

# Farm Safety for Primary Students

## Teacher's Guide

### Learning outcomes

By the end of this presentation, children will be able to:

- Explain the importance of staying safe on the farm
- List the key safety rules
- Recognise dangers/hazards on the farm

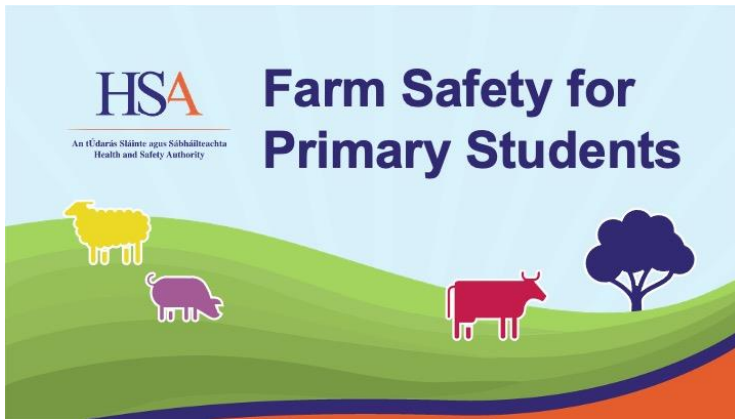
### Topics covered

- Safety signs
- Tractors and machinery
- Blind spots
- Quads and ATVs
- Livestock
- Falling from heights
- Slurry
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- The importance of hand washing
- SunSmart 5 S's

**A short quiz is available at the end of the presentation to help identify the hazards on the farm.**

**Additional resources are available at the end of this Teacher's Guide.**

## PowerPoint presentation



**No notes**



### **Script:**

(Peter)

Hello all you future farmers. Welcome to our farm safety tour! My name is Peter, and today I want you all to become champions for farm safety.

(Voiceover)

You may come from a farming family, live on a farm or you might visit relatives or friends on their farm. Or maybe you just live near a farm. Today we will look at the hazards on the farm.

Farms are great places to grow up, but in Ireland many children living on farms have been hurt and even killed and those accidents could have been avoided. We all love having friends over, but some kids aren't used to farms and don't know the dangers. Find a safe place to have fun with your friends.

## Dangers on the farm



What are some of the dangers you might find on the farm?



### Question:

What are some of the dangers you might find on the farm?

Answer: Tractors, Machinery, Livestock, Fall from Height, Slurry, Quads / ATV.

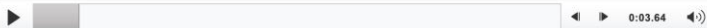
### Additional information:

- In the past 10 years, farm accidents involving children included falling from tractors, being hit by tractors or machinery, or falling from high places. (Further information on accident causation can be found on the HSA website).
- Many serious accidents have also occurred with animals on farms.
- We all need to stay safe on farms.

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## What we will learn



### Script:

(Voiceover)

In this video, we will look at safety signs and the importance of supervision on the farm, the dangers of tractors and machinery, especially when it comes to blind spots, and how to stay safe around livestock. We'll look at the dangers of falling from heights, how to stay safe around slurry, and the importance of not using quad bikes and ATV's. We'll also talk about how important it is to practice good hygiene on the farm and to make sure you're wearing your PPE and are being sun smart.

## Safety signs

- What is this sign telling you to do or not do?
- What could happen if you ignored this sign?



## Question:

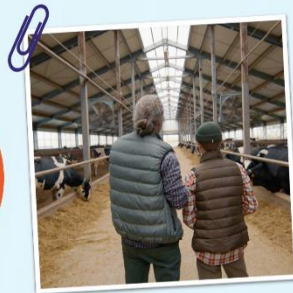
- What is this sign telling you to do or not do?
- What could happen if you ignored this sign?

## Answer:

The farm safety notice is telling you that you should not pass that point or enter on to the farm. It is highlighting the fact that machinery and livestock are present. You will typically see this sign on the farm gate or a building at the entrance on to a farm.

## Key message

- Remember, never enter a farm or farmyard without an adult with you.



## No notes

## Script:

(Voiceover)

This is a toy. It's for having fun with.

(Peter)

Look at the size of this machine. This is not a toy and if this was to hit you, it would do as much damage as a double-decker bus.

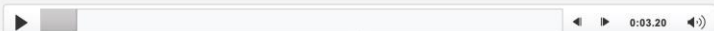
(Voiceover)

PTO shafts drive heavy machinery like agitators. The cover should always be on the PTO shaft. Your hair or your clothes

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## Tractors and Machinery



could get caught in the machinery. Can you imagine what would happen?  
If you see a machine or a tractor with the engine running and no one is around, stay well way. And make sure other kids keep away too.

