



# CHILD SAFETY ON FARMS

**SRDP** Farm Advisory Service

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Farms can be wonderful places for children to grow up, where independence and responsibility are fostered and family relationships strengthened. However, farms and farmyards are not playgrounds. They are hazardous.

## Moving Vehicles

- Keep people including children away from vehicles and areas where there are vehicles moving.
- Make sure your vehicles have good all-round visibility, check and clean mirrors and windows daily.
- Ensure all workers and those visiting the farm wear High-Vis jackets so that they can be seen.
- Provide a safe and secure play area.
- Keep young children off the farm.

## Tractors

Tractors are not designed to carry children.  
The law states that no child under 13 years old may drive or ride on tractors.

- DO NOT** allow children to ride in the cab of a tractor
- DO NOT** permit any child under 13 years of age and without the proper training and supervision, to drive a tractor.

## Quads and ATVs

- A farm quad is not a toy.
- Remember children under 16 years of age must not drive, operate or help to operate ATVs.
- Wear a helmet and complete appropriate training.

## Harmful substances

- Lock away all harmful, poisonous substances. Chemicals, pesticides, fertilisers, animal medicines, dosing guns and syringes must be put in a safe, secure place



## Falls and falling objects

- The best way of protecting children from falls and falling objects is to keep them away from the farm unless very closely supervised by someone not involved in farm work.
- Heavy objects such as spare tractor wheels, old gates and old machinery can fall on people including children so store them flat and secure.
- Store ladders away after use.
- Stop anyone from climbing bale stacks. Use machines to bring bales down.
- Protect open edges and pits so no one can fall in. Keep children away.

Learn more at <https://www.yellowwellies.org/child-safety-on-farms/>

## Farm Animals

Most people realise that bulls and rams are dangerous but female animals with their young can be very protective. Animals can see children as a threat.

Children who come close to a playful cow, sheep, pig or horse will be seriously injured.

Fully supervise children when they are visiting the farm to see animals. At busy times such as calving and lambing season, you will not be able to fully supervise your children so just keep them away.



## Infectious Diseases

Even apparently healthy livestock can carry disease which can be passed to humans - children are more vulnerable to the effects of these illnesses and can have serious repercussions.

If children are in contact with animals, their bedding or areas where there is slurry, dung, manure, always make sure they wash their hands with soap, change dirty clothing and clean their shoes.

## Slurry Tanks & Lagoons

Children will always try to get into places which are apparently inaccessible.

Fence off slurry tanks/pits/lagoons.

Keep pits secure when not in use.

Make sure tank covers are always in place and if slats are removed, cover exposed areas of the tank.

Remove any ladders or store them out of reach.

Slurry gases are very poisonous. Never put yourself in danger when mixing slurry - keep everyone away.

## A Safe Play Area

If young children live, play on or visit a working farm, it is essential that an area is set aside to allow them to play safely.

It should be a secure area with upright fencing to prevent children from climbing out.

It should also be close to the farm house so they can easily be supervised.