

ATV Safety for Parents

Using off-road vehicles (ATVs, 4-wheelers, quads, etc.) on the farm can help if done safely. They can also be a lot of fun to ride.

Whether used for work or recreational purposes, it is your responsibility as a parent to protect your children and youth when operating these vehicles. ATVs are not toys, even the small ones.

A few things to consider before your child uses an ATV for work or play:

- ▶ One of the most hazardous practices while operating an ATV is allowing riders with the driver. The extra person's weight alters the ATV's center of gravity and can cause the ATV to tip more easily. Discourage riders when operating an ATV to protect your child.
- ▶ Make sure your child has an attitude of safety. Attitude and behavior go hand-in-hand. Exercise your parental rights by insisting on a safe attitude before allowing the use of a potentially hazardous machine.
- ▶ Coordination and judgment are crucial to operating an ATV safely. Good hand-eye coordination, agility, and sense of balance will help protect your child.
- ▶ Does your child have the ability to analyze and solve problems? Incidents on ATVs happen fast and it's important that children and youth react quickly and appropriately when a dangerous situation arises.
- ▶ Consider your child's age when picking an ATV, but realize riding an ATV safely requires physical size and strength to maneuver properly. Age does not guarantee a perfect fit since everyone grows at a different rate. A 14-year-old boy may be as large as an adult, while his 16-year-old sister may be very small in stature.



Most ATV dealerships will post the following size recommendations:

- ▶ less than 70cc engine: 6 year or older
- ▶ 70-90 cc engine: 12 years or older
- ▶ 90cc engine: 16 years of age

