

ATV/Quads/4 Wheelers on the Farm



ATVs have become workhorses on the farm. They also are used for transportation and recreation. Along with benefits, ATVs come with some dangers. Every year 144 kids die on ATVs. In addition, 100,000 ATV related injuries occurred in 2012 with 25% involving kids under age 16.* These are not all farm-related incidents, but many of them are.

- ▶ Power: Makes them fun to ride, but also increases the damage done when an incident occurs.
- ▶ Size: ATVs come in a variety of sizes. Some are large, and their size can be deadly if the operator is too small to drive them safely. Most ATVs are built for one rider. The seat is large enough for two riders, but it is designed for the rider to move around to make corners and adjust for changes in terrain - not for carrying passengers. Follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- ▶ Off-road: Low pressure tires, suspension, and drivetrain on ATVs are not designed for riding on pavement.
- ▶ Training: Experience is needed because ATVs drive much differently than other vehicles. Necessary skills are often lacking.
- ▶ Maintenance: Condition of the ATV impacts how the machine performs and poor maintenance may result in injuries or fatalities.

*Consumer Product Safety Commission.



Preventing Injuries While Operating an ATV

ATV Hazards and Prevention Strategies



Hazard	Injury Prevention Strategies
Large size and power	Ride an ATV that's right for your age and size.
Allowing passengers	Enforce a NO RIDER policy unless the ATV is designed for more than one person.
Lack of Personal Protective Equipment	Wear DOT compliant helmets, goggles, long sleeves, long pants, gloves, and over-the-ankle boots.
Riding on paved surfaces	Carefully cross paved roads where permitted by law.
Poor tire condition	Inflate tires to suggested tire pressure and make sure tires are in good condition.
Lack of training and supervision	Encourage novice operators of all ages to take safety training courses. Supervise riders younger than 16 years of age.
Unsafe operation	Ride at a safe speed. Be aware of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar areas. Respect the power and danger of these vehicles. No horseplay.

ATVs are used by everyone on the farm, including youth. Some youth lack strength and experience, add their desire to have a good time and they have a high risk of injury. As the adult, be a role model. Set a good example by wearing PPE and using ATVs safely.