

Livestock safety



Animals are a common source of injury to children in agricultural settings for several reasons:

- The size difference between a large animal and a small person
- An animal's unpredictability
- Children's lack of knowledge or skills
- Lack of proper protective clothing and helmets

Often children don't view livestock as dangerous. Children may approach animals the same way they do their pets. It's important to explain the difference between the family dog and other animals.

Different senses

Children should understand the differences between how animals and humans sense their surroundings.



- Animals see in black and white, not color.
- They have difficulty judging distances.
- Animals have extremely sensitive hearing and can detect sounds that people can't hear.
- Loud noises frighten animals and high-frequency sounds hurt their ears.
- Animals with babies are very protective and could become dangerous if their young are threatened.

Livestock safety tips for kids

Chores involving livestock care and handling are often one of the first responsibilities given to children. When working around animals encourage your children to:

- Be calm, move slowly, and avoid loud noises
- Wear steel toed shoes
- Avoid the hind legs of the animal
- Approach large animals at the shoulder
- Avoid animals with newborns
- Avoid stallions, bulls, rams, and boars
- Always have an escape route when working with animals in close quarters
- Wear helmets when riding horses



Animals are a great aspect of farm life, but they can also be a threat to the safety of those working with them. Teach children to be alert when around livestock.

Farm Safety



For additional information on animal safety, contact Farm Safety 4 Just Kids - www.fs4jk.org - 800-423-5437.