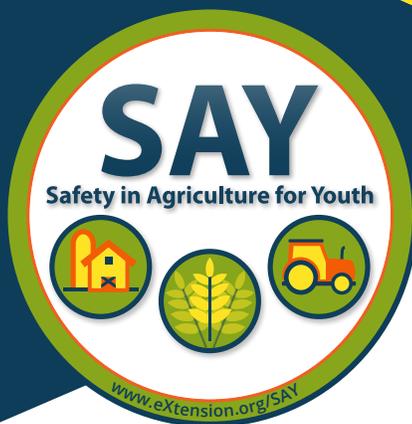


**SAFETY IN
AGRICULTURE FOR
YOUTH (SAY)
BELIEF STATEMENTS**





Agriculture is widely recognized as one of the most dangerous industries in the United States. The safety of youth working in agriculture should be paramount, and that is the focus of this document. The belief statements and guiding principles stated herein are intended to encourage parents, employers, agricultural organizations, agricultural educators, agricultural safety and health professionals, healthcare professionals, representatives of underserved populations, and other interested stakeholders to support and implement them within their own spheres of influence.

According to the most recent data¹, there are approximately 2 million farms and ranches in the United States that are home to nearly 893,000 youth. More than half (51%) of these youth work in agriculture, and over 265,600 non-resident youth are hired to work in agriculture. Agriculture provides life skills that are invaluable to youth, including work ethic and time management lessons, while providing an opportunity to earn money for their future. Youth working in agriculture are outstanding young people who flourish through these opportunities. They often participate in community programs such as 4-H² and formal agricultural education programs³.

In 2013 the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) funded the Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) project for two years and continued it for an additional year in 2015⁴. SAY is currently led by the Agricultural Safety and Health Program at Penn State University. The SAY National Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from several major agricultural constituent groups, educators, and safety and health professionals. The purpose of the steering committee is to provide overall guidance and direction for SAY activities. The members communicate with their constituent groups about SAY products, programs, and accomplishments. An important goal of the committee is the articulation of consensus-based beliefs and principles that promote safety and health for youth working in agriculture. It is through these practices that we can collectively improve the safety and health of youth working in agriculture.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

- ▶ Creating and promoting a culture of safety among youth working in agriculture is a primary goal for all stakeholders.
- ▶ All youth working in agriculture deserve protection from workplace hazards and risks that may be associated with agricultural worksites.
- ▶ Youth developmental principles are the basis for determining if and when a youth should participate in agricultural work.
- ▶ Supervision of youth performing jobs or tasks should be guided by professionally recognized best practices based on developmental stages of growth.
- ▶ Research and evaluation should guide development of safety and health best practice recommendations and guidelines.
- ▶ Evidenced-based, culturally appropriate models should be utilized to educate about agricultural safety and health.
- ▶ Hired youth working on farms subject to Occupational Safety and Health Act enforcement should be informed of applicable rights to a safe workplace, training, personal protective equipment, and to ask questions or raise concerns about their safety.

EVERY 3 DAYS
a child dies in a
agricultural
related
incident

\$1 BILLION
cost of childhood
agricultural
injuries per year

73%
of young worker
deaths are due
to vehicle and
machinery
incidents





GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PRACTICE

Based on the Belief Statements, the following principles are provided to guide practice in keeping youth safe in agriculture.

- Parents, employers, agricultural educators, healthcare providers, and safety and health professionals play critical roles in designing and implementing youth agricultural safety education and training that is comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, accessible, and effective.
- College and university agricultural science and education teacher preparation programs should include agricultural safety and health education that meets Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards and/or appropriate state standards.
- Secondary school education and programs should include agricultural safety and health education that meets Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards and/or appropriate state standards.
- Cooperative Extension education and programs should include agricultural safety and health education that is evidenced-based and meets appropriate state standards. Extension educators should consider developing safety and health educational curricula that align with AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards.
- Agricultural worksite hazard assessment programs should be in place, including regularly updated safety checklists, injury prevention programs, and regular review of health and safety best practices.
- Education and training for parents, employers, and other supervisors of youth workers should include instruction about:
 - Existing age-based work laws/regulations
 - Physical and cognitive abilities of youth
 - Need for appropriate supervision and training
 - Basic emergency response practices, both general and specific to the workplace
 - Basic hazard and risk reduction techniques such as the safety hierarchy, Job Safety Analysis, injury and near-injury investigations, and lockout/tagout.
- Youth workers should receive basic training in proper body mechanics due to musculoskeletal changes from physiologic growth and development, and to protect against cumulative effects of exposure to hazards.
- Youth should be encouraged to request help and/or additional training when taking on a new, unfamiliar task or experiencing difficulty with any specific task.



- ▶ Parents should and employers must provide opportunities for youth to receive safety and health training specific to any job or task they are assigned to, including but not limited to Job Instruction Training (JIT) and Tailgate Training techniques.
- ▶ Parents with family farm youth workers should reference current safety and health regulations to better understand high risk activities and best safety practices⁵.
- ▶ Parents, employers, and other supervising adults⁶ are encouraged to help youth obtain safety training through nationally recognized educational curricula and supporting resources such as those listed in the SAY National Clearinghouse.
- ▶ Parents, employers and other supervising adults should conduct a thorough assessment of weather, environmental, and equipment conditions prior to assigning work to youth.
- ▶ Parents should and employers must provide youth with appropriate personal protective equipment and training in its use and care as required by state and federal regulations.
- ▶ Hired youth work assignments must be in compliance with state and federal work safety regulations including but not limited to U.S. Department of Labor Hazardous Occupations Orders in Agriculture (Ag HOs); Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) General Industry 1910 and Agriculture 1928 Standards; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Worker Protection Standards (WPS) and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA).

