



Farm Safety Audit

This safety audit is designed as a guideline to help identify potential hazards on the farm before they cause an accident. Include family members and employees when conducting the audit.

As different areas of the farm are inspected, answer the questions by checking YES or NO. If the answer to a question is YES, then no further action is necessary. If the answer to any of the questions is NO, then a hazard may exist that requires correction.

Prioritize the level of risk presented by the hazard by ranking the risk as: Major, Serious, or Minor. Then, use the space provided to document

the date the hazard was corrected and keep the audit with your business records.

Level of Priority of Identified Hazards

Major: Potentially life-threatening or serious injury potential; requires immediate corrective action

Serious: Injury or property damage possible; requires prompt corrective action

Minor: Not likely to cause significant injury or property loss; initiate corrective action during the off-season or during down time

BUILDING SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are buildings free of litter and debris?				
Are walkways, aisles, and traffic areas clear of obstructions?				
Is there adequate lighting in work and travel areas?				
Are stairs in good condition and equipped with handrails?				
Are stairs kept clear of obstacles on steps and landings?				
Are permanent ladders in good condition and inspected regularly?				
Has broken or damaged flooring been repaired?				
Are low features, such as beams and rafters, clearly marked?				
Are stored materials properly stacked to prevent them from falling?				
Have protrusions such as nails been removed?				
Are nails removed from used lumber before stacking?				
Do you wipe up spills immediately?				
Is there ample walking space between stored machines?				
Are keys removed from stored machines?				
Do large doors open smoothly?				
Do you park your tractors and other fuel-burning equipment a safe distance from the barn, shop, or other buildings?				
Do you store flammable chemicals such as paints and solvents in a dedicated storage?				

Level of Priority Options:

Major – Potentially life threatening or serious injury potential. Requires immediate corrective action.

Serious – Serious injury or property damage possible. Requires prompt corrective action.

Minor – Unlikely to cause serious injury or property damage. Take corrective action during the off-season or during down time.

FIRE PREVENTION SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
In fire hazard areas, are NO SMOKING signs placed in prominent locations?				
Are light bulbs and heat lamps protected with wire guards?				
Are lightning rods checked for proper installation and grounding?				
Are fire department numbers and farm location prominently displayed by all phones?				
Are appropriate fire extinguishers located strategically for easy access in case of fire?				
Are fire extinguishers inspected regularly?				
Are doors and gate latches easy to open?				
Are faulty wiring and electrical equipment repaired or replaced immediately?				
Does your family periodically review how to operate fire extinguishers and discuss emergency plans?				
Do you regularly dispose of rubbish and other combustibles?				
Are flammable liquids properly stored away from any ignition sources?				
Do you take care not to damage concealed electrical wiring when drilling holes or driving nails into walls?				
Are matches and lighters stored safely and out of reach of children?				
Are space heaters clean and in good condition?				

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Serious – Serious injury or property damage possible. Requires prompt corrective action.

Minor – Unlikely to cause serious injury or property damage. Take corrective action during the off-season or during down time.

WORKSHOP SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are all electrical outlets in the shop properly grounded with ground fault circuit interrupters?				
Are floors kept dry at all times?				
Is personal protective equipment (such as goggles, face shields, and hard hats) available?				
Is a stocked first-aid kit available?				
Are work areas free of debris and clutter?				
Is there adequate lighting to prevent working in shadows?				
Are suitable receptacles available for oily rags, used oil, etc.?				
Are there at least two exits?				
Is adequate, well-organized storage available for tools and equipment?				
Are extension cords used only for temporary work?				
Are portable lights properly shielded to prevent breakage?				
Are portable tools unplugged when not in use?				
Are benches tidy and drawers kept shut?				

ELECTRICAL SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are power lines, poles, and other electrical hardware coming into the farm in good repair?				
Have trees been trimmed well away from conductors in case of storms?				
Are overhead lines kept out of vehicle traffic areas to avoid contact with high vehicles in the farm yard?				
Do all outlets have three-pronged receptacles to provide proper grounding of electrical tools and appliances?				
Are there sufficient outlets to eliminate the continued use of extension cords?				
Are bare light bulbs protected from being hit by objects and machines or splashed with liquid?				
Are outside outlets weatherproof and installed with ground fault circuit interrupters?				

