

Teagasc Notes for week ended Friday July 26th 2019

Last week's Farm Safety Week highlighted some stark facts around farm safety in relation to children, with 12% of all fatalities on Irish farms being children. This week we will highlight some of the things you can do to keep your children, grandchildren, neighbours children etc safe this summer.



**12% of all fatalities
on Irish farms are children**

- Provide a safe play area
- Remove hazards to children
- Explain the dangers
- **DO NOT** leave children unsupervised

Child Safety

The main responsibility for securing the safety and health of children and young people rests with adults. All family members and people working on farms are required by law to do everything reasonably practical to ensure the safety and health of children and young people on the farm. It is often believed that farm children understand farm risks, but most children who die in farm accidents are farm children.

The Key Risk Areas to child safety are:

- **No safe play area.** This is strongly recommended by the Health & Safety Authority for children under 5 years of age.
- **Lack of supervision.** Children require supervision at all times. Always get 2 or 3 days notice when children are bringing home friends from school so as proper supervision is in place.
- **Children driving or operating farm machinery.** Children under 16 years of age should not operate self-propelled machinery, power driven machinery with cutting, splitting or crushing mechanisms. Using chemicals should also be considered off limits. Keys should be removed from vehicles and controls left in neutral. Lower any loaders to the ground and apply the hand break.
- **Risks posed by animals.** Animals need not be dangerous to pose a danger to children; sheer size can cause serious injury from crushing. Veterinary medicine not securely stored may also

cause death. Children should be trained to always wash their hand after being with animals or pets.

- **Stacks of Bales.** Children should be discouraged from using bales of any description for playing. It is very easy to fall from stacked bales resulting in serious injury or fall between them leading to suffocation. Make sure there is no evidence of children burrowing under stacked bales. Keep matches in a safe place.
- **Chemicals.** Children under 16 should never handle chemicals. Always keep them in their correct containers and securely stored.
- **Drowning – water and slurry.** Slurry pits and lagoons should be safely secured. Children should never be in the vicinity during slurry agitation or spreading. Sheep dips and water tanks should be kept covered when not in use.
- **Ladders.** Store ladders flat on the ground or on wall brackets to prevent children climbing.
- **Carrying passengers on farm machinery.** Be very aware that children can interfere with controls, if left alone in a tractor cab. Many children have been killed falling from the door or rear window of tractors. There is also the possibility of been distracted when doing intricate jobs which is not taken into consideration.
- **Remember farms are not playgrounds.** Children will often get into apparently inaccessible places. Make sure you exclude them from potentially dangerous areas. They should not be allowed in farm yards on busy days.

Contractors should always be made aware of the presence of children.

Events

1. Anyone interested in doing a dairy start-up course this Autumn? Please contact your local Teagasc office to apply this week as places are limited.
2. Sheep Farm Walk - Sheep for Profit – Teagasc Waterford will hold a sheep farm walk on the 30th July on the farm of Tom and Patrick Power, Glenanane, Ballinamult, Co. Waterford. Eircode E91 H951 starting at 11am.

Topics and speakers will include:

1. Fergus Bogue – Grass 10 Programme Teagasc- Simple steps for getting the most from grass
2. Damian Costello – Teagasc Sheep Specialist – Economics and lamb performance at pasture
3. Catriona Foley and Austin Flavin – Waterford local advisors – Fencing and facilities.
There will also be a fencing demonstration

This is a KT approved sheep event and registration will be from 10.45-11.45.