

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: Farm Animal Safety

OVERVIEW: Every year farm workers are injured by a variety of livestock, including horses, cattle, sheep and swine. Three-fourths of the accidents reported involve cattle or horses. They include kicks, being pushed or shoved, or from animals stumbling or falling or stepping on the worker.

TALKING POINTS:

- Look for signs of aggressiveness or fear from the animal, including raised ears, tail or hair on the back is raised, bared teeth, pawing on the ground, and snorting.
- Do not threaten an animal's food supply while it is eating.
- Consider the animal temperament, habits and handling characteristics.
- Keep work areas clean and equipment in proper repair.
- Wear personal protective equipment, when appropriate.
- Keep children out of danger areas.
- Treat each animal as unpredictable.
- When working with cattle, keep calm and maintain as peaceful a scene as possible since they tend to be nervous.
- Let the animals know you are there to avoid surprising them, specifically cows.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What are examples of aggressive or fearful behaviors? (Answer: Raised hair, pawing the ground, snorting and bared teeth)
2. What are other steps you can take to work safely around animals? (Answer: Keep areas clean, wear protective gear, keep children out of danger areas, work in a calm fashion, do not surprise the animals)
3. How do animals injure farm workers? (Answer: Kicks, bites, falls, being pushed or shoved)
4. Do cows tend to be aggressive or fearful? (Answer: Yes)

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TT-AG013 (06/09)

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