WORKING YOUTH

Objective: Identify hazardous jobs on the farm that youth under the age of 16 should not be doing.

Concept: This activity is designed for youth before they start working on the farm. It is important for youth to know which farm tasks they should not be performing. The size, power, and mechanisms of tractors and farm machinery can cause injuries if proper precautions are not taken. Youth are at high risk; they do not have the size, strength, knowledge, and training necessary to safely perform certain tasks and operate specific machines.

Federal laws regulate that no youth younger than 16 years old perform specific tasks off the family farm without attending a tractor certification class. These tasks are shown in the pictures on pages 22-24. The laws only apply to situations where youth are employed for work. If youth are working for their parents the laws do not apply, although the identified situations and equipment are just as dangerous. It is wise for youth to stay away from dangerous situations no matter who they are working for.

Targeted Age: Junior high school students, parents, and employers of youth workers

Time: 30 to 45 minutes

Material: Pictures of tractors and farm machinery identified in the hazardous occupational act. (Larger, colored pictures can be found on the internet or in farm magazines.)

Identify agricultural dangers, especially those most harmful to youth. The items in the charts on pages 22-24 represent each of the dangers that are outlined by the US Department of Labor. Fill in the charts with the hazards associated with each item.

Discussion: Have students share stories that show how youth can become injured while performing dangerous tasks. Ask the students to explain how the person was injured (body part, injury severity, work setting, etc.). Give suggestions about preventing a similar incident.

Question & Answer

Q: Are there laws that prevent youth from being employed on a farm?  
A: Yes, federal law states that youth under the age of 16 cannot work for hire performing some hazardous tasks.

Q: List jobs on the farm that aren’t prohibited, therefore allowing youth to work for hire while doing these tasks.  
A: Mowing lawns, picking berries, feeding hogs, repairing fences, loading hay, milking cows, painting, etc.

Q: There is a certification course that helps youth age 14 and 15 learn about working on the farm safely. What farm jobs can youth perform more safely because they took the certification course that otherwise they could not?  
A: Youth can safely operate a tractor over 20 hp, combines, grinder, tillers, and other machinery because they took a certification course.

Q: Where can you find out about the certification course?  
A: Call your local Extension office or FFA advisor and ask when and where the courses take place.

Q: The certification course targets what age group?  
A: The course is designed for youth between 14 and 16 years old. Other youth can take the class for their own well-being or if their parents want them to learn how to be safer on the farm.

(this activity is continued on the next page)
## WORKING YOUTH (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified Hazards</th>
<th>Why are youth at increased risk?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tractor over 20 hp</td>
<td>Example: The power of a tractor is greater than most other vehicles on the farm. Example: Youth often lack the knowledge and experience necessary to safely operate a large tractor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General machinery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized machinery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(this activity is continued on the next page)
## WORKING YOUTH (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified Hazards</th>
<th>Why are youth at increased risk?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![Livestock](bull.png)  
Livestock  
(male livestock such as bulls, boars, etc.) |                                  |
| ![Wood lot](logger.png)  
Wood lot (logger) |                                  |
| ![Ladder and scaffold](ladder.png)  
Ladder and scaffold  
(higher than 20 feet) |                                  |
| ![Transport](tractor.png)  
Transport (tractor with passenger) |                                  |

*(this activity is continued on the next page)*
## WORKING YOUTH (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified Hazards</th>
<th>Why are youth at increased risk?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toxic atmosphere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemicals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blasting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>