

TDI

Safety @ Work
Division of Workers' Compensation



Farm and Ranch Safety Audit Checklist

Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
www.txsafetyatwork.com
HS94-037D (05-24)



DISCLAIMER

This Farm and Ranch Safety Audit Checklist is provided as a public service by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (**DWC**) and the Texas Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program (**OSHCON**). Unless otherwise noted, this document was produced by DWC using information from staff subject specialists, government entities, or other authoritative sources. Information contained in this checklist is considered accurate at the time of publication. For more free publications and other occupational safety and health resources, visit www.txafetyatwork.com, call 800-252-7031, option 2, or email resourcecenter@tdi.texas.gov.

INTRODUCTION



The purpose of this audit checklist is to help identify and correct hazards commonly found on a farm or ranch before there is an injury or illness. By eliminating possible dangerous situations, the risk of harm to workers and family members can be reduced.

This checklist focuses on farm and ranch safety associated with livestock housing, tractors, farm equipment, grain handling, ponds, mowers, and pesticide storage. It deals with general safety concerns in these areas but does not address the risks of highly unique work operations, buildings, machinery, or the use of chemicals.

For more specific information about farm and ranch safety work procedures, refer to operator's manuals, warning decals, and other Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) farm and ranch [publications](#).

The following checklist can be used as part of a complete [job hazard analysis](#). When conducting a hazard analysis complete the following:

- **Inspect and identify hazards.**
Use this checklist to guide you through regular inspections of all operations, equipment, work areas, and facilities.
- **Assess the risks.**
Classify hazards according to their potential for causing personal injury or property damage.
- **Take corrective action.**
Establish priorities, decide on control measures, and implement an action plan.

The most important responsibility of any farm and ranch owner or manager is to ensure the safety and health of those around you. It is important to actively involve workers in developing and implementing a safety plan that is unique to your operations. While this checklist provides a general guideline to help you establish a safety plan, you are encouraged to customize this information to meet the specific safety needs of your operations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Farm and Ranch Safety Audit Checklist

Introduction 3

Farm Tractors..... 5

Power Take-Off (PTO) Equipment 6

Other Farm Machinery 7

Handling Facilities..... 8

Pesticide Storage..... 9

Grain Bins, Silos, Dryers, and Handling Equipment 11

Farm Ponds and Lagoons 12

Home Safety..... 13

Garage and Yard Safety..... 14

Farm Tractors

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Is the tractor equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS)?			
		Do you always wear seatbelts with ROPS?			
		Do you read the operator's manual and follow operating, maintenance, and safety recommendations made by the manufacturer?			
		Do you conduct a pre-operational inspection of the tractor and observe bystanders and hazardous objects before operation?			
		Do you enforce the "NO RIDERS" rule?			
		Is there a clean, reflective slow moving vehicle sign (SMV) on the rear of the tractor or the towed implement?			
		Are all warning labels readable and in place?			
		Do you lock brake pedals together before traveling on roads and do they operate evenly?			
		Do you use safety hitch pins and chains for towed equipment?			
		Is there a first aid kit and fire extinguisher on the tractor?			
		Do you provide adequate ventilation when operating tractors in buildings?			
		Are steps and operator platforms free of mud, debris, or tools that could cause slips or falls?			
		Are keys removed from the tractor to prevent children or unauthorized persons from starting them?			
		Do you stay away from ditches, pond banks, steep hills, or other areas where tractors easily roll over?			
		Do you travel with front end loader buckets low to the ground during transport?			
		Have all tractor operators on the farm received training on the equipment and reviewed the operator's manual?			

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Is mounted equipment always lowered before the operator leaves the tractor?			
		Are towed loads hooked to the drawbar and never higher?			
		Are clearances from overhead power lines checked when moving or towing loads?			
		Is the exhaust system on each tractor in good condition and free of leaks?			
		Do you wear hearing protection?			
		Do tires have good tread, proper inflation pressure, and are free of cuts or other damage?			
		Do you back up steep hills and use a low gear going down steep hills?			
		Are hydraulics in good condition and leak free?			
		Do operators avoid wearing torn, loose, or ragged clothing?			
		Do lights on the tractor function properly and provide adequate lighting for night operation?			
		Are wheels set at the widest practical setting to increase stability?			
		Do you always set the parking brake or lock the transmission in park when dismounting the tractor?			

Power Take-Off (PTO) Equipment

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Do all PTOs have shields and guards in place?			
		Are shields on PTOs checked periodically to ensure that they rotate freely (check with PTO off)?			
		Is the PTO always disengaged and the tractor turned off before working on equipment?			
		Is clothing close-fitting, long hair put up, jewelry not worn, and no laces or dangling items exposed?			

