



AGE-APPROPRIATE TASKS

HOSTA Task Sheet 2.4

Core

NATIONAL SAFE TRACTOR AND MACHINERY OPERATION PROGRAM

Introduction

Farming offers a unique opportunity for children and adolescents to learn the value of hard work, how to handle responsibilities, and how to set priorities.

Traditionally, farming has been a family affair with children working on their own farm. Larger farms may hire youth for work as well. While early labor has personal development benefits, there are also many risks involved for young workers.

This task sheet offers guidelines for matching youthful farm workers with farm tasks.

North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT)

These guidelines were developed under the direction of the Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. The guidelines assist adults in assigning farm jobs to children age 7 to 16 years, living or working on farms. Employers should also be aware of the guidelines. Visit the NAGCAT website shown in the reference section for more information about the guidelines.

Here are some key points in your development toward adulthood.

Ages 12-13 (Early Teens)

Some of the traits shown by early teens include: being clumsy and rebellious, lacking focus, being easily distracted, and taking risks.

Typical death and injury risk scenarios for the age group 12-13 include:

- Machinery entanglements (“I cannot get caught; I am too fast.”)
- Head and spine injuries from ATVs and motorcycles (“I want to be faster than my peers.”)
- Falls from machines (extra riders) and structures
- Sprains due to working harder than growing muscles permit

Age-Appropriate Tasks for 12- and 13-Year-Olds:

- Hand raking and digging
- Limited power tool use with supervision
- Operating lawn mower or garden tractor
- Handling /assisting with animals
- Other low-risk tasks



Figure 2.4.a. Young people sometimes want to do everything an adult does.

All of us go through growth phases. Our physical and mental maturity may not match our work assignment.

Learning Goals

- To identify typical growth traits by age groups and how these traits may affect what jobs and tasks young workers should be assigned

Related Task Sheets:

Injuries Involving Youth	2.1
Reaction Time	2.3
NAGCAT Tractor Operation Chart	4.3



Figure 2.4.b. Taking chances with motorized vehicles may be fun, but the odds of an injury or death increases greatly when risky behavior is substituted for correct operation of ATVs, dirt bikes, and tractors.

Physical growth can lead youth to believe that they can do more than they can mentally handle.



Figure 2.4.c. Young muscles and joints may be strained and sprained trying to move heavy loads. Animals pose their own special risks in being moved as well.

Ages 14-15 (Young Teens)

Some of the traits shown by young teens include: being moody and rebellious, taking risks, being mentally active, and having feelings of immortality.

Typical death and injury risk scenarios for the age group 14-15 include:

- Machinery entanglements with amputations from PTO, augers, turning parts, and power tools (“I cannot get caught; I am too fast.”)
- Head and spine injuries from ATVs and motorcycles (“I want to be faster than my peers.”)
- Falls from machines (extra riders) and structures
- Hearing loss from machinery
- Animal handling incidents
- Tractor overturns

- Roadway crashes or mishaps

Age-Appropriate Tasks for 14- and 15-Year-Olds:

- Equipment maintenance
- Manual feeding of livestock
- Operating non-articulated tractors for field work, including those with implements that are 3-point mounted, use remote hydraulics, and/or are PTO-powered
- Raking hay
- Operating a pressure washer

Ages 16-18 (Older Teens)

Some of the traits shown by older teens include: being aggressive and taking risks, feelings of being immortal and overconfident, and experimenting with adult independence and behaviors.