WEBSITE LINKS

These links provide information useful in improving safety and health for youth working in agriculture. Many of the tools mentioned in the guiding principles, e.g., Job Safety Analysis, Job Instruction Training, can be found in these.

www.ag-safety.extension.org/SAY

www.progressiveag.org

www.osha.gov/SLTC/youth/agriculture

www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3071.pdf (Job Safety Analysis)

www.youthrules.gov

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hierarchy_of_hazard_control

www.ffa.org/thecouncil/afnr

www.gemplers.com/tailgate-training-tip-sheets

www.cultivatesafety.org

www.osha.gov/SLTC/controlhazardousenergy

www.careersafeonline.com

www.osha.gov/dcsp/products/topics/incidentinvestigation

www.farmsafetyforjustkids.org

SAY NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Jim Kahler, National Program Leader, 4-H

Jess McCluer, President, Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America

R. Kirby Barrick, American Association for Agricultural Educators (AAAE)

Marty Tartman, Director, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF)

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Katie George, Director of Educational Services, CareerSafe

Michael Womochil, Ag Program Director, Colorado FFA & Ag Ed

Steve Brown, Educational Program Specialist, Department of Education

Jill Kilanowski, Migrant Health

Marsha Salzwedel, National Children's Center

JayIn Havill, National Council for Agricultural Education

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Betsy Huber, President, National Grange

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William E. Field, Purdue University

Alyssa Ewell, QBank

Aida Balsano, National Program Leader, USDA-NIFA

REFERENCES

1. NIOSH (2016.) Interim Analyses of the 2014 Childhood Agricultural Injury Survey (CAIS). Morgantown WV: U.S. DHHS, PHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Division of Safety Research, unpublished.
2. 4-H, the nation's largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for a career tomorrow. 4-H programs empower nearly 6 million young people across the U.S. through experiences that develop critical life skills. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Cooperative Extension System and USDA, and serves every county and parish in the U.S. through a network of 110 public universities and more than 3000 local Extension offices. From: 2014 Youth Impact Report. National 4-H Council, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington DC. Report accessible at <http://www.4-h.org/about/annual-report/>.
3. There are nearly 1 million students enrolled in agricultural education in grades 7-12. The three components of school based agricultural education are: classroom/laboratory instruction (contextual learning), supervised agricultural experience programs (experiential learning) and student leadership development (National FFA Organization). Almost 640,000 students participate in FFA. The benefits of youth working in agriculture include an opportunity to gain college and career ready skills and responsibilities, acquire a good work ethic, and develop positive self-worth. From: National FFA Organization: Why Agriculture and FFA? Fact sheet produced by the National FFA Organization. Report accessible from National FFA Headquarters.
4. The Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) project is supported by USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture projects #2013-04341 Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) and #2015-10033 Sustaining the Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) Project.
5. These guiding principles recognize that under current law OSHA is not allowed to spend any of the funds appropriated to enforce any standard, rule, regulation, or order under the OSH Act which is applicable to any person who is engaged in a farming operation which employs 10 or fewer employees and does not maintain a temporary labor camp. All belief and principles are consistent with current law.
6. Other supervising adults refer to relatives, neighbors, teachers, or other adults that assign and/or oversee youth working in agriculture.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

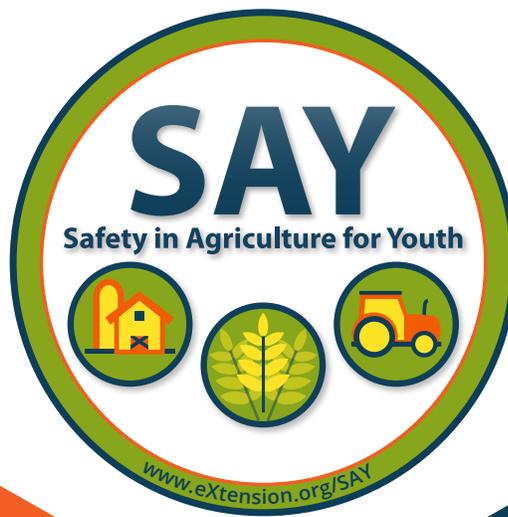
The organizations and groups listed here are fully committed to supporting measures that improve safety and health for youth living and working in agriculture. This support does not mean that every organization or group fully endorses all belief statements and guiding principles. To inquire about adding your organization or group to this list, please contact Aida Balsano, NIFA National Program Leader for Youth Farm Safety, at abalsano@nifa.usda.gov or 202-720-3346.

- Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA)
- AgriSafe Network
- American Association for Agricultural Education
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
- CareerSafe Online
- Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
- College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Utah State University
- Grain Handling Safety Coalition (GHSC)
- Great Plains Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
- High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
- National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety
- Carle Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Council for Agricultural Education
- National Council of Agricultural Employers
- New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH)
- Carle Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Council for Agricultural Education
- National Council of Agricultural Employers
- New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH)
- Ohio State Agricultural Safety and Health
- Penn State Agricultural Safety and Health Program
- Progressive Agriculture Foundation
- Purdue University Agricultural Safety and Health Program
- Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education
- University of Illinois Extension Agricultural Safety Program
- Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH)
- National FFA Organization
- National Grange

By working together, we can be sure that young people in rural America have the opportunity to reap the many benefits of helping out on the farm, while also staying safe.

Tom Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture





GET INVOLVED

To stay up-to-date on the SAY project and its objectives, sign up for alerts by subscribing to:

SAY-L-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu

Join our social media networks for regular updates, relevant news, and exciting opportunities.

 @AgSafety4u

 @AgSafety4u