## Tractors

- Children under the age of 7 must never ride in a tractor.
- Children between the ages of 7 and 16 may ride in a tractor, but it must have a properly designed and fitted passenger seat with a seat belt inside a safety cab or frame.



**No notes**

## Tractors

- Children under the age of 14 are never allowed to drive or operate tractors or machinery.
- Children over 14 and young persons who drive tractors must have attended and passed safe tractor driving skills training and be closely supervised at all times.



**No notes**

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## Blind Spots

### Script:

(Voiceover)

From up there in the cab, you look pretty small. The tractor is so big and high that there's a huge area around the tractor where the driver is blind to you. They just simply can't see you.

Tractors are loud as well. When the driver is in the cab and the engine is running, they can't hear a thing.

And if the driver can't hear you and can't see you, there's nothing they can do to

avoid hitting you. Remember, just because you can see the driver does not mean they can see you. Always keep back a safe distance and wear your hi-vis jacket.

**Blind spots**

**?** Why is standing near tractors when they are running so dangerous?



**Question:**


- Why is standing near tractors when they are running so dangerous?

**Answers:**

- If you are standing in the tractor's blind spots, the driver cannot see you.
- Tractors and machinery are very loud. Even if you call out, the driver probably won't be able to hear you and won't know that you're there.

**Additional information:**

Peter told us that if a tractor hit us, it would do as much damage as a double-decker bus. If you see a tractor or machine on the farm with the engine running, stay well away and make sure other kids keep away too. And remember, just because you can see the driver, that doesn't mean they can see or hear you.



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**Quads and ATVs**

0:03.65

**Script:**

(Voiceover)

This is a quad. It's for farm work. You're not old enough or strong enough to operate it. A quad operator must be at least 16 years of age and fully trained to operate a quad and they must wear a helmet. You should never be a passenger on a quad bike.

## Quads and ATVs

- You must never be a passenger on a quad.
- Only people who are 16 or over can operate a quad.
- They must pass a formal training course and wear a helmet.



**No notes**

### **Script:**

(Voiceover)

Livestock on the farm can be dangerous. You never know what they might do! You have to be calm and quiet around them. Remember, they're a lot heavier and stronger than you. They could really hurt you if they felt threatened.

A bull can appear to be quiet, but he can turn on you at any moment. He can run at 60 km per hour and easily catch you. He's a killer.

(Peter)

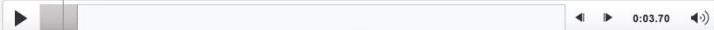
A horse is a fright to flight animal. You should always approach a horse from the side and you should never approach him from the rear as he may kick you. Also you should never approach a horse from the front as you are entering his blind spot.

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## Livestock

0:02.28



## Livestock



What livestock and other animals might you find on the farm?



Which animals are dangerous?



### Question:

- What livestock and other animals might you find on the farm?

### Answers:

- Cows, bulls, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, cats, dogs

### Question:

- Which animals are dangerous?

### Answers:

- All animals on a farm are dangerous.

### Additional information:

- Livestock such as bulls, cows, sheep, or pigs can all be dangerous. Freshly calved cows are particularly dangerous.

## Livestock



What dangers can you see in these pictures?



### Feedback on picture one:

- Cows with baby calves at foot will always protect their young. You should never go near a calf on its own as its mother is never far away. If you make the calf roar, the cow will come charging back to protect its baby. Just like your parents protecting you. You should never enter a field with a dog or cat as the cows will become agitated and could attack you.

### Feedback on picture two:

When working with farm animals, risks include being crushed, gored and kicked when they are being moved, separated, or released. The risk is highest when



animals are being moved, separated, and released during loading and unloading. When you are near livestock, stay alert to your surroundings. A highly stressed animal can be very dangerous and will try all options to get free, so keep out of the pen.

**Livestock**

**?** Why might puppies or kittens be dangerous on the farm?



**Question:**

- Why might puppies or kittens be dangerous on the farm?

**Answers:**

- You should never bring a puppy or a kitten with you when out around the farm animals. The farm animals might attack them, and the puppy or kitten will go to you for protection and then you could be attacked.



**Falling from Heights**



**Script:**

(Voiceover)

It's never safe to walk on a roof. It's made to keep out the rain, not to take someone weight. It's a long way down from up there. Don't be tempted to climb ladders, bales or anything else. Remember, if you can climb it, you can fall off it. We've talked about us falling off things, but things can also fall on us.

## Falling from heights

A fall from height can be:

- From the cab of a tractor
- From or through the roof of a building
- From bales in the field or in a shed
- Into a slurry pit or an open tank
- From a ladder, gate or fence



### Feedback on picture one:

- Remember, if you can climb it, you can fall off it. Never be tempted to climb a ladder, a gate or a fence. You don't have to fall far to get hurt.

