# **Sample Farm Ranch Hazards Checklist**



Recognizing farm hazards, then taking steps to reduce or eliminate them creates a safer environment for farmers, family and children, farm employees or farm visitors. The following checklist is a tool to assist you with your premises evaluations.

This checklist is a tool for management to use in its efforts to reduce hazards. This checklist is not all-inclusive. There may be additional hazards or unsafe acts that need to be identified and corrected.

Yes No NA

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# **Building Safety**

| •                | Are building walkways and aisles free of obstructions such as debris, junk or tools?             |  |  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| •                | Are wood floors free of rot and/or broken boards, exposed nails or other defects?                |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are concrete floors free of severely broken sections, slippery areas or other defects?           |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are downspouts clear allowing water to be drained away from buildings?                           |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are low clearance areas, such as doors or beams, marked?   |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Is there adequate lighting in and around buildings?  |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are covers placed over hay holes, or other floor openings?                                       |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are light fixtures near combustible materials protected against breakage?                        |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Is there a correct size and type of fire extinguisher mounted at the entrance of main buildings? |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are trees, branches and other vegetation trimmed back from buildings?                            |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are fuel storage tanks kept at proper distances from all buildings?                              |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are stairs and permanent ladders in good condition and free of obstacles?                        |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are handrails installed on stairs where appropriate?   |  |  |  |  |
| Grain Bin Safety |  |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are silo and grain bin entrances secured against entry by children and farm visitors?            |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Is grain bin equipment powered off at main disconnect, locked and tagged before entry?           |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are NIOSH-approved masks or respirators available?   |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are equipment guards and shields in place and in good working condition?                         |  |  |  |  |
| •                | Are permanent ladders installed inside and outside of the grain bin?                             |  |  |  |  |

- Prior to entry, has the air quality been tested to confirm air is free of toxic and flammable gas?
- Has the oxygen level been tested in the bin or silo to confirm it is safe for entry?
- Is there a harness and rope available and are they in good condition?
- Is there a rescue-trained observer stationed outside the bin when someone is inside the bin?
- Is the rescue-trained observer in constant communication with person inside the bin?
- Is the grain bin wiring and electrical suitable for the exterior location?

#### **Electrical Safety**

- Are electrical outlets properly grounded to accommodate (3 wire) appliances and equipment?
- Are electric wires firmly supported or placed in conduit where appropriate?
- Are electrical cords, plugs, sockets and switches in good condition and replaced if worn or broken?
- Is electrical equipment able to be locked in the "off" position?
- Are all workers aware of overhead power lines?
- Are all workers trained on how to shut off the main power in case of an emergency?
- Are extension cords only used on a temporary basis?
- Are electrical repairs and installations performed by or inspected by licensed electricians?
- Are electrical panels accessible and free of obstruction, as well as clearly labeled?
- Are electrical systems properly grounded?
- Are electrical outlets, electrical panels, fans and lights clean and free of debris?
- Are Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) installed in high-moisture areas?
- Is there corrosion-resistant wiring and fixtures in high-moisture buildings, such as hog and dairy barns?
- Are there surge protection devices on service panels anywhere electronic devices are used?

#### **Tractor Safety**

- Is machinery operated and maintained according the instruction manual recommendations?
- Are engines, exhaust systems, belts and chains clear of any crop residue buildup?
- Is the area around the tractor checked to ensure it's clear of children, dogs, equipment, etc.?
- Do drivers enter tractors with three points of contact to prevent falls?
- Are Power Take-Off (PTO) guards and other shields in place?
- Is power shut down before adjusting, unclogging or servicing a power-driven machine?
- Is the "No Extra Riders" rule enforced?
- Are tractors equipped with rollover protection (ROPS) and seat belts?
- Are tractors equipped with working fire extinguishers and first-aid kits?
- Are there 'Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblems mounted on the farm equipment?
- Are hitches and safety chains in good condition and always used when on public roads?
- Does all equipment have proper working lights and flashers?
- Is mounted equipment lowered when exiting the tractor?
- Are mirrors in good clean condition and correctly aligned?
- Are tires regularly checked for signs of damage such as abrasion, bulges or tears?
- Are keys removed from all equipment when not in use?
- Are hydraulics disengaged/de-energized and all equipment stored in lowest gear?
- Are loads being towed properly hitched to the drawbar with pins and chains in place?

| Yes | No | NA |
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# **Trailer Safety**

- Is the ball size correct for the trailer?
- Are wheel bearings repacked and replaced as needed?
- Are tires regularly checked for signs of damage such as abrasion, bulges or tears?
- Are headlights and brake lights regularly checked on both the truck/tractor and trailer?
- Is the trailer floor sturdy and clean? Are worn-out boards replaced as needed?
- Is the brake system regularly inspected and in good condition?
- Are brake controls adjusted as needed depending on the weight of your trailer?
- Is the weight distributed properly when loading the trailer?

