



Protecting the Herd: Leading the Charge on Farm & Ranch Safety

Public Value Statement

Workplace fatalities or injuries in agriculture affect entire communities. Often times, accidents are preventable. By prioritizing the safety and health of those who work in agriculture, we are also prioritizing the safety and health of our whole food system.

The Situation

In 2020, COVID-19 changed our world. North Dakota faced concerns of farm labor shortages as many operations seek international employees to fill seasonal positions and COVID-19 restricted travel. How would North Dakota producers fill the need of farm labor? Would untrained or unskilled individuals be ready to take on these vital positions?

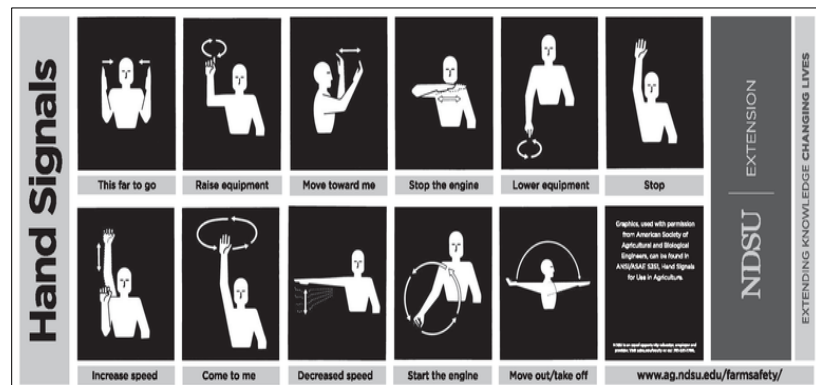
The pandemic also altered any plans of face-to-face trainings such as youth tractor safety. Farm and ranch safety needed to be highlighted through alternate avenues. Farm and ranch safety resources were not readily available or accessible from NDSU Extension.

Extension Response

In March, an Extension farm & ranch safety team formed to address the situation. Statewide Extension agents and specialists came together to bring awareness to everyday safety on the farm.

The team created the following materials:

- Farm Safety Website
- Safety videos
- Window clings
- Handouts
- Educational displays
- Farm & ranch safety booths at two expos this summer
- Hosted a virtual in-service for agents to promote the use of materials in their counties.



Impacts

- The new Extension farm safety website had over 12,654-page views and 1,456 users just in April-Dec.
 - Seven YouTube safety videos with over 800 views
 - More than 8,880 "Clean the Cab" and universal "Hand Signals" window clings distributed across the state and nation promoting safety where farm workers spend a lot of their time: in equipment.
- The farm and ranch safety team successfully hired an internal Farm & Ranch Safety Coordinator, Steele County agent, Angie Johnson, as a result of the team's commitment, outreach, awareness, and collaborations built with entities, such as agricultural implement dealers and the Kindred Fire Department.

Feedback

"I've been waiting to develop this partnership for a long time; to work together to make a difference"
-Rich Schock, Kindred Fire Department Chief

"These hand signals are in all of our equipment's operator manuals. What an awesome way to get producers to finally learn them! It's time to be communicating better with farm employees since the equipment is so loud and large"
-Titan Machinery Equipment Employee

Primary Contacts

Extension Agents, County: Katelyn Landeis, Grand Forks; Angie Johnson, Steele; Rick Schmidt, Oliver; Lindy Berg, Towner; Anitha Chirumamilla, Cavalier; Jill Lagein, Trail; Brian Zimprich, Ransom; Craig Askim, Mercer; Greg Benz, Dunn; Kyle Aasand, Cass
Extension Specialist Ken Hellevang, Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering
Ag Communications: Becky Koch, Sonja Fuchs, Bob Bertsch and Ellen Crawford

Non-Extension Collaborators

Rich Schock, Kindred Fire Department

Resource Links

www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/farmsafety/