

FARM MACHINERY SAFETY

Between 2001 - 2004, around 35 % of traumatic deaths on Australian farms were associated with plant and equipment, including workshop equipment. Australia-wide, there are around 1,000 workers' compensation claims made each year for injury associated with powered machinery and equipment in the agriculture and horticulture industries. This represents 24% of all claims in these industries.

GRAIN AUGERS

Grain augers cause many injuries, especially to arms, hands, fingers and feet being caught in unguarded, belts, pulleys and flights. Moving raised augers around overhead power lines is causing electrocution. Augers are also toppling and collapsing causing crushing injuries, because they are being moved before they are emptied and lowered.



- Guard auger hoppers and exposed flights.**
A grain auger industry standard for the retrofitment of auger guards is available at www.safework.nsw.gov.au
- Guard all auger pulleys, drive belts and shafts
- Check for overhead power lines before raising or moving augers
- Consider placing overhead power lines around silos and grain handling areas underground
- Empty and lower augers before moving them

POST HOLE DIGGERS



- Consider replacing older posthole diggers with a post driver
- Guard all PTO drive shafts
- Wear close-fitting clothing to avoid entanglement in the posthole auger
- Keep all bystanders away from operating posthole augers
- Do not operate posthole diggers alone**

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POWER TAKE OFF SHAFTS

Tractor operators and bystanders are dying and being severely injured after being entangled in tractor and implement PTO shafts on post hole diggers, slashers, feed mixers and chaffers.

- Fit a guard to all machinery Power Take-Off (PTO) shafts**
- Regularly check and replace old or worn PTO shaft guards
- Make sure that the tractor master guard and implement guards are fitted before operating any PTO powered machinery
- Keep all bystanders away from operating PTO powered machinery



MOTORS, PUMPS AND MAINTENANCE

Drive shafts on pumps, motors and machinery cause many farm injuries.

- Keep operator manuals readily accessible for safe machinery operation and maintenance
- Turn off and chock all machinery and motors before performing any maintenance
- Build a guard for all exposed drive shafts
- Replace all guards after maintenance and before operating any machinery**
- Have a first aid kit and fire extinguisher close by - in the workshop or in the vehicle / tractor



For farm safety checklists and other information on farm safety risks and controls, go to aghealth.sydney.edu.au or contact:

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