## **Chemical Safety**

- Is an inventory kept up to date for all chemical and pesticides stored on the farm?
- Are Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemicals on file?
- Are manufacturer's directions followed regarding storage, handling and application of chemicals?
- Are workers trained on safe handling of chemicals?
- Is appropriate safety and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used when handling chemicals?
- Are there chemical warning signs on all entrances to the storage area?
- Are "No Smoking" signs placed in prominent locations where chemicals are stored?
- Are chemical storage areas used exclusively for the storage of chemicals?
- Are chemicals stored safely out of the reach of children and visitors?
- Are chemical storage areas adequately lighted and ventilated to the outside?
- Are chemicals stored in their original containers with clear and legible labels?
- Are flammable liquids stored in Underwriter Laboratories (UL)-approved containers?
- Is all mixing and preparation of farm chemicals performed at a designated site?
- Are materials available to control spills in the storage area, such as dry sand?
- Does the chemical storage location have an area to retain accident spills?
- Are incompatible materials stored away from each other?
- Are chemical containers well secured during transport?
- Is there an emergency response procedure in place in the event of a chemical spill?
- Are containers triple rinsed and disposed of in accordance with local ordinances?
- Is the Poison Help Line (1-800-222-1222) posted in visible places?

| Yes | No |  |
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#### Field Safety

- Is there a buffer zone along ditches allowing ample room for tractors to turn?
- Are field bridges strong enough to support heavy equipment and loaded trucks or wagons? •
- Are washouts repaired to prevent equipment from becoming stuck? •
- Are stumps and rocks removed from fields? Holes filled? Immovable objects marked?

#### **Fire Protection**

- Are fire extinguishers serviced regularly and periodically inspected by a licensed electrician?
- Is there a Class ABC fire extinguisher in all buildings? •
- Are fire extinguishers placed on large tractors or combines?
- Are all workers trained on the proper use of fire extinguishers? •
- Are all workers properly trained for what to do in case of emergencies? •
- Are smoke detectors installed and functioning properly? •
- Are "No Smoking" signs placed in prominent locations around the farm? •
- Is smoking restricted to designated areas only? •
- Is all insulation covered by at least a 15-minute fire barrier?
- Are light bulbs and heat lamps protected with adequate wires and guards? •
- Are all emergency phone numbers posted by all the phones? •
- Are lightning rods installed and grounded properly? •
- Do all farm buildings, regardless of size, have a minimum of two exits? ٠
- Are all welding and cutting operations performed in areas free of combustible materials? •
- Are heating units inspected and maintained before the beginning of each heating season? •
- Are fireplace/woodstove chimneys inspected and cleaned prior to the heating season? .
- Is all farm machinery free of combustible materials and buildup? •
- Are permits obtained from the local fire department prior to any open burning when required? •
- Is the fire department notified prior to burning? •
- Do you monitor weather conditions and be flexible when performing open burns? •
- Are you sure to protect buildings and fences and build a fire break to contain the fires? ٠
- Do you have firefighting tools, such as rakes, shovels and garden hoses, close at hand, for small fires? •
- Do you have discs, plows and large sprayers on hand for large fires and plenty of help available? •
- If a fire appears to be getting away, call your fire department immediately. .
- Is there a clear unobstructed roadway or solid yard area for each building to allow access for the fire department and rescue vehicles?
- Are wells and pumps maintained to provide accessible, year-round water supply for firefighting?