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Do you always avoid stepping over the PTO?			
		Are worn or defective PTO parts, like loose universal joints, replaced as soon as possible?			

Other Farm Machinery

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Is there a clean, reflective, "Slow Moving Vehicle" sign (SMV) on the rear of the machine?			
		Are all warning labels readable and in place?			
		Are all shields and guards in place?			
		Are hydraulic hoses free of excessive wear and leaks? (Check for leaks with cardboard or a piece of wood to avoid high-pressure oil stream penetrating through the skin.)			
		Are worn or defective parts replaced immediately after they are detected?			
		Do tires have sufficient tread, proper air pressure, and are they free of cuts?			
		Are children and non-working personnel kept away from the machinery during operation?			
		Is the power always turned off before servicing or adjusting the machine?			
		Are equipment manuals available and used by the operator?			
		Are towed machines equipped with safety hitch pins and safety chains?			
		Do you block movable parts before repair or adjustment (e.g. safety stops on cylinders, wheels chocked, implement pinned in transport position)?			
		Do you enforce the "NO RIDER" rule on machines?			
		Are you aware of clearances and overhead wires when moving high equipment?			

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Do you take hydraulic pressure off of the system before leaving equipment?			
		Are there fire extinguishers and first aid kits on machinery?			

Handling Facilities

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Are children forbidden to play in or around barns, pens, and feedlots?			
		Are gates and doors always closed after passage?			
		Are fences sturdy and well maintained?			
		Do steps and walkways have coarse-textured surfaces to prevent slips and falls?			
		Are outside ramps, steps, and entries protected from rain or spilled liquids that could freeze?			
		Is there a phone nearby with current emergency phone numbers posted?			
		Do buildings have adequate lighting protection?			
		Are there correct sizes and types of fire extinguishers and first aid kits available and checked regularly?			
		Are you cautious when handling animals with newborns and young?			
		Do you approach animals slowly and make them aware of your presence?			
		Do you wear shoes that provide good footing when handling animals?			
		Do you have quick safety exits from pens in problem areas?			
		Are vents and fans in good repair?			
		Are protective shields in place on feed augers, troughs, and equipment?			
		Are portable heaters in good condition, vented, and placed so they will not cause a fire if tipped?			

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Are heaters checked every six months for wiring, control, and plumbing defects?			
		Are manure pits covered with sturdy, well-fitted grates in good condition?			
		Do you always wear a respirator when entering a manure pit?			
		Is the manure pit or tank thoroughly ventilated before anyone enters?			
		Are electrical wiring outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters that have been checked?			
		Are ventilation fans cleaned and checked every six months to maintain proper air exchange?			
		Are safety harnesses used when entering manure pits and tanks?			
		Are "No Smoking" signs posted in the vicinity of manure storage areas and barns?			
		Are lagoons fenced and warning signs posted?			
		Are chemicals (fly sprays, medicines, etc.) kept in original containers and stored out of reach of children?			
		Do you wear rubber gloves when working with sick animals?			
		Do you clean up thoroughly after working with livestock?			
		Are all workers trained on how to properly handle livestock?			

Pesticide Storage

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Is your storage building secured and locked?			
		Is your storage building used for pesticide storage only?			
		Is the storage building not within 50 feet to 100 feet of a well?			
		Do you always store pesticides in accordance with the label?			

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Do you have an SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for each pesticide stored?			
		Is the building kept neat and orderly?			
		Is the building vented to the outside?			
		Is the building equipped or constructed to contain a pesticide spill (prevent leaks from contaminating the area outside the building)?			
		Do you have spill containment equipment available (flat-faced shovel, containment drums, absorbent material, etc.)?			
		Does the building have hazardous warning signs on all entrances?			
		Do you store pesticides in their original containers only?			
		Do you have a fire extinguisher in or near the building?			
		Are pesticides mixed outside or in a well-ventilated area?			
		Is there a reliable source of fresh water for flushing eyes or skin contacted by pesticides?			
		Do you have a plan for disposing of leftover pesticides and pesticide rinsate?			
		Do you have adequate protective equipment (gloves, boots, respirator, goggles, etc.)?			
		Is the storage area free of floor drains?			
		Are pesticides stored in a separate containment area from fertilizers?			
		Do you have a containment pad for mixing, loading, and unloading pesticides?			
		Do you have a containment pad for maintenance on sprayers?			
		Is a phone nearby with current emergency phone numbers posted?			
		Is first aid equipment available?			

