

AgriKids Farm Safety Ambassador

DISCUSSION SHEET



Theme 4: Slurry and Water Safety

Level: Infants

Objective

In this theme the children will learn about slurry and water safety as well as being introduced to where and how other toxics might be used on a farm.

Learning outcome topics

1. Water safety and staying safe around water areas on a farm
2. Knowing the dangers around slurry & agitation of slurry.
3. Knowing examples of chemicals used on a farm & safety regarding same.

Tip: You can use the Farm Safety Workbook in conjunction with this discussion.

Topics

1. Staying safe with water

Ask the children where on a farm you might see a large area of water or water stored?

Here is a list that will help the conversation.

- River
- Lake
- Pond
- Animal drinkers
- A ditch
- A drain
- A barrel
- A slurry pit



Images licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

Now ask the children how farmers or people visiting a farm can stay safe when around a water area.

- Put up fences around pits and open water
- Cover the tops of barrels
- Put up signs warning people
- Fill in holes that could fill with water
- Make sure ditches are not blocked

Ask them what might happen if these things are not done!



The Signs

Remind the children never to approach an open water area alone and to always look out for the safety signs.



2. Lets learn about slurry and slurry safety!

Getting started – ask the class the following questions:

a) What is slurry? (This is always a fun question to ask children!)

Hint: It is on a farm and it is very important and is a little bit smelly!

Ans: Slurry is the mixture of manure and urine produced by farm animals such as cattle, chickens and pigs.

b) What is slurry used for?

Ans: It used by farmers to fertilise their grass and is typically stored in a slurry tank or a slurry pit.

c) Why might slurry be dangerous?

Ans: Slurry can be a drowning hazard so farmers must be care no person or animal can fall in. Also it can be poisonous as gases can build in the slurry tanks when left for a long period of time. These gases can escape or are released when the slurry is mixed (also known as agitating).

d) Where does the farmer store their slurry

Ans: Slurry is kept in a tank and is made up of solids and water, this makes it a drowning hazard and it must be fenced off to ensure no people or animals falls in.



Slurry mixing point



Slurry mixer (agitator)



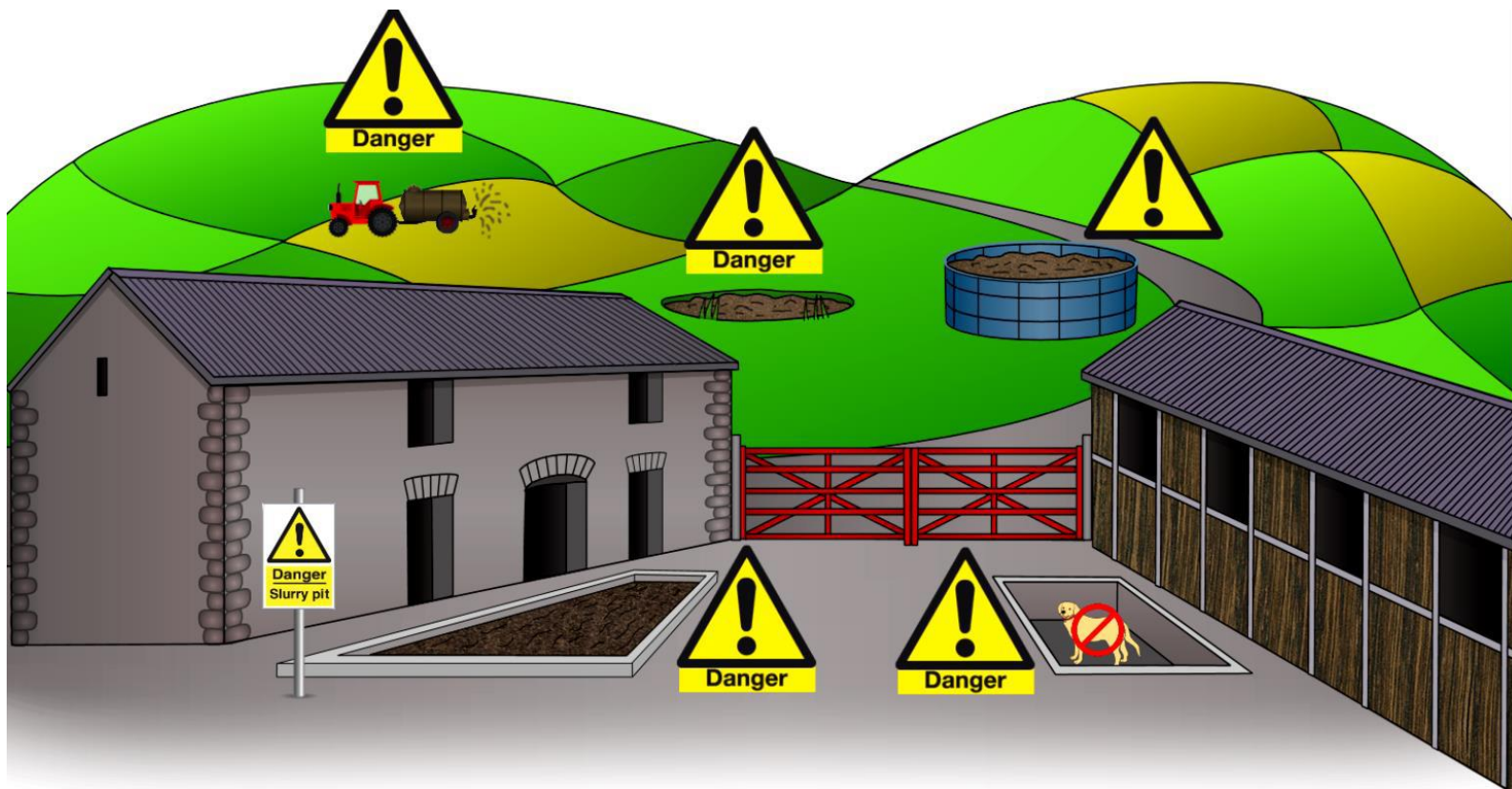
A tractor is used to power the agitator.



Spreading slurry on grass

Copy and circulate this picture to the class or show it on the white board and discuss the following:

- What is the farmer doing in the field?
- How many types of slurry pits can you see?
- Why is slurry dangerous for animals and people?



Tip: a great way to explain how gas is released during agitation is to shake a fizzy bottle and open it slowly so the children can hear the gas escape!



3. Other chemicals used on a farm & staying safe.

Farmers use many different chemicals to help them on their farms.

- Fertilizers – help crops to grow
- Oils – for machinery
- Disinfectants - keep yard clean and hygienic especially in areas with animals and young animals.
- Animal medicines



Staying safe:

If working with chemicals, farmers must wear the correct clothing and safety accessories:

- Overalls
- Gloves
- Face Masks
- Boots

Farmers must lock all chemicals away!



Follow up activities & projects

- Complete the activities in the workbook
- Check out our white board and PC games: Farm Yard Safety, Off to Work and Follow the Signs on agrikids.ie
- Download and fill in our 'Spot the Dangers' worksheets.
- Sign up for an AgriKids webinar
- Invite a farm representative from IFA or Teagasc to show the children more about animal care and safety
- If you have a model farm in class add in an area for a slurry pit and put up the correct signs.
- Check out the PAWS the water safety programme from Irish Water Safety.