

## All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are extremely useful on the farm. They can also be dangerous if not operated properly.

ATVs provide transportation on the farm and are used for many other jobs as well. More and more children are using ATVs, not only for working on the farm but for recreation as well.

If a child is going to operate an ATV, it should be size appropriate. Youth cannot handle a machine designed for adults. Every ATV is labeled with the suggested minimum age of the operator. Keep in mind, that while a youth may be the recommended age, not all of them have the strength, skill, or judgment necessary to operate an ATV.

If young people are using ATVs, they must have proper training and protective equipment. They should be able to fully comprehend the machine they are operating, because an ATV is only as capable as the operator.

Encourage your kids to avoid these risky behaviors on ATVs:

- ▶ Driving at excessive speeds
- ▶ Not wearing protective gear, like a helmet
- ▶ Taking unnecessary risks
- ▶ Allowing passengers

Train and supervise new drivers and reinforce the basics of driving an ATV. After all, it's much different than driving anything else.

- ▶ Don't drive on paved roads
- ▶ Watch your speed
- ▶ Stunts and other unnecessary behaviors are not allowed
- ▶ Avoid poor weather, low light, dangerous terrain, or if the ATV needs repair
- ▶ Don't drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol



ATVs have labels outlining the suggested age of the operator and other safety features.

