

AgriKids Farm Safety Ambassador



Theme 1: Farm yard, Field & Electricity Safety

Level: 1st – 2nd Class

Objective: Learn about the specific hazards on a working farm and how to recognise the various safety signs used.

Learning outcome topics

1. Visiting a farm safely we.
2. Remember the signs?
3. Keeping our yard tidy
4. Where the dangers might be – Farm yard zones
5. What is electricity made of and how is electricity used on a farm?

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

The Topics

1. Know the farmyard – Do your Farm Safety Checklist

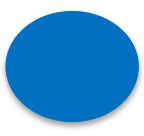
Before visiting a farm, outline what the children 'Need to Know, Before they Go!' On the board write up the following titles which the children can replicate in their workbooks.

- a. Who are you going with?
 - a. Reinforce the message 'We never visit a farm alone'
 - b. Why do we not visit a farm alone?
- b. What kind of farm are you visiting?
 - a. Speak about the different kinds of farms there are.
 - b. What will you see on these farms?
 - c. What kind of dangers might there be on the farm you are visiting?
 - i. Animals
 - ii. Machinery
 - iii. Chemicals
- c. Are there big jobs planned on the farm that day?
 - a. If there are, ask the children why we don't visit a farm during busy times
 - b. What kind of big jobs might be on a typical farm (bringing in silage, moving animals, mixing slurry).
- d. What will you wear?
 - a. Your boots (not roller skates, or high heels, or heellies!!)
 - b. A coat if it is cold or rainy
 - c. A hi vis vest
- e. What kind of warning signs you will see?

Are the children aware of the various signs they may see while on the farm. If not remind them by leading conversation to the 'Know the signs' section below.

2. Know the signs

Use the guide below and hand signals to help the children learn about the colours and symbols used on safety signs.

Signs – Know your colours & Shapes				
Shape	Meaning	Colour	Example	Hand signal
 Circle with a diagonal bar	Prohibition (no, stop, do not go)	Red (White contrast)	 Children do not cross	
 Blue circle	Mandatory (You must, you have to)	Blue (White contrast)	 Wear eye protection	
 Triangle	Caution / Warning	YELLOW (Black contrast)	 Danger - Flammable	
 Square / Rectangle	Safe area or condition	Green (White contrast)	 Safe area to assemble	

3. Keeping the yard tidy and avoiding trip hazards

Keeping the yard tidy can help the farmer in many ways, eg.

- Easily locate items when needed
- Helps prevent trips and falls from items left lying around
- Is a better way to maximise space when tools and equipment is kept tidy

What are some easy ways the farmer can keep their yard tidy?

- All tools are put away after use
- All chemicals are stored away
- Bales are stacked safely (no wobbly ones)
- Ladders are not left lying against the wall
- Signs are put up to warn people

Can the children think of anymore ways to keep the yard tidy. Can these ideas also be used in their classroom, school and at home?



4. Around the Farm!

We are now going to take a walk to some areas around the farmyard. First up are the sheds and animal pens. Ask the children to mention some of the dangers they might find in each zone. The prompts below will help with your discussion. Finish off by familiarising the children with the safety signs used in each area. If some children seem more knowledgeable than others, ask them to take more of a lead in the conversation. You can pick and choose the level of detail depending on your class's ability.

Finish off by familiarising the children with the safety signs they should see in each area.

The Farm Yard Zones	Safety	What signs?
The Sheds The question: What are the sheds? What are they used for? Sheds and outbuildings are very important on a farm. They house and protect many aspects and outputs of the farm. We will learn more about chemical storage in Theme 4 so here are other types of shed on a farm: • Grain storage • Hay and straw bales • Animal pens • Machinery storage • Machinery repairs • Animal feedstuffs 	The Dangers: • Falling from bales • Falling through a roof • Items falling from overhead • Fire <u>Falling:</u> Bales, pallets and tyres are often very wobbly and can easily fall. A falling bale or tractor tyre can weigh as much as several grown adults. Extra care must also be taken when fixing rooves – they may not be able to support an adult's weight. <u>Staying Safe:</u> So stay away from ladders and bales, pallets, tyres or anything else that you might find piled up on the farm. Never try to play on old swings – the ropes may be rotted and dangerous. Farmers should make sure that ladders are tidied away and not causing any unnecessary temptation. Farmers should remove old rope and tyre swings from their farm sheds Beware of any moving machinery or machinery parts in a shed, such as a PTO which can cause entanglement.	The signs: 
The Farm Yard Zones	Safety	What signs?
The Animal Pen The questions: 1. What kind of animals are on a farm? 2. What animals may be in the pen / shed? 3. Can the animals also be outdoors? Typical animals housed indoors are: • Cattle • Horses • Sheep • Pigs • Chickens • Bulls	The Dangers: <u>Animals & Young:</u> Birthing time is a very stressful time for the animals and farmers have to be extremely careful around those animals who are likely to attack while protecting their young. Did you know: Freshly calved cows can cause more accidents on farms than a bull! <u>Medicines:</u> Some animals may require some medicines, never touch any bottle that you may see in a shed. Always tell an adult if you see any that may be there by accident.	The signs: 

Many farmers will keep animals indoors at different times of the year. In spring time many sheep and cattle are indoors as they prepare to give birth.