Grain Bins, Silos, Dryers, & Handling Equipment

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Are entrances closed and secured to keep out children and unauthorized persons?			
		Are fire extinguishers mounted near grain dryers or storage bins?			
		Are propane tanks installed an adequate distance away from drying equipment (25 feet for up to 1000 gallons; 50 feet for 1000 gallons or more)?			
		Is gas plumbing protected from vehicles and equipped with quick shut-off valves at the tank and the dryer?			
		Are power lines buried near grain storage where conveyors are frequently moved?			
		Are ladder extensions for the first 8-10 feet removed and stored so children and visitors cannot climb up bins, silos, or elevator legs without authorization?			
		Are ladders attached securely and in good condition?			
		Are there safety cages around ladders on silos, tall bins, and elevator legs?			
		Are warning signs posted on bins, wagons, trucks, and silos to warn of flowing grain hazards and possible oxygen deficiency?			
		Do you wear a safety harness and rope and have two other people observe when you check in grain bins?			
		Do you never allow children to play in grain bins or wagons where grain flow is possible?			
		Are all shields and guards in place on unloading equipment?			
		Do you use a self-contained breathing apparatus when entering an oxygen-deficient atmosphere in a silo?			
		Do you use dust respirators in atmospheres containing grain dust?			
		Are your silos and bins free of cracks, corrosion, and structural problems?			

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Do you lock out and tag all electrical motors and controls before entering grain bins?			
		Do you lock out power so unloading equipment will not be started by accident?			
		Is electrical equipment protected from animals or other abuse that could cause it to short?			
		Do structures have adequate lighting protection?			
		Are electrical controls protected by ground fault circuit interrupters?			

Farm Ponds and Lagoons

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Are ponds and lagoons fenced off and marked as restricted areas?			
		Do you supervise all swimming and fishing in ponds?			
		Does your family know how to swim?			
		Do you have an easily seen and accessible life rope near the water that will reach across the pond?			
		Are current emergency numbers posted on a sign by the pond with current directions to the nearest phone?			
		Do you avoid swimming in ponds with a foul odor, cloudy water, or possible pesticide contamination?			
		Do you fill in old wells or maintain good covers?			
		Do people who ride in boats wear life vests or flotation devices?			



Home Safety

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Are smoke detectors installed in appropriate locations and working properly?			
		Are all firearms safely secured and stored unloaded?			
		Are electrical circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters, especially in bathrooms?			
		Are current emergency phone numbers stored in your cell phone or posted by the landline phone?			
		Are stairways clear of all hazards, and are handrails in good condition?			
		Do you use non-skid mats or surfaces in bathtubs?			
		Are all medicines disposed of upon expiration?			
		Are all electrical cords in good repair?			
		Are household cleaners, disinfectants, etc., stored up and away from children and foods?			
		Are handles of pots and pans turned away from the stove front?			
		Are cracked and chipped dishes disposed of immediately?			
		Do you have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen or near other heating appliances?			
		Are matches and lighters kept away from children?			
		Do you have a fire escape plan and has it been practiced with your family?			
		Is a flashlight located in an easy-to-find area for power outages?			
		Are fuse box circuits marked clearly and correctly?			
		Do you avoid storing flammable liquids in the house?			
		Do you avoid storing pesticides or chemicals in the house?			

Garage and Yard Safety

Yes	No	Safety Topic	If "no," who is responsible for correcting it?	Assigned completion date	Follow-up date
		Do you clear the lawn of branches, rocks, toys, tools, and other debris before mowing?			
		Do you wear heavy shoes while mowing?			
		Do you never leave a running mower unattended?			
		Does the lawn mower have safety shields?			
		Do you keep everyone away from the area while you are mowing?			
		Do you disconnect the spark plug before tipping the mower up and working under the deck?			
		Do you work across slopes with a push mower?			
		Do you work up and down slopes with a riding mower?			
		Is gasoline stored in an appropriate container?			
		Do you wear hearing protection while mowing?			
		Do you never pull a push mower toward you?			
		Do you wear eye protection when mowing and working with power tools?			
		Do you use power tools in well-lit areas?			
		Do you make sure ladders are secured at the base before using them?			
		Do you avoid using the top two rungs on a ladder?			





The Texas Department of Insurance,
Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC)
1-800-252-7031, Option 2
www.txsafetyatwork.com

Disclaimer: Unless otherwise noted, this document was produced by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation using information from staff subject specialists, government entities, or other authoritative sources. Information contained in this fact sheet is considered accurate at the time of publication. For more free publications and other occupational safety and health resources, visit www.txsafetyatwork.com, call 800-252-7031, option 2, or email resourcecenter@tdi.texas.gov.