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Minor – Unlikely to cause serious injury or property damage. Take corrective action during the off-season or during down time.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY - continued	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are antennas located far enough from wires in case of falls during a storm?				
Do you have warning systems to indicate that vital equipment has failed?				
Do livestock ever act wary or refuse to drink?				
Do you unplug tools and equipment that are not being used?				
Are checks always made for underground wiring before digging?				
Are fuses and switches all labeled properly so as to prevent confusion in an emergency?				

FARM TRACTOR SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Do you read the operator's manual for your farm tractor and follow the operating, maintenance, and safety recommendations found therein?				
Before operating, do you walk around the tractor, making a visual check for bystanders and other objects?				
Is the tractor equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) and seat belts?				
Do you always wear seat belts with ROPS?				
Do you enforce the rule "NO RIDERS ON THE TRACTOR AT ANY TIME"?				
Is there an SMV (slow moving vehicle) sign on the rear of the tractor or towed equipment for roadway travel?				
Is the SMV sign clean, with good reflective qualities?				
Do you lock brake pedals together before roadway travel?				
When towing equipment, do you use safety hitch pins and chains?				
Is a first-aid kit mounted on the tractor?				
Is a fire extinguisher located on the tractor?				

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FARM TRACTOR SAFETY - continued	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
When operating a tractor in buildings, do you open doors and windows or start ventilation fans?				
Are steps free of mud, tools, or debris that could cause slips?				
Are keys removed from the tractor when not use to prevent theft or unauthorized people from using the equipment?				
Do you always steer clear of hazards soon as ditches, steep hills, and other areas where tractors can tip?				
When using front-end loaders, do you travel with the bucket lowered to avoid tipping sideways?				
Have all tractor operators on you farm received training on their equipment and reviewed the operator's manual?				
Do your tractor operators always do a pre-operational check that includes a walk around the equipment to check lights, visibility, tires, brakes, etc.?				
Is mounted equipment always lowered before the operator leaves the tractor?				
Are towed loads always hitched to the drawbar, and never higher?				
When towing high loads, are clearances from overhead power lines always checked?				
Is the exhaust system on each tractor in good condition and leak-free?				
Are brakes adjusted regularly?				

PTO-DRIVEN MACHINERY SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Do all PTOs have shields and guards in place?				
Is there a master shield in place where your PTO meets the tractor?				
Are shields on PTOs checked periodically to ensure that they rotate freely? (Check only with power off.)				

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PTO-DRIVEN MACHINERY SAFETY - continued	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Before operators leave the tractor seat, do they always disengage the PTO, shut off the engine, and remove the keys?				
When working with PTO-driven equipment, is clothing close-fitting, long hair covered, and no laces or loose items exposed?				
Do you always avoid stepping over a PTO shaft?				
Are worn or defective parts replaced as soon as possible?				

GENERAL MACHINERY SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are key warning decals on machines readable?				
Are all shields and guards in place?				
Are all machines free of jagged metal or protrusions that could injure workers?				
Are hydraulic lines free of excessive wear or leaks? (Do not check hydraulic hoses for leaks with your hands, because fluid under pressure can be injected into skin tissue. Use cardboard or wood to detect leaks.)				
Are tires inspected regularly and properly inflated?				
Are defective and worn parts replaced as soon as possible on all machinery?				
Are children and bystanders kept away from operating machinery?				
Is the power turned off before adjusting or servicing machinery?				
Are farm equipment manuals readily available to the operator?				
Is any equipment that is likely to be towed on roadways equipped with a slow-moving vehicle sign, safety chains, and a safety hitch pin?				
Are SMV signs in good condition (clean and not faded)?				

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GENERAL MACHINERY SAFETY - continued	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are moveable components properly blocked before repair or adjustments?				
Do you always observe the "NO RIDERS" rule on machines or drawbars?				
Are brakes adjusted regularly?				

