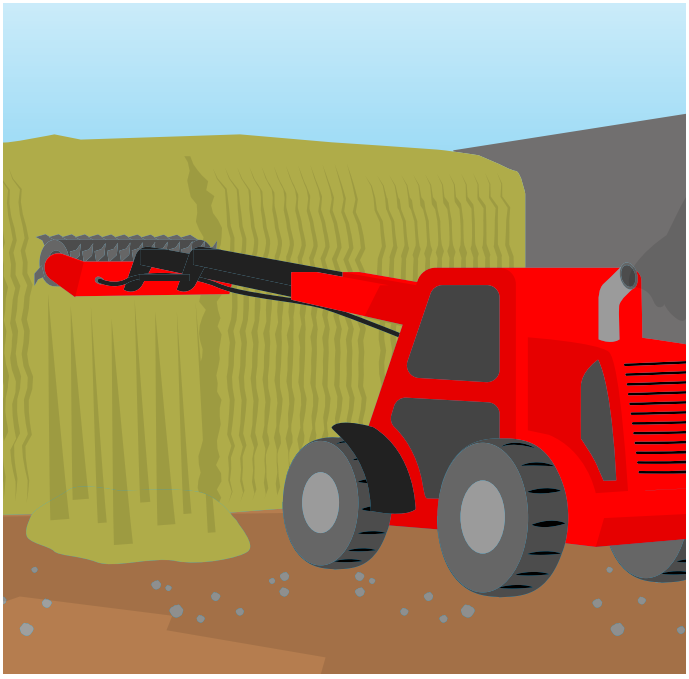
Facing Silage from a Bunker

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job safely:

- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- Read, understand, and follow the operator's manual
- Safely operate a tractor and use a front end loader
- Check for/avoid people and obstacles in the worksite
- Have a second person (observer) present and know where they are at all times
- Good hand-eye coordination
- Understand and consistently repeat a 10-step process
- Stay focused on a task up to 50 minutes
- Mature enough to consistently do what is expected
- Think through actions and consequences before acting
- Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- React quickly to hazards
- Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times
- Call an adult if equipment malfunctions
- Maintain two-way communication link



Adult Responsibilities

- Comply with working outdoors guideline
- Ensure equipment is mechanically sound and safety features are in place
- Ensure trained observer is present, who never stands closer than 3 times height of pile
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Fit youth for respirator and demonstrate proper use
- Demonstrate how to safely face silage
- Provide appropriate training
- Train youth to call an adult if equipment malfunctions

Supervision

Note: Ensure tractor is sized appropriately for youth. Youth must be 16+ years to operate a front end loader on a tractor over 20hp. See Tractor Operations Chart for guidance.

14-15 yrs	Nearly constant supervision progressing to intermittent
16+ yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic

Hazards



Silage avalanche | Height | Rollover | Run-over | Dust/mold

Protective Strategies



Seatbelt | Non-skid shoes | Toxic dust respirator | Operator's manual | Eye protection

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