

4-H Nova Scotia at Home

Printable Worksheet – Farm Safety



Use words found in the following story to solve the word puzzle

It was a bright sunny day in early August when Joe grabbed his hat off the kitchen table and called for his mother, “I’m ready to go!” He had been looking forward to his 4-H meeting all week long and couldn’t wait to see his friends and visit a local dairy farm.

As they pulled into the driveway, Joe could see the farm was bustling with activity, and as he opened his door he was hit with the smell of fresh cut grass. “This is going to be great,” he exclaimed. He could see 4-H leaders, Joan and Jennifer, waiting near the door with a group of members. Joe said a quick goodbye to his mother and reminded her to pick him up in one hour, before he set off to meet his friends.

Joan and Jennifer welcomed all members and introduced “Farm Safety” as the topic for their meeting. Jennifer asked, “What can you do to stay safe on a farm?” Hands shot up, as each member was eager to share their answers.

“We need to be careful around the animals to make sure we are not bitten, kicked or squished,” said Josie.

“We need to stay away from the manure lagoon and any open water to prevent drowning,” said Jeremy.

“We need to follow instructions and only go where the farmer tells us it is ok,” said Jessie.

“Those are all great ways to stay safe,” said Joan, “let’s start our tour and we will see what other things we can see.” Joan, Jennifer and the members made their way to the entry of the barn, where they stepped into some plastic booties to keep their feet clean and protect the biosecurity of the farm.

Their first stop was the milk room, which held the bulk tank, sink, and equipment for washing the milkers. Joan explained, “In this area there are containers which hold chemicals for sanitizing the milking equipment. These chemicals must be properly stored, labeled and used according to directions to stay safe.”

“Fertilizers and pesticides are other chemicals on the farm,” added Jennifer as they moved into the milking parlor. “When visiting or working in the milking parlour, you must be careful of the hydraulic

gates, and keep the floors clean to prevent slips and falls.”

Joan led them into the freestall where the animals were comfortably resting in their stalls or grazing at the feed bunk. She encouraged members to take note of the barn cleaner scraping the floor, and the conveyor belt dropping a TMR (total mixed ration) mixture into the bunk. “These pieces of technology make day to day chores easier for farmers, but you must be careful to not get caught up in any of the moving parts.”

They followed the conveyor belt back to the feed room. Here a TMR mixer, which uses a large auger, was being used by a worker wearing a mask and ear protection to combine forage with grains and minerals. As they walked quickly by, Jennifer shouted over the noise, “This area is an example of where ear protection can help protect you from hearing damage caused by loud machinery, and a dust mask can help protect your lungs from dust and molds.

“We can also see the grain bin and silo,” said Joan, “it is important to keep out of the grain, as you can become buried within seconds. The silo is also dangerous and should only be climbed safely and cautiously by adults to prevent falls. The fresh grass placed inside the silo can combust if too moist, and produces gas as it ferments. The silo must be properly vented or a breathing apparatus used for ventilation if it is necessary to go inside.”

Just then, farmer John approached with a full silage wagon to store in the silo. The members all stood back and watched the tractor back up to the silo and as the auger moved the fresh cut grass into the PTO (Power Take Off) powered blower. John came over to the group to explain, “The main hazards here are the PTO shaft, the exposed conveyor auger and blower fan blades. It is important to wear comfortable close fitting clothing, and to turn off all power and remove the tractor keys to work on any mechanical issues or if it becomes clogged. This would be the same for any piece of harvesting equipment.

“I also like us to work in teams, so if anything goes wrong there is someone close by to help. For instance, my son is just learning to drive a tractor, so