| Yes | No | NA |
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| Wildfire Safety |   | Yes | No | NA |
|-----------------|---|-----|----|----|
| •               | Is there an evacuation plan in place? Are practice drills conducted?                              |     |    |    |
| •               | Are alternative locations with minimal vegetation available for livestock?                        |     |    |    |
| •               | Is there a defensible space established of at least 5 feet around each structure?                 |     |    |    |
| •               | Is there a defensible space around equipment, fuel and chemical storage areas?                    |     |    |    |
| •               | Is water available for the fire department, such as a pond, water tank or cistern?                |     |    |    |
| •               | Is the dwelling roof fire rated?  |     |    |    |
| •               | Do vents have 1/8" metal screens to prevent flying embers from entering?                          |     |    |    |
| •               | Is siding material noncombustible material such as concrete-fiber, stucco, brick or stone veneer? |     |    |    |
| •               | Are windows tempered, multi pane glass windows?   |     |    |    |
| Cr              | rime  |     |    |    |
| •               | Is there adequate lighting around the farmyard and house?   |     |    |    |
| •               | Are there single cylinder deadbolt locks on all entrance doors to your home?                      |     |    |    |
| •               | Are farm buildings kept locked?   |     |    |    |
| •               | Is an inventory kept of all farm equipment, including serial numbers?                             |     |    |    |
| •               | Is equipment and livestock marked?  |     |    |    |
| •               | Do neighbors check on the farm regularly when you are away?                                       |     |    |    |
| •               | Are pasture and field fences inspected and maintained?  |     |    |    |



## Youth Safety

- Are young children kept out of the work sites while parents are working?
- Are young children ever taken for rides on machinery, such as tractors, skid steers, ATVs, etc.?
- Are children ever given rides in buckets, instructional seats or on laps?
- Is all equipment, especially those with sharp edges, stored in areas not accessible to young children?
- Are children kept away from grain wagons, grain bins, silos, manure pits and other confined spaces?
- Are all large objects stored safely, such as tires?
- Are all potential drowning hazards addressed, such as fences installed around ponds/mature pits?
- Do young children have a designated safe play area?
- Is there an adult or older youth available to supervise young, non-working children?
- Are youth assigned farm tasks or chores appropriate for their age and ability?
- Are adults providing adequate supervision based on the youth's age/ability and the task?
- Are youth trained on how to do a task safely and then asked to demonstrate the task before attempting?
- Is appropriate personal protective equipment worn by youth when working?
- Are youth dressed appropriately for work on the farm?
- Are youth kept away from unpredictable or dangerous animals?
- Are youth trained to recognize the signs of heat exhaustion and/or hypothermia?

#### **ATV Safety**

- Are all farm workers trained and certified in how to use and handle an ATV?
- Is protective gear, such as helmets, gloves and goggles worn when operating an ATV?
- Before starting the vehicle, is the gear placed in neutral or park, with the parking brake locked?
- Do all of the lights come on when you start the ATV?
- Is less than one-third of the ATV's weight on the rear carrying rack?
- Do you complete a pre-ride inspection (oil levels, gas tank, air levels in tires, etc.)?
- Are all of the important parts of the vehicle tightened (footpegs, footplates, wheels, wheel bolts, etc.)?
- Are all lines and cables intact? Any signs of wear or damage?
- Does the ATV have a Crush Protection Device (CPD)?
- Always maintain a proper speed for the terrain, visibility and operator's experience level.

| Yes | No | NA |
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| Animal and Livestock Safety |   | Yes | No | NA |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|----|----|
| •                           | Are livestock pens, gates, chutes and fences regularly checked and well maintained?                   |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are gates and doors closed after use?   |     |    |    |
| •                           | Do all workers receive animal handling safety training?   |     |    |    |
| •                           | Is protective footwear worn when handling animals?  |     |    |    |
| •                           | Do you leave yourself an "out" when working in close quarters with animals?                           |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are animals made aware of your approach so as not to frighten them?                                   |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are you calm and in command when working with animals?  |     |    |    |
| •                           | Do you avoid yelling, clapping and other loud noises when working with livestock?                     |     |    |    |
| •                           | Is the floor kept leveled with appropriate traction for livestock?                                    |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are ventilation fans and vents in good working condition?   |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are heaters kept away from combustible materials?   |     |    |    |
| •                           | Is all electrical wiring kept out of areas which could be accessed by livestock?                      |     |    |    |
| Fir                         | rst Aid/Emergency Plan  |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are directions to your farm posted by the phone or in a central location?                             |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are emergency phone numbers posted by all phones?   |     |    |    |
| •                           | Is it least one person trained in First Aid and CPR?  |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are designated safe places established for where to go during a flood, tornado, thunderstorm or fire? |     |    |    |
| •                           | Do all workers have a way to contact other workers in case of an emergency?                           |     |    |    |
| •                           | Is there a safety training program in place for all new employees and is it reviewed annually?        |     |    |    |
| •                           | Does someone always know your location, destination and estimated time of departure and return?       |     |    |    |
| •                           | Are first-aid kits readily available? Are they checked and replenished periodically?                  |     |    |    |
| •                           | Is there an evacuation plan in place for family members, including a meeting space?                   |     |    |    |