Bulls:

Bulls are very territorial creatures, this means they protect their pen or their field and don't like anyone getting too close.

Staying Safe:

Keep back from animals and their young especially in the early days since birth.

Never enter a pen or field with a bull!

Wash your hands every time you touch an animal. Zoonosis is the spreading of disease from an animal to a person, handwashing can prevent the spread.

Farms set up footbaths to disinfect shoes and boots which prevent diseases spreading amongst groups of animals



The Farm Yard Zones

Fields

The question: What are the fields used for?

On a farm the farmer has many uses for their land!

- Feeding animals
- Growing crops for humans
- Growing animal feeds
- Growing animal bedding
- Orchards for fruit growing

They also add to the scenery and sometimes you can be lucky to be able to enjoy a picnic or a walk – but always make sure you have permission!

Never leave a gate open after going into a field. The rule of gates is that if it was open when you got to it, leave it open. If it was closed when you got to it, close it behind you.

It is never safe to climb over fences, or to go into fenced off areas. They are fenced off for a reason!

Safety

The Dangers:

Animals:

Never enter fields where there are animals and their young.

Bulls are extremely dangerous and should be avoided at all times.

Electricity:

Can you recognise electric fences by their wires, and the subtle clicking sound? Never touch an electric fence!

We learn more about electricity in the next section.

Water:

Ditches, drains, water troughs, ponds, rivers or streams may be present in the field. Do not approach in case you slip and fall.

On a farm yard uncovered water barrels, water drinkers or even unfilled holes can be dangerous to those working on the farm.

Stay Safe:

- Look out for signs that warn you of any dangers.
- Stay out of fields that have a bull or cows with young calves grazing.
- Never enter a field that is not your property, this is trespassing.
- Be careful of the fencing such as barbed wire and electric wire on their fences – you could get cut or get a nasty shock!
- If you open a gate, always close it after you!

What signs?

The signs:



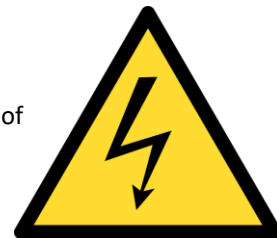
5. Staying safe with electricity on the farm

What is electricity?

Start by asking the children what they might already know about electricity and then create list of what is electrical in the class room and how they know it is electrical.

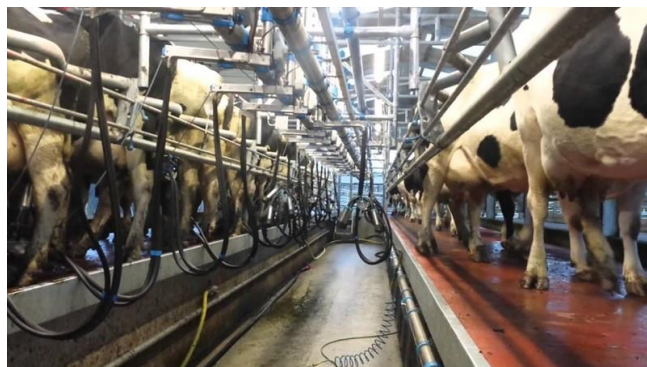
Electricity is a kind of energy that can give things the ability to move and work.

Eg. A TV, a hair dryer, lights, vacuum cleaners. All things with a plug use electricity to work.



Where and how would a farmer use electricity on their farm?

- Lights in sheds
- Electric fences
- Clippers to clip sheep's wool
- Heated lambs to keep new born animals warm.
- A dairy parlour



Electric Fences

Can you recognise electric fences by their wires, and the subtle clicking sound?

Never touch an electric fence, you could get a terrible shock.



Pics: Vet South & Martin Pot <http://martybugs.net>



Staying safe

Electrical cables on telegraph poles can be dangerous. Avoid playing with kites near overhead cables, and avoid using fishing rods near overhead cables.

If there is a broken cable on the ground, never approach it and call the electricity company immediately.



Follow up activities & projects

- Complete the activities in the farm safety workbook
- Build your own model farm and show how to stay safe in the different zones – eg. put up signs.
- Try the Lesson Plan for this Theme.
- 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.
- Colour and cut out the Farm Safety Signs and hang them in your classroom
- Create a farm safety mural in your school hall for everyone to see
- Test the theory of wobbly bales with a game of Jenga.
- Sign up for an AgriKids webinar
- Invite a farmer to your class and ask them how they stay safe on their farm
- Ask a member of ESB Networks to your class to talk about electricity safety
- Ask a fire safety officer to talk to the children about fire safety