

School Holiday Parent Kit

SAFETY ON THE FARM

It's great for kids to experience country life – but beware of additional risks. Complete this safety checklist about your farm or the farm you're visiting.

A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY

- Is there a safe play area (eg. a fenced house yard) for small children that is securely separated from water sources, farm machinery, vehicles, work activities, driveways and other hazards?
- Does the safe play area have shade and interesting things for children to do?
- Are there 'out-of-bounds' rules for children who are not with a supervising adult, which are reinforced regularly?
- Do 'out-of-bounds' areas include all hazardous places (eg. dams, farm machinery and vehicles, silos, workshops and areas where stock are yarded)?

WATER

- Are swimming pools, effluent ponds, channels or dams separated from the house by a secure fence?
- Are tanks, wells and troughs near the house fitted with lids/mesh, and are unused dips and ditches filled in?
- Have those who look after children been alerted to keep watch of children who could wander off to bodies of water?
- Do those looking after children know how to resuscitate a drowning child (refer to the Water Safety fact sheet in this series)?

FARM MOTORCYCLES

Does the farm adopt manufacturers' recommendations and:

- Are children under 16 prevented from riding quadrunners (ATVs) or ride-on lawnmowers?
- Are passengers prevented from riding on quadrunners (ATVs) or ride-on lawnmowers?
- Are children appropriately trained and supervised when learning to ride two wheeled motorcycles?
- Do all riders always wear a correctly fitted motorcycle helmet, long pants, and sturdy footwear when riding farm motorbikes?

HORSES

- Are children only allowed to ride horses suited to their age and riding ability?
- Are children instructed and supervised appropriately when learning to ride horses?
- Do children always wear well-fitting riding helmets and smooth-soled riding boots when riding horses?

TRACTORS AND MACHINERY

- Are children prevented from riding as passengers on tractors and other machinery?
- Are children encouraged to keep away from tractors and machinery?

Machinery and children do not mix!

FARM VEHICLES

- Do children always use seatbelts and proper restraints and never ride in the back of utilities?
- When children are present, are adults careful when driving vehicles near the house?
- Are keys kept out of reach of children when vehicles are not in use?

OTHER HAZARDS

- Have other hazards (eg. firearms, chemicals, electrical equipment or silos) that children could access been identified and made safe?

For more information about child safety on rural properties visit www.farmsafe.org.au

KEY SAFETY MESSAGES

Provide a safe and secure play area for children and supervise children to reinforce the following safety rules:

- **always wear seatbelts or child restraints in farm vehicles**
- **don't ride on tractors, ATVs or on the back of utes**
- **always wear helmets when riding bikes, motorbikes and horses.**

DoCS thanks these organisations for their contribution to this fact sheet and invites you to visit their website for more information.

NSW HEALTH

www.health.nsw.gov.au



www.farmsafe.org.au



NSW Department of
Community Services



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