

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Extension and Outreach

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### **Farm Safety Week Observed September 18-24**

#### **Legacy of Farm Safety Celebrated with Proclamation Signed by Governor Branstad**

AMES, Iowa – The Iowa Farm Safety and Health Week will be held September 18-24 in conjunction with the National Farm Safety and Health Week. This year's theme is "Farm Safety...A Legacy to be Proud Of".

This is the 73rd observance of the National Farm Safety and Health Week that was originally declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt signed the first proclamation for farm safety in 1944 because of the high injury rate in agriculture that was impacting the nation's production efforts during World War II.

Nearly 75 years later agriculture still ranks as the most dangerous industry in the United States.

Today, safety professionals use this week to remind those working within the industry to be careful. Agriculture has the highest annual death rates per 100,000 workers in the nation, surpassing all the other industries including mining, construction, and manufacturing. Agriculture's death rate is more than five times higher than all U.S. industries combined. This high death rate is why Iowans must use safe farming practices during harvest and throughout the year.

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad signed a proclamation on Sept. 9 to commemorate the week. The proclamation calls for all Iowans to "work together to control and mitigate these farm risks". Working to make farms safer is crucial to a state like Iowa that has over 90 percent of its land used in agriculture and distributes more than \$10 billion worth of agricultural products each year, the proclamation notes.

The Iowa Farm Safety Council encourages Iowans to make better safety and health decisions this harvest season and during the next year. You can prepare to prevent serious injuries and death by:

- cautiously approaching field adjustments or repairs,
- taking precautions to avoid slips and falls,
- making smart decisions while assigning tasks to youth, and
- understanding how physical abilities change with aging.

Join the Iowa Farm Safety Council and the [National Safety Council](#) in promoting safety during the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual National Farm Safety and Health Week September 18-24, 2016. During this time

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please encourage others to adopt safe practices and behaviors as we prepare to prevent injuries during this harvest season.

Links:

<http://www.abe.iastate.edu/extension-and-outreach/agricultural-health-safety/>

Related Publications:

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Match-age-abilities-to-farm-chores-Safe-Farm>

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