

Farm Shop Safety

Farm shops are the scene of many accidents. Most of these accidents involve hand and eye injuries. A survey by the National Safety Council estimated there are 15,000 eye injuries on American farms annually. These injuries are painful and expensive, and can result in partial or total blindness. Other injuries involve burns, cuts, abrasions and sprains to various part of the body.

GENERAL FARM SHOP SAFETY AWARENESS

Education of the farm worker is an important element in accident prevention. It is important that safe work practices are followed in the agricultural shop. Worker training should include instruction in:

- The proper use of tools and equipment in the shop and procedures to keep them in good repair
- Safe methods of lifting heavy objects
- Proper conduct in the work area to avoid accidents and injuries. This should include a discussion of horseplay and inappropriate practical jokes.
- Proper interpretation of safety and warning signs, including material safety data sheets (MSDS)
- The use of personal protective equipment such as safety goggles

SHOP SAFETY RULES

- Work areas should be kept clean and clear from clutter.
- Machinery and equipment should be kept clean, with guards in place.
- Special waste containers, if any, should be appropriately marked.
- Protective equipment and special emergency equipment, such as an emergency eyewash station, should be maintained and in good working order.
- Fire extinguishers should be in plain view with unhindered access.
- Do not overburden electrical outlets.
- Cords, wires, lines, etc. should be kept away from aisles and traffic areas.
- Keep paper and other materials away from heat sources.
- Aisles, doorways and exits should be kept clear.
- Make sure stationary power tools are properly grounded.
- Portable power tools should be double insulated or of the three-wire grounded type.
- Ensure ample electrical capacities so power tools can be operated without blowing fuses or tripping

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- circuit breakers.
- Keep shields and guards in place on grinders and saws at all times.
- When welding, keep the area well ventilated, and make sure flammable and combustible materials are kept safely away.

MACHINE GUARDING

Make sure farm workers are trained in the following areas:

- Instruct farm workers in safe methods of machine operations, and supervise to ensure that safe operating procedures are being followed.
- A power shut-off switch should be in reach of the operator's position at each machine.
- Lock-out each machine during maintenance and repair.
- All pulleys and belts, nip, shear and pinch points within seven feet of the floor or working level should be fully guarded.
- Grinding wheel guards should enclose approximately three-quarters of the wheel.
- Work rests on grinders should be adjusted so they are not more than one-eighth inch from the wheel.