

# Farm safety: Protecting the kids

WHAT are the hazards and risks?

The common risks are toddlers wandering off, children playing unsupervised where work is being done, children being taken into shearing sheds, cattle yards, riding on tractors, farm machinery or riding unrestrained on the back of utes and in vehicles.

This has resulted in toddlers drowning, children being crushed by livestock, children being entangled and run over by tractors, vehicles and farm machinery, children falling off the back of moving utes and being injured during motor vehicle crashes. There are rules and ways of making sure children are not injured or die on farms,

## A Safe Place to Play

- Is there a **safe play area** (eg. a fenced houseyard) for small children which is securely separated from farm machinery, vehicles, work activities and other hazards?
- Does the **safe play area** have shade and interesting things for children to do?
- Are there **'out-of-bounds'** rules, for children who are not with a supervising adult, which are regularly reinforced?
- Do **'out-of-bounds'** areas include all hazardous places (eg. water storages, machinery and vehicles, silos, workshops and areas where stock are yarded)?

## Water

- Are swimming pools, effluent ponds, channels or dams near the house securely fenced?
- Are tanks, wells and troughs near the house fitted with lids/mesh and are unused dips and ditches filled in?
- Have those who look after children been alerted to 'keep watch' when children are around or could wander off into water?
- Do you know how to resuscitate a drowning child?

such as:

- \* Creating a 'Safe Play Area' - a securely fenced yard with self latching gate to prevent toddlers wandering away unsupervised and being run over or drowning in farm dams, troughs and creeks.
- \* Don't leave keys in parked vehicles, tractors and machinery.

## Tractors and Machinery

- Do you prevent children from riding as passengers on tractors and mobile plant?
- Are children encouraged to keep away from tractors and machinery on your farm or rural property?

**'Tractors, machinery and children do not mix!'**

## Farm Vehicles

- Do children **always** use seatbelts and proper restraints and **never** ride in the back of utilities?
- Are drivers careful when moving vehicles near the house in case children are present?

**'Watch out - children about'**

- Are keys kept out of reach of children when vehicles are not in use?

**CHECKS:** These farm safety checklists are available from [farmsafe.org.au](http://farmsafe.org.au).

tractors and farms. machinery.

\* Make sure all children and passengers are wearing seatbelts in farm vehicles.

\* Not carry or allow children to ride unrestrained in the back of farm utes.

\* Wear helmets when riding horses and farm motorbikes.

\* Supervise children on farms when they accompany parents when work is being done.

\* Do not carry children as passengers or allow children to operate or ride quad bikes of any size.

\* Do not carry children as passengers or allow children to ride on



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