



A Farm Safety Management Plan for Alabama Farmers

Why should my farm have a safety management plan?

Each Alabama farm with one or more paid farm workers should have a farm safety management plan. All farms with ten or more gainfully employed farm workers are subject to Occupational Safety and Hazard Act regulations. Federal law requires all employers and businesses to provide a safe working environment for those workers. You may review OSHA regulations online at <http://www.osha.gov>

Any business under OSHA regulations is subject to fines and regulatory action if there are unsafe conditions at any workplace or if any employee has been injured or killed from such circumstances.

This program will accomplish the following:

- Reduce farm injuries and fatalities on your farm
- Reduce liability of the farm entity such that all workers will have been trained on safe practices on a specific farm, a specified responsible farm worker has been designated to answer any questions about safety at any time, and all pertinent safety rules have been posted at a specified location for all farm workers to review as needed

Safety rules reduce fatalities and serious injuries if farm workers embrace the rules and the overall concept of safety. The two categories of rules are general and specific. General rules apply to all farm workers, while specific rules apply to certain tasks, such as operating a tractor or working in the shop. Some employees will need to heed all the rules, and others assigned to more specialized tasks will only follow the rules that apply to those tasks.

What should my plan include?

All rules for each specific farm must be customized by each farm owner or manager. Each farm has different tasks and performs each task differently. Each farm safety trainer will need to review all rules once or twice annually, deleting those that no longer apply and adding new rules to cover all new ways of doing tasks. This can be

modified based on the safety history of that particular farm and the way tasks are currently being performed. The farmer committee suggested that all workers be asked to provide input in making changes in all farm rules and to provide an incentive for them to do so. Some members of the farm safety advisory committee suggested that a Christmas bonus be provided to workers who practiced farm safety and had no serious injury during the year or specified time period. A certificate could be given to all workers who suggested rule changes that were put in place; this indicates that these workers take safety seriously.

Where can I find more information?

Extension is offering a list of rules to get all farm managers and owners started, but please make sure you review your rules at least annually and update as needed. The list of general safety rules will need less revision than the specific task rules, but be sure you look at all of your farm's rules on a regular basis. This could be a good activity for your safety manager during a subsequent meeting with the employees. It could serve as a review of the rules by the workers while allowing them to provide input on any needed or obsolete rules. This meeting should be documented with records kept in your safety file for future reference.

Don't forget to correspond with your Alabama Cooperative Extension System County office for updates on farm safety training literature, training events, and workshops available to you and your farm workers. A comprehensive list of training materials is available to all Alabama farmers at your county office or from Auburn University.

Contact Dr. Jesse LaPrade at Auburn University for any farm safety needs.

108 Duncan Hall

Auburn University, AL. 36849

Office: (334) 844-5533

Cell: (334) 707-9534

Included in this packet are blank forms that you can use to document your effort and reduce your liability. These forms can be used as they are or as a guideline for creating your own forms. A list of farm safety rules, both general and specific, can be found on the Alabama Cooperative Extension farm safety Web site. For assistance in developing a safety management program, please contact your county Extension office.

You may copy these rules and post them on your farm for all farm workers to review as needed. Also provide them to newly hired workers when they are trained for the first time. It is recommended that this signed form and a copy of written training material provided to the farm worker be clipped together and kept on file, perhaps in a file titled *Worker's History* under the heading *Safety Training*.

This program will be on the Extension Web site for you to access as needed. You are not alone in this effort; the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is committed to helping all Alabama farms reduce fatalities and serious injuries. The Web site will also include farm safety training literature updated on a regular basis.

Visit <http://www.aces.edu/farmsafety> for more information.

Safety never goes out of style or becomes obsolete.



Farm Safety Management Plan

Name of farm:

Date of enactment:

Statement of Purpose

To prevent the loss of life, property, and revenue on above named farm

Statement of Commitment

All employees will be trained on safe use of equipment, proper attire, and proper work environment to reduce risk of fatality and serious injury to all workers on above named farm.

The farm manager, Mr. / Ms. _____, is responsible for training all farm workers about safety on this farm. See _____ for help or questions about all safety issues on or pertaining to this farm.

Approved by _____, Manager or Owner



Farm Safety Management Plan

Employee Training Verification

Name of farm:

Mr. / Ms. _____, a newly hired worker, was trained verbally on farm safety and was given written information of which a copy is on file, on ____/____/____, and this is verified by _____ . (trainee, please sign)

The farm safety instructor is Mr. / Ms. _____, farm manager for above named farm. Any questions about safety issues on this farm will be handled by _____ .

Trainee verification

Instructor verification

This document acknowledges that training was conducted as specified.

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----- please cut along dotted line -----



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