Farms and ranches are wonderful places for children and youth to live, work and play. However, agriculture is also one of the most dangerous occupations in the U.S., and the only worksite where children of any age can be present. This brochure can help adults find the balance between maximizing benefits and minimizing risks.

**Look inside for:**

- **Top 5 Injury Statistics**
- **Top 3 Causes of Injuries & Fatalities**
- **Top 5 Safety Strategies**
- **Top 5 Injury Prevention Resources**

**WHO WE ARE:**

The National Children’s Center is one of 11 Agricultural Safety Centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Established in 1997, it is located in the National Farm Medicine Center, part of the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute in Marshfield, Wisconsin. The center is the leader in setting voluntary guidelines to protect children who live, visit and work on farms.
Agriculture is one of the most dangerous occupations in our nation, and the only worksite in the U.S. where children of any age can be present.

Many agricultural work-related injuries and deaths are associated with children doing work that does not match their developmental level.

Every day, about 33 children are seriously injured in an agriculture-related incident.

60% of child ag-related injuries happen to children who are not working.

A child dies in an agriculture-related incident about every 3 days.

The number of ag-related youth worker fatalities is higher than all other industries combined.

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Top 5 Safety Strategies

1. **Keep Kids Away from Tractors**
   - Tractors cause over 40% of accidental farm deaths of children under 15
   - 4 out of 5 farm children regularly ride tractors
   - It’s time to break the tradition.
   - It’s easier to bury a tradition than a child.
   - [cultivatesafety.org/campaigns/tractors](http://cultivatesafety.org/campaigns/tractors)

2. **Keep young children out of the worksite**
   - Equipment Hazards
     - Skid steers
     - ATVs
     - PTOs
   - Supervision
     - Working in/around grain
     - Animals
     - Gates, tires, & environmental hazards
   - Safety Strategies: Child Care, Safe Play Areas - [cultivatesafety.org/play](http://cultivatesafety.org/play)

3. **Ensure age and ability appropriate work**
   - Teen characteristics:
     - Lack experience
     - Impulsive
     - Risk taking attitude
     - Desire to prove themselves
     - Susceptible to peer pressure
     - Reluctant to ask questions
   - Work Guidelines: [cultivatesafety.org/aywg](http://cultivatesafety.org/aywg)

4. **Ensure environment is as safe as possible**
   - Eliminate/reduce hazards:
     - Distractions
     - Slippery/uneven surfaces
     - Repetitive motion
   - Provide Personal Protective Equipment:
     - Non-skid shoes
     - Gloves
     - Hearing protection

5. **Provide training for work/tasks & ensure proficiency**
   - Model safe behaviors
   - Train youth to do job
   - Practice until proficient
   - Supervise
Top 5 Injury Prevention Resources

1. **Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines**
   - Guidelines to help farm parents and supervisors assign tasks based on worker ability are available at CultivateSafety.org/aywg

2. **Safe Play**
   - Resources for creating safe play areas on farms are available at CultivateSafety.org/play

3. **Integrating Safety into Agritourism**
   - Agritourism resources, guidelines, checklists, and signs are available at SafeAgritourism.org

4. **Ag Injury News**
   - AgInjuryNews.org allows users to search for injury reports using variables like age, injury agent, year and more. Resources for preventing similar injuries are linked to the reports.

5. **Childhood Agricultural Safety Network**
   - Visit CultivateSafety.org/casn for information and resources from a coalition of organizations working together to keep children safe on the farm.

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Want more?
The Cultivate Safety website is designed to provide easy access to agricultural safety information and resources for farmers, ranchers, supervisors and media. CultivateSafety.org/resources

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