Typical death and injury risk scenarios for the age group 16-18 include:

- Machinery entanglements with amputations
- Falls from machines and structures
- Hearing loss from machinery
- Animal handling incidents
- Tractor overturns
- Roadway crashes or mishaps
- Added risks if experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol

Age-Appropriate Tasks for 16-18 Year Olds:

- Ordinary use of tractors, self-propelled machinery, augers, elevators, and other farm equipment
- Pulling oversized loads, simultaneous use of multiple vehicles, and application of chemicals with specific training and close supervision

NAGCAT Guidelines

There are a total of 62 age-appropriate guidelines in seven categories as follows:

Tractor Fundamentals Tasks

- Tractor Operation Chart
- Driving a Farm Tractor
- Trailed Implements
- 3-Point Hitch Implements
- Hydraulics
- PTO -Connect/Disconnect

Haying Operations

6 guidelines dealing with hay harvest and transport

Implement Operations

10 guidelines dealing with fieldwork

General Activities

Using a front-end loader plus 9 guidelines for various farm equipment operations

Other Guideline Categories include:

Animal Care

Manual Labor

Specialty Production

A few guidelines have been translated into Spanish. Check the nagcat.org website for details.

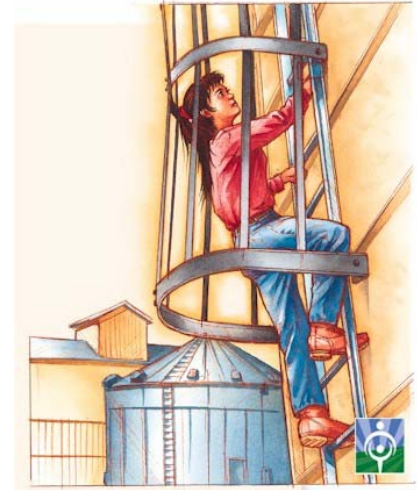


Figure 2.4.d. Machinery, ATVs, and falls account for most farm injuries and fatalities. Youth who will work with machinery, ATVs and agricultural structures must be trained and have guidance to be safe workers.

Guidelines for age-appropriate tasks are useful tools and can lead to mature actions of the safety-conscious youthful worker.



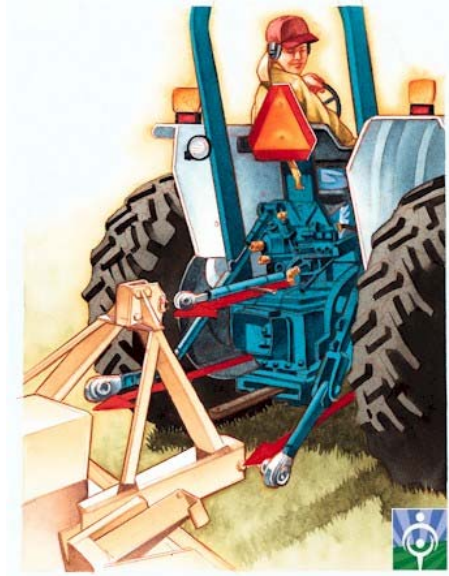
Figure 2.4.e. Youthful workers assigned to supervised tasks can learn safe, productive agricultural work habits. The NAGCAT Guidelines help parents and employers determine what tasks are appropriate.

Safety Activities

1. Use the NAGCAT website to locate the guidelines for operating 3-point hitch implements. Print the guideline, and answer all the questions for yourself. The page will include pictures like this:



NORTH AMERICAN GUIDELINES FOR children's AGRICULTURAL TASKS



Share this information with your parents and tractor safety instructor or leader.

2. Use the NAGCAT website to explore other guideline task sheets that may focus on jobs you will do.
3. Write a short story about a hazardous situation you have encountered and how you approached that hazard based upon your stage of development at that time. Did your youthful immaturity influence the outcome?
4. Ask your class or club members to relate stories of hazardous incidents they encountered and how they handled them.

Special Note: Youth who are age 12 or 13 may complete studies of safe tractor operation and complete the written exam, but cannot take the skills or driving exams nor receive a certificate under the Hazardous Occupations Order In Agriculture program.

References

1. www.nagcat.org/Click on guidelines/Select category, December 2002.
2. www.cas.psu.edu/Type in search box children and safety on the farm/Click on Children and Safety on the Farm, Murphy and Hackett, 1997.
3. www.extension.umn.edu/Click on Farm Safety and Health/Click on Is Your Child Protected from Injury on the Farm?, Shutske, April 2002.

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