### Feedback on picture two:

- Things can also fall on you in the farm. Stay away from anything that is stacked up, eg; bales, tyres, gates.

### Feedback on picture three:

- The gate could fall over on top of the young person, as it is not tied off.



### Script:

(Voiceover)

That's where all the slurry goes. The waste from the animals is collected during the winter. Slurry gas is a mixture of gases, including hydrogen sulphide. It's extremely poisonous to people and animals. That's what makes the horrible smell. Yes, it stinks!

Never go in the shed when the slurry is being mixed. It's not safe. You could be overcome by the fumes, and you could fall through the manhole of the tank.

(Peter)

Slurry tanks can be up to 3 meters deep. That's three times the height of you. If you fall in, you won't be able to get out and you will drown, and nobody will hear you. And if somebody tries to help you, they may also fall in too. Never take chances around a slurry tank, especially an open tank.

## Slurry

This is an open slurry lagoon.  
It doesn't have a cover on it.



What are the  
dangers here?

## Slurry

This is an open slurry lagoon.  
It doesn't have a cover on it.

**Never enter a slurry lagoon.**



What are the  
dangers here?

### Question:

- What are the dangers here?

### Answer:

- The young person should not be trying to collect the ball as they could fall in and drown.
- A young person could be overcome by slurry gas.
- A young person might try to stand on the crust and fall through.
- Another person might fall in trying to save them.
- **Never enter a slurry lagoon, keep well away, follow rules and advice from a responsible adult, don't ever retrieve a ball or toy if it goes into a danger area.**

### Additional information:

- You should never enter an open slurry pit for any reason. Do not try to walk on the crust. It won't support your weight. If you need help around a slurry pit, ask an adult.
- If you see adults working with slurry, especially mixing slurry with an agitator, stay well away as slurry gives off gases when its mixed which can make you very sick and even kill you. **Never** go inside a shed where slurry is being mixed.




Image 1- Shows a properly guarded slurry lagoon.

Image 2- Shows a properly guarded agitation point.

**It is so important that slurry tanks are always covered.** Be warned- not all slurry tanks and lagoons are covered.

**Slurry**

This is called an agitator. It is used to mix the slurry so the farmer can spread it on the land.



**What are the dangers here?**

**Question:**

- What are the dangers here?

**Answer:**

- As the agitator breaks up the crust and mixes the slurry, slurry gasses are released. Just one breath of slurry gas can kill you. No one should be near the slurry pit when the farmer is mixing the slurry.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Do you recognise this PPE?
- What is each item of PPE used for?



**Feedback on picture one:**

- It is always better to stay away from the farmyard, but, if you visit a farmyard with a responsible adult, remember to wear your hi-vis jacket. A hi-vis jacket will make you more visible on the farm.

**Feedback on picture two:**

- Gloves protect your hands on the farm.

**Feedback on picture two:**

- Proper footwear is important so that you don't slip or fall on the farm.

## Washing your hands

- It's very important to wash your hands when you come in from the farm.
- Always wash your hands after touching or feeding animals. They can carry nasty diseases which can be passed on to humans.



**No notes**

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## Healthy Ireland SunSmart 5 S's

### Script

Do you know SunSmart 5 S's?

Slip on clothing that covers your skin, such as long sleeves, collared t-shirts.

Slop on sunscreen on any exposed areas of skin. Use sunscreen with a minimum SPF of 30 or higher.

Slap on a wide-brimmed hat.

Seek shade – especially if you're outdoors between 11am and 3pm.

That's when the sun is strongest.

Slide on wraparound sunglasses to protect your eyes.

## Key points



- Never enter a farm or farmyard without an adult with you.
- Children under 14 should not operate tractors or machinery.
- Persons 16 or over can operate a quad bike, once they have passed a training course and wear a helmet.
- Always stay away from dangerous areas on the farm.
- Always wash your hands after touching or feeding animals.
- Be 'Sun Smart' and protect your skin.

**No notes**

### Question 1

What should you do when visiting a farm?

- a. Walk onto the farm without telling anyone
- b. Ask a responsible adult for permission
- c. Bring your pet with you



### Question

What should you do when visiting a farm?

### Answer

b) Ask a responsible adult for permission

### Question 2

If you see animals in a field, what should you do?

- a. Play games in the same field
- b. Stay out of the field
- c. Make lots of noise



### Question

If you see animals in a field, what should you do?

### Answer

b) Stay out of the field

### Question 3

What age are you allowed to be a passenger in the cab of a tractor?

