



NORTH AMERICAN
GUIDELINES FOR
children's
AGRICULTURAL TASKS

NAGCAT Fact Sheet

Background

Agriculture remains one of the most dangerous occupations in North America.

Unintentional injury can occur when adults and children mistake physical size and age for ability, and underestimate levels of risk and hazard.

In non-agricultural industries, there are regulations and work standards that indicate appropriate work for both adults and children. In agriculture there are no such standards and children are often assigned farm jobs based on parents' past practices, need for "extra hands" to get the job done, and preferences of the child and/or parent.

Purpose

The Guidelines were developed to assist adults in assigning safe and appropriate farm jobs to children 7 to 16 years.

The Guidelines were developed at the request of parents in the farming and ranching community.

Methods

A project team from the United States, Canada, and Mexico used the process of consensus development to generate guideline content. Extensive reviews of

existing literature were conducted. Discussions with groups of farm parents and teen workers were convened. Multi-disciplinary specialists provided feedback relating to accuracy of content.

A job hazard analysis framework was used to document variables associated with the range of agricultural jobs. Variables include:

- hazards
- injury/disease concerns
- recommended procedures
- approximate age
- level of adult supervision
- training required

The job hazard analysis was enhanced with a checklist to include the physical, cognitive and psychosocial abilities of children in relation to the variables of the job hazard analysis framework.

- childhood growth and development
- current agricultural practices
- childhood injury prevention
- occupational safety

Helping kids do the job safely is our goal!



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Results

The NAGCAT *Parent Resource* posters are grouped into booklets based on job type. Each booklet contains 6 to 10 posters. Booklets include:

- animal care
- tractor fundamentals
- implement operations
- manual labor
- haying operations
- general activities
- specialty production

A booklet with six jobs translated into Spanish is also available.

Each NAGCAT *Parent Resource* posters contains:

- job illustration
- adult responsibilities
- main hazards
- safety reminders
- developmental checklist
- recommended supervision

Contact Us



National Children's Center
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

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Recommendations

The guidelines can be used by:

- parents
- agricultural safety specialists
- educators
- youth groups
- health professionals
- farm organizations
- public health professionals
- media

Suggested uses of the guidelines:

- post in a prominent location for frequent, convenient reference
- promote developmentally appropriate curricula at youth safety events
- incorporate into program development
- understand the risks and hazards of different farm jobs
- utilize as a vital component in existing agricultural safety resources
- educate the media about occupational injury prevention among youth
- encourage parent's participation in assessing a child's readiness for work

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