Working with Large Animals

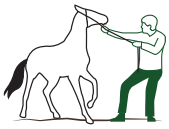
Hired Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines



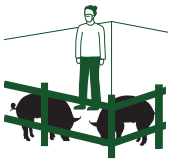
Main Hazards



Animal Kicks



Weight Strain



Confinement

Remember



Escape Route



Steel-toed Shoes



Good Handwashing

Work Conditions

- Ensure proper barriers are in place
- Establish an escape route
- Ensure ventilation system works properly
- Ensure respirators and hearing protection are available when needed
- Limit access to confined spaces to authorized personnel
- Ensure work area is as free from hazards as possible
- Maintain 2-way communication

Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines (AYWG)

cultivatesafety.org/aywg

- Working with Large Animals – assess youth's ability to safely perform task
- Bending and Lifting – fact sheet and videos with proper bending and lifting techniques
- Use additional guidelines to assess ability to safely perform associated tasks, such as:
- Feeding Hay to Livestock
- Cleaning Service Alleys
- Cleaning Calf Pens/Hutches

Federal Regulations: Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

- Refer to Employer/Supervisor Responsibilities for links to detailed information on federal and state regulations for young workers
- Refer to Adolescents at Work guideline for general regulations
- Youth under 16 may not work on a farm in a yard, pen, or stall occupied by a bull, boar, or stud horse maintained for breeding purposes; a sow with suckling pigs; or a cow with a newborn calf (with umbilical cord present)
- Youth under 16 may not work inside a fruit, forage, or grain storage designed to retain an oxygen deficient or toxic atmosphere; an upright silo within 2 weeks after silage has been added or when a top unloading device is in operating position; a manure pit; or a horizontal silo while operating a tractor for packing purposes
- Check state laws for additional regulations. State-specific information is available at youthrules.dol.gov

Training and Supervision

- Assess youth's ability to complete work safely
- Train employees on animal behavior
- Teach youth to recognize and address risks and hazards
- Train employees on emergency procedures
- Provide consistent supervision
- Have first aid kit/station available and someone trained in CPR/first aid

Other Factors

There are other factors that can impact a teen's ability to safely perform work. These factors include things like

- Fatigue
- Substance use/abuse
- Emotional disturbances
- Stress

These factors can change from day to day, spurring the need to meet with youth prior to work each day to assess their condition and abilities. Visit agsupervisortraining.org for more information on assessing these factors.