors. The minor was operating the equipment in an attempt to prepare bales of hay for cow feed on the. The defendant, Luke Park, admitted to the State Police that he found the boy's body pinned underneath the hydraulic lift and bale of hay, with the engine of the Skidloader still running. The medical examiner's autopsy concluded that the chest and abdomen were crushed resulting in his death by mechanical asphyxiation.

Mr. Park was arraigned this afternoon before Judge William J. Foley of the Homer Town Court on 8 felony counts of Falsifying Business Records and Filing False Unemployment Insurance Contribution Returns with the State and 7 misdemeanor counts including Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Illegal Hours of Work for Minors, Prohibited Employment of Minors, and the Willful Failure to Pay Unemployment Insurance Contributions. Mr. Park was released on personal recognizance.

"Child labor laws were enacted to protect the safety of our children and to avoid terrible yet foreseeable tragedies like the one alleged in this case," said the Attorney General. "Adults have a responsibility to protect our children, and when an employer places a minor in harm's way, that employer will be held responsible and prosecuted."

"Tragic cases like this one serve as a stark reminder that child labor laws are in place for a very good reason," said State Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon. "Minors should never be exploited or placed in harm's way at work. It's imperative that those who endanger children are exposed and brought to justice."

In addition to the child safety violations, the felony complaint also alleges Mr. Park employed other minors on his dairy farm and required them to work approximately 60 hours a week which exceeds the 48 hour per week maximum for 16 and 17 year olds when school is not in session. Records also revealed that many employees were allegedly paid off-the-books, resulting in an underpayment in unemployment insurance contributions amounting to over \$9,000.

### Questions:

1. How often do you hear of farm accidents involving skid steers?
2. What are the major safety issues you see with this incident?
3. Was adequate supervision provided? Why or why not?
4. Could this have been prevented? If yes, how?
5. How would the "legalities" of this incident be different if the child was the defendant's son?
6. Do you agree with the verdict? Why or why not?
7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

**Table 3 – Cattle tramples 9-year-old-boy**

A 9-year-old boy was transported to the hospital after being trampled by cattle. The boy was trampled by cattle on a farm just after 1:45 p.m., according to the Sheriff's Office. The 9-year-old went into a pen to separate a young animal and was trampled by some cattle. His 16-year-old sister was then able to help him walk out of the pen.

The boy had suffered severe internal injuries. He was transported by EMS, and then med-flighted to a larger hospital. The 16-year-old sister was transported by private carrier to be checked out for any possible injuries.

1. Are animals a common cause of injuries on farms?
2. What are the major safety issues you see with this incident?
3. Is 16 old enough to provide adequate supervision? Why or why not?
4. Could this have been prevented? If yes, how?
5. What else (if anything) would you like to know in order to help prevent similar incidents?
6. Is there anything else you would like to add?

#### **Table 4 – Teen Farmworker's Heat Death Sparks Outcry**

A 17-year-old undocumented farmworker died of heat exhaustion working in the California vineyards. Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez was tying grape vines at a farm when the temperature soared well above 95 degrees. The nearest water cooler was a 10-minute walk away, and workers say the strict foreman didn't allow them a long enough break to stop and get a drink. Vasquez collapsed from heat exhaustion. Her fiancé, Florentino Bautista, cradled her in his arms.

"When she fell, she looked bad," Bautista says. "She didn't regain consciousness. She just fell down and didn't react. I told her to be strong so we could see each other again." Bautista says that after Jimenez collapsed, the farm labor contractor delayed bringing Jimenez to a hospital. Another employee took her to a drugstore to try and revive her with rubbing alcohol, Bautista says.

In a written statement to NPR, Merced Farm Labor says Bautista was the one who decided to stop at the drugstore, and that he had refused the company's offer to call a doctor. Furthermore, the company says Jimenez wasn't engaged in strenuous work that day and had been working without apparent distress up to the time she collapsed.

What is clear is that by the time she arrived at a hospital, Jimenez was in a coma, and her body temperature topped 108 degrees. She died two days later. It was only at the hospital Bautista found out she was two months pregnant.

California passed the most stringent heat laws in the nation three years ago after four farmworkers died in the field. The laws say growers must provide workers adequate water, shade and rest breaks. But three farmworkers still died in California the year after the law was passed.

Questions:

1. Is heat stress/heat exhaustion a common problem on farms?
2. What are the major safety issues you see with this incident?
3. Was adequate supervision provided? Why or why not?
4. Could this have been prevented? If yes, how?
5. Who is responsible for this death? The fiancé? The employee that took her to the drugstore? The employer?
6. In your opinion, is the employer legally responsible for this death? Why or why not?
7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

### **Table 5 – Recent Farm Tragedy Sparks Outcry**

A 3-year-old Mennonite boy was killed after being run over by a skid loader operated by his 5-year-old brother.

According to the Clark County Sheriff's Office report, the 5-year-old Loyal boy was driving a skid loader in a field while his younger brother and mother were picking up rocks and putting them in the bucket of the skid loader. The 3-year-old boy bent down to pick up a rock between the front tire of the loader and the bucket. The 5-year-old didn't see his little brother and accidentally ran over him, investigators said.

Clark County Medical Examiner pronounced the boy dead at the scene.

#### Questions:

1. In your opinion, how old should a child/youth be before operating a skid steer? Why?
2. What are the major safety issues you see with this incident?
3. The mother was working with the children. Does this constitute adequate supervision? Why or why not?
4. Could this have been prevented? If yes, how?
5. Do child labor laws apply? Why or why not?
6. Should the parent's be prosecuted? Why or why not?
7. Are there cultural issues that should be considered? If yes, what and how?
8. Is there anything else you would like to add?

**Table 6 – Zombie attraction turns fatal at corn maze on Idaho-Washington border**

A teenager playing a zombie at a Halloween-themed corn maze was killed after falling under the event's "Zombie Slayer Paintball Bus," authorities said, as the northwestern Idaho attraction's patrons thought it was just part of the act. The teenager appeared to die instantly after falling under the rear passenger wheels of the bus on Friday night, stumbling as he emerged wearing a mask and hockey gloves to run toward the bus from his hiding place in the maze.

Inside the rocking vehicle, which was creeping forward on uneven terrain, nobody immediately realized what had happened, authorities said. The attraction's riders had paid to shoot at the attacking zombies, pretending to slay them with paintball guns mounted outside the windows of a modified school bus. "Everyone just thought it was part of the act," said Sgt. Ward Crawford, a traffic team supervisor with the Sheriff's Office.

He said the other zombie players realized what happened after the bus moved on and the teenager from Spokane Valley, Washington, remained motionless. Authorities said in a media release that they did not believe alcohol was a factor. This was the first year for the zombie attraction at the Incredible Corn Maze.

Questions:

1. What are the major safety issues you see with this incident?
2. Could this have been prevented? If yes, how?
3. Do child labor laws apply? Why or why not?
4. Have you heard of other incidents like this?
5. In your opinion, should teenagers/youth be hired for jobs like this? Why or why not?
6. Is there anything else you would like to add?

# Logic Model

Program Name:

Situation:

Priorities:

