Farm Hazard Inspection Checklist

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This checklist was developed to help you identify hazards commonly found on the farm. It can also provide you with some guidelines for removing them. When you eliminate potentially dangerous situations, you reduce the chance of injury or illness affecting workers, family members or visitors.

The checklist focuses on many of the hazards associated with farm work, livestock housing, storage structures, farm equipment and tractors. It deals with general farm safety concerns but does not address the risks of highly unique work operations, buildings, equipment or chemicals.

For information about safe work procedures, refer to operator's manuals, warning decals and publications on farm safety.

If you would like assistance in identifying and eliminating hazards on your farm, contact your Wisconsin county Extension office.

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Farm buildings and shop

- Are all buildings free of trash, junk or tools in walkways and work areas?
- 2. Are wood floors free of rotten or broken floor boards, exposed nails and other defects?
- Are concrete floors free from badly broken sections, raised areas, slippery spots or other defects?
- 4. Are stairs and ladders in good condition? Are handrails and stairs secure and free of objects and slippery substances?
- 5. Are ladder openings and hay chutes protected with cages or railings?
- Are low ceilings, beams, doors or passageways marked with warning signs, streamers, or other identification?
- 7. Are buildings lighted to illuminate walkways and work areas so you can see hazards adequately?
- 8. Are light fixtures in storage areas or damp or dusty work areas protected against breakage, dust, and moisture?

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Farm buildings and shop (cont.)

- Are all electrical outlets grounded to accommodate grounded (3-wire) appliances and equipment?
- 10. Are Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's) installed in the shop and common work areas, especially wet areas?
- 11. Are electric wires firmly supported or in conduit?
- 12. Does all electrical wiring insulation appear to be in good condition (not cracked, broken or brittle)?
- 13. Are all electrical cords in good condition (not cracked, broken or brittle)?
- 14. Are stationary power tools properly grounded?
- 15. Are portable power tools either double-insulated or the three-wire grounded type?
- 16. Can electrical equipment be locked in the "off" position? Is a lock available?
- 17. Does each major farm building have a telephone for use in the event of an emergency?

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Farm buildings and shop (cont.)

- 18. Are important emergency telephone numbers posted (fire, ambulance, sheriff)?
- 19. Does each major farm building have a well-maintained first-aid kit for use in the event of an injury?
- 20. Does each major farm building have an appropriate, fully-charged ABC-type fire extinguisher?
- 21. Are flammable liquids stored away from ignition sources? Are they kept in approved containers?
- 22. Are oily rags stored in an approved covered metal container?
- 23. Are above-ground fuel storage tanks at least 40 feet from any building?
- 24. Do above-ground fuel storage tanks have proper spill containment?
- 25. Is the area near fuel storage tanks kept free of weeds and other easily combustible materials?
- 26. Are "NO SMOKING" signs displayed in farm buildings and near fuel storage and refueling areas?

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Farm buildings and shop (cont.)

- 27. Are stationary power tools such as grinders, saws, etc., properly shielded?
- 28. Are hand tools in good repair?
- 29. Are tools and materials stored so they cannot fall?
- 30. Are chemicals and hazardous substances stored out of the reach of children and visitors?
- 31. Can hazardous work areas be locked to keep visitors and children out?
- 32. Is personal protective equipment (goggles, respirators, rubber gloves, earmuffs, etc.) available?

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Livestock facilities

- 1. Are pens, gates, chutes and lot fences adequate for the job, sturdy and well-maintained?
- 2. Are livestock pens designed to allow for easy escape from an aggressive animal?
- 3. Are livestock pens and work areas secured with locks to keep visitors and children out?
- Is livestock restraining equipment available and in good condition (for example, squeeze chutes, headgates, etc.)?
- 5. Are floors and walking surfaces clear of manure, mud and feed material?
- 6. Are manure lagoons posted with warning signs and fenced to keep visitors, children and animals out?
- 7. Are manure pit openings covered with secure grates and locked to prevent anyone from entering?
- 8. Are manure storage areas posted with warnings about manure gases?
- 9. Is manure handling equipment adequately shielded and well-maintained?

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Livestock facilities (cont.)

- 10. Are barn chemicals—pipeline cleaners, fly sprays, disinfectants, etc.—stored in original containers and in a location inaccessible to visitors and children?
- 11. Is feeding, grinding and other material-handling equipment properly shielded?
- 12. Are milking parlor and milkhouse floors sloped uniformly for proper drainage?
- 13. Are vents clear? Do ventilation fans operate properly?
- 14. Are portable heaters and other heating equipment in good condition? Are they properly vented and kept away from combustibles?
- 15. Are electric water heaters for livestock properly installed and grounded?

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Crop and feed storage areas

- Are entrances to grain, feed, or silage storage areas closed or locked to keep visitors and children out?
- 2. Are grain and feed bins clearly labeled to warn of the hazards of flowing grain or feed?
- 3. Are silos labeled to warn of the hazards of silo gas and an oxygen deficient environment?
- 4. Are silo and bin ladders secure and in good condition?
- 5. Do all bins have permanent ladders both outside and inside?
- 6. Do silos or bins taller than 30 feet possess a safety cage or climbing device?
- 7. Are all light bulbs adequately protected from dust, water and damage?
- 8. Are electrical motors and equipment kept clean of dust and provided ample ventilation?
- 9. Are overhead power lines located away from bins, silos and barns where tall equipment may be used?

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Crop and feed storage areas (cont.)

- 10. Can power be locked out to prevent unloading mechanisms and automatic equipment from starting?
- 11. Are locks or tags available to lock out equipment?
- 12. Are warnings posted in locations where automatic starting equipment is located?
- 13. Are equipment guards and shields in place and in good condition?
- 14. Are stacks of hay or round bales secured so they will not fall on someone?
- 15. Are respirators available when handling dusty or moldy crops and feed?
- 16. Are hearing protectors available for wearing around noisy equipment?

