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Happy Birthday, Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®!

America's farmers work harder than most to provide us with an abundant food supply. But farmers and their children are exposed to a hazardous workplace every day. In the United States, agriculture continues to rank as one of the most dangerous occupations here and around the globe.

Since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as [National Farm Safety and Health Week](#). This recognition has been an annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council and has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt.

For decades, many Nebraska Extension personnel around the state have coordinated a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® annually in their counties to keep families safe on the farm, ranch, or at home. This is our way of celebrating National Farm Safety and Health Week – educating children about dangers that exist indoors and out, and how to react in various situations.

For 25 years now, safety days have been designed to be fun, hands-on, age-appropriate days of learning. Since the program's inception, over 1,700,000 children and adults have been impacted in the U.S., Canada, and American Samoa.

The benefit of this program goes beyond farm kids. Non-farm children are at a higher risk for injury when visiting a farm because of lack of knowledge regarding farm practices. When “city kids” attend a safety day, the potential is that knowledge gained could save their lives in the future. Safety day participants have increased their safety knowledge and reduced risky behaviors more than children who did not participate in a safety day, according to research through University of Alabama. They also reported fewer injuries.

Typical topics addressed at a safety day are: ATV safety, animal safety, chemical look-alikes, fire safety, grain bin safety, power take-off safety, safe play areas, lawn equipment safety, firearm safety, first aid, hand tool safety, home and internet safety, water safety, underground utilities, electrical safety, tractor and combine safety, disability awareness, sun safety, and many more.

If your child comes home with a packet of safety day information, I urge you to ask about what he or she learned and continue conversations about safe behaviors in your home or outside.

Consider becoming a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® Coordinator or Volunteer! Visit progressiveag.org to learn more.