ANIMAL HANDLING FACILITIES SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are facility steps and walkways roughened to prevent slips and falls?				
Are walkways and aisles kept free of debris, manure, and feed?				
Are outside ramps, steps, and entrance ways protected from rain or spilled liquids that could freeze?				
Are animal drugs and barn chemicals kept in a secure area in original containers?				
Are pens, gates, and fences in good condition, without protrusions?				
Are heaters kept away from combustible materials?				
Do you use special care in handling animals with new-born young?				
Do you make animals aware of your approach so as not to frighten them?				
Do you wear protective footwear and head protection when handling animals?				
Do you leave yourself an "out" when working in close quarters with animals?				
Are pets and animals immunized as required?				

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AG CHEMICAL STORAGE SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are chemical storage areas used exclusively for the storage of chemicals?				
Are different classes of chemicals stored separately and not allowed to mix with each other (pesticides, herbicides, cleaning products)?				
Are all chemical storage areas kept neat and orderly?				
Is the storage area vented to the outside?				
Have you posted a chemical warning sign on all entrances to the storage area?				
Do you have adequate safety equipment (respirator, rubber gloves, boots, etc.)?				
Have you posted emergency phone numbers (such as fire, Poison Hotline, and the Kansas Department of Agriculture)?				
Is the storage area free of floor drains?				

FIELDS, LOTS, LANES, DRIVES, AND YARDS SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Along ditches and embankments, do you leave a sufficient turning area for machinery?				
Are washouts repaired and filled so vehicles won't get stuck?				
Do you trim low tree branches that could hit equipment?				
If underground utilities (such as gas and power lines) cross your farm, are they well-marked?				
Are all gates (yard and field) wide enough for machinery and trucks to enter and exit easily?				
Are workers made aware of overhead power lines when moving tall equipment, ladders, etc.?				
Is equipment kept off steep slopes where stability can be uncertain?				
Are sidewalks and walkways in good repair?				
Are lawn and garden tools put away after use?				
Is the yard clear of rubbish, dead vegetation, and misplaced tools?				

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FIELDS, LOTS, LANES, DRIVES, AND YARDS SAFETY - continued	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Is there protection from the danger of uncovered water sources such as tanks, wells, and cisterns?				
Do you inspect trees after storms and in the spring for broken limbs that could come down?				
Do you have an assigned play area for children (such as a fenced area)?				
Do you check for nests of stinging insects and take appropriate action for their removal?				
Are clotheslines high enough for people to walk under?				

LADDER SAFETY	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Are ladders inspected before each use, and replaced or repaired immediately if found faulty?				
Are wooden ladders coated with clear preservatives so that faults or cracks are visible?				
Are metal ladders free of weld cracks, missing rivets, etc.?				
Are the feet of the ladder in good condition?				
Do you face the ladder when climbing up or down or when working from the ladder?				
Are areas around the top and bottom of the ladder clear of obstruction or debris?				
Are straight ladders placed at a four-to-one angle (the base set 1 foot out for every 4 feet up)?				
Are metal ladders avoided where electrical contact is possible from overhead wires?				
When using a ladder, does it extend at least 3 feet above from landing level?				
Have you replaced any missing or damaged rungs on the ladder?				
Are two people involved when moving or erecting long ladders?				
Do you store ladders where they cannot be damaged?				
Do you always put a ladder on firm footing or compacted soil?				
Is work with ladders avoided during windy or stormy conditions?				
When working from a ladder, do you always keep the trunk of your body centered within the ladder rails?				

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SAFE LIFTING AND MATERIALS HANDLING	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Has everyone on your farm received instruction on safe lifting techniques?				
Is the “bend your knees” rule always followed?				
Is appropriate protective equipment (such as steel-toed boots and gloves) worn when lifting and handling materials?				
Are two people or mechanical means used to move heavy loads?				
Do you check for a clear pathway before lifting and moving objects?				

FIRST AID / EMERGENCY ACTION	Yes	No	Level of Priority	Date Hazard Corrected
Do you maintain first-aid kits in the following locations:				
◆ Home?				
◆ Workshop?				
◆ Tractors?				
◆ Combine?				
◆ Pick-up?				
◆ Farm truck?				
◆ Other vehicles?				
Are first-aid kits periodically checked and replenished?				
Has anyone on your farm received first-aid training in the last 3 years?				
Has anyone on your farm received training in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)?				

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