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Chemical storage areas

- Are chemicals stored in a room or building which can be secured from children, visitors and livestock?
- 2. Are entrances to chemical storage areas posted to warn others of the hazards inside and to inform firefighters of the contents in case of fire?
- 3. Do chemical containers have original labels?
- 4. Are chemicals stored in their original containers and never in food or drink containers?
- 5. Are all empty chemical containers disposed of properly?
- 6. Is smoking prohibited in and around buildings where chemicals are stored and when they are being handled?
- 7. Is the storage area well-ventilated and lighted?
- 8. Are chemicals mixed in a wellventilated area with spill-holding capacity?
- 9. Are respirators, rubber gloves, aprons, chemical goggles, coveralls and other chemical protective gear available?

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Chemical application equipment

- 1. Are all sprayer fittings, hoses, lines and valves in good condition and free of leaks?
- 2. Does each pressure gauge read accurately?
- 3. Do the tank covers on sprayers fit tightly to prevent spillage?
- 4. Is an emergency washwater supply available on equipment?
- 5. Is chemical protective gear available?
- 6. Are guards and shields on equipment in place and in good condition?

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Anhydrous ammonia equipment

- 1. Are all valves and fittings in good repair?
- 2. Have worn hoses been replaced?
- 3. Are rubber gloves and vent-free goggles for anhydrous use available for use with each applicator?
- 4. Are five gallons of fresh water mounted on each nurse tank or applicator as required by law?
- 5. Is a personal water bottle available on the tractor or for the operator to carry in a shirt pocket?
- Is each nurse tank or applicator used on public highways equipped with an unfaded SMV emblem?
- 7. Are tires and running gear on nurse tanks in good condition and properly inflated?

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Wagons and other hauling equipment

- 1. Are all tires in good condition and inflated to the recommended tire pressure?
- 2. Are all wheel lugs in place and tight?
- 3. Are hitches in good condition?
- 4. Are chains available and in good repair?
- 5. Are safety hitch pins available and used?
- 6. Are wagons hauling heavy loads equipped with brakes?
- 7. Does each piece of hauling equipment display an unfaded SMV emblem?
- 8. Are all lights and reflectors clean and in working order?
- 9. On PTO operated equipment, are PTO components properly shielded?
- 10. Are belts, pulleys, chains and shafts on power unloading wagons adequately shielded?
- 11. Are hydraulic components in good repair and free of leaks?
- 12. Are warning decals clean and undamaged?

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Portable augers and elevators

- 1. Are all belts and chains shielded?
- 2. Is the auger inlet shield in place?
- 3. Is the winch in good working order and prevented from "free wheeling"?
- 4. Is the winch cable free of corrosion, wear or damage which would reduce its strength?
- 5. On PTO operated equipment, are PTO components shielded?
- 6. Are there any overhead power lines near those areas where portable augers/elevators are located or generally used?

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Harvesting equipment

- 1. Are all guards and shields in place and in good condition?
- 2. If PTO-operated, are the PTO components properly shielded?
- 3. Is the operator's manual available in the cab or in the machine for reference when servicing and making adjustments?
- 4. Are the fuel, oil and hydraulic systems free of leaks?
- 5. Are all belts and chains properly adjusted and shielded?
- Is the safety latch, jack stand, and/or other safety locks in working order to prevent equipment from dropping?
- 7. Are ladders and steps in good repair and kept free of mud and grease?
- Does self-propelled equipment have a 10-pound (minimum) ABC type fire extinguisher?
- 9. Is each self-propelled or towed machine equipped with an unfaded SMV emblem?
- 10. Do all flashers and lights work? Are lights and reflectors clean?

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Harvesting equipment (cont.)

- 11. Are controls clearly marked? Do guages work properly?
- 12. Are warning decals clean and undamaged?
- 13. Are moving parts free of accumulations of crop materials?
- 14. Are tires properly inflated and in good condition?
- 15. Are cab windows and mirrors clean to maintain good visibility?
- 16. Are safety hitch pins available and used?

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Tillage and planting equipment

- 1. Are hydraulic components in good repair and free of leaks?
- 2. Does hydraulically-raised equipment have usable transport locks to take the load off the hydraulic system during transport?
- 3. Are all belts, chains and shafts adequately shielded?
- 4. On PTO-operated equipment, are the PTO components properly shielded?
- 5. Are tires inflated to the recommended pressure?
- 6. Are reflectors and SMV emblems clean, unfaded and undamaged?
- 7. Are safety hitch pins available and used?

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Tractors

- Do tractors have a rollover protective structure (ROPS) or a ROPS equipped cab?
- 2. Do tractors with a ROPS also have seat belts?
- 3. Is the PTO master shield in place and in good condition?
- 4. Are the fuel, oil and hydraulic systems free of leaks and maintained at recommended levels?
- 5. Are the operator's platforms free of grease, mud and tools?
- 6. Do all lights and flashers work?
- 7. Are reflectors and SMV emblems clean, unfaded and undamaged?
- 8. Have defective mufflers and other exhaust components been replaced?
- 9. Is each tractor equipped with a 10-pound (minimum) ABC type fire extinguisher?
- 10. Are cab windows and mirrors clean to maintain clear visibility?
- 11. Are tires in good condition and inflated to the recommended pressure?

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Tractors (cont.)

12. Can brakes be locked together for road travel? 13. Does the parking brake work? 14. Are controls clearly marked and gauges working properly? 15. Is a first-aid kit available? 16. Is the drawbar in proper position?

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Reference: Hazard Checklist for Agriculture, National Safety Council, Chicago, Illinois.

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RP-10-98-3M-150