- a. Seven years of age
- b. Two years of age
- c. Five years of age



### Question

What age are you allowed to be a passenger in the cab of a tractor?

### Answer

a) Seven years of age

### Question 4

On a sunny day, what should you wear?

- a. A raincoat
- b. A hat, heavy coat and scarf
- c. Suncream, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses



### Question

On a sunny day, what should you wear?

### Answer

c) Suncream, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses

## Question 5

Where could you get hurt if you are climbing?

- a. On a ladder
- b. On a roof
- c. On bales
- d. All the above

?

## Question

Where could you get hurt if you are climbing?

## Answer

d) All the above

## Question 6

When coming in from the farm, what should you always do first?

- a. Play
- b. Eat
- c. Wash your hands

?

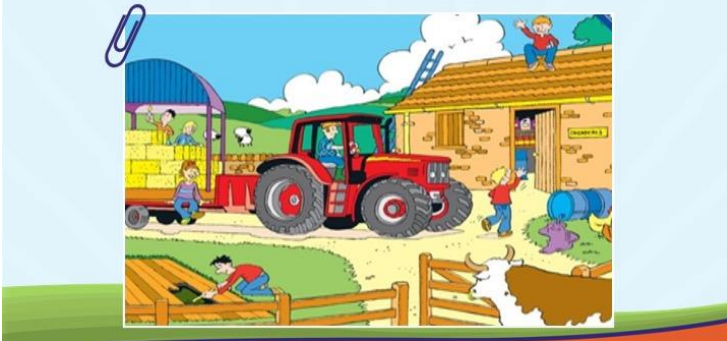
## Question

When coming in from the farm, what should you always do first?

## Answer

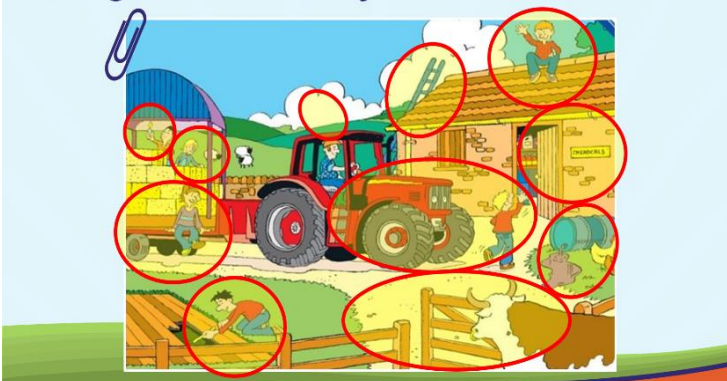
(c) Wash your hands

## Dangers / hazards in the farmyard



Ask the children if they can spot the dangers in the photo.

## Dangers in the farmyard



## Dangers

- Person holding a fire lighter (open flame) near bales of hay or straw
- Playing on the bales in the shed
- Child getting a ride on the trailer
- Child with the stick reaching into open tank
- Gate open and a bull just about to walk into the farmyard

- Person walking in front of the tractor, not looking at the tractor, waving up at his friend on the roof
- Flashing beacon/light missing
- Contents of the drum spilling out on the ground
- Door of the chemical store open
- A young person sitting up on the roof
- A ladder resting against the roof



**No notes**



## Resources



Children's Book - **Staying safe on the farm with Jessy** (40 pages) is an illustrated children's book about farm safety. Available at:

[https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/agriculture\\_and\\_forestry/stay\\_safe\\_on\\_the\\_farm\\_with\\_jessy.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/agriculture_and_forestry/stay_safe_on_the_farm_with_jessy.pdf)



**Children and Safety on Farms Information Sheet** (10 pages) provides advice for farm families, parents and children on farms. Available at:

[https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/agriculture\\_and\\_forestry/children\\_and\\_safety\\_on\\_farms.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/agriculture_and_forestry/children_and_safety_on_farms.pdf)



**Play Safe, Stay Safe on the Farm** (5 pages) is a short leaflet designed to raise children's awareness about safety on the farm. Available at:

[https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/agriculture\\_and\\_forestry/play\\_safe\\_stay\\_safe\\_on\\_the\\_farm.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/agriculture_and_forestry/play_safe_stay_safe_on_the_farm.pdf)



**Dangers of Slurry Gas - Just One Breath Will Kill** (YouTube video) shows a young girl going out to her father, who is agitating slurry and working on the farm, when she enters the shed and is overcome with slurry gasses. Available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGCo5h6D-gA&list=PLQPMBfIqHOLnuqfgCp5eKzTbi-1oEEoxg&index=2>

Further resources can be found on [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)