



FARM Safety Self-Assessment

The Safety Self-Assessment serves as a starting point to evaluate current safety programs and determine safety needs. The Safety Self-Assessment does not replace the use of a safety audit checklist. It is intended to identify management-level practices that can lead to better overall safety management. It does not measure or evaluate actual safety outcomes.

The Safety Self-Assessment closely follows each section of the FARM Safety Manual. It assists in determining safety-related strengths, weaknesses, goals and priorities. The first step in the process is to complete the self-assessment. Appropriate people to complete this questionnaire include those involved in the dairy operation’s day-to-day safety activities including owners and managers. The self-assessment is for internal use only. Farms are encouraged to be as honest as possible in their self-assessment because it serves as the foundation for the safety program and future initiatives.

After completing the assessment, look at which topics have the most “no” or “none of the above” answers. Focus on those topics to establish safety priorities. It is important to emphasize that it is normal to have many “no” responses the first time the farm completes the self-assessment. The purpose of the manual and the FARM Program is to promote continuous improvement and pursue more “yes” responses over time.

Once safety priorities have been established, the corresponding chapters in the FARM Safety Manual should be reviewed and appropriate programs, procedures and policies established from there. The long-term goal is to answer “yes” to all questions on the self-assessment.

Management Checklists

Questions in the self-assessment form the basis of management checklists throughout the Manual. The management checklists at the beginning of each chapter detail key guidelines and best practices for safety topics contained in the chapter.

Note: Chapter 1 is an introduction, so it does not have associated self-assessment questions.

Section	2. Regulatory Context		Notes
2.1 Context	<p>Are you familiar with the OSHA and/or equivalent state regulations and standards that apply to your dairy?</p> <p>Federal and state safety regulations can be found in the FARM Workforce Development legal fact sheets.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

2.2 <i>Workers' Rights and Employer Responsibilities</i>	Are you familiar with the rights of employees under OSHA (and/or equivalent state regulation)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Are you familiar with your employer responsibilities under OSHA (and/or equivalent state regulation)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
2.3 <i>OSHA Required Poster</i>	Are legally-required safety posters displayed in a conspicuous place?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
2.4 <i>Whistleblower Protection</i>	Are you familiar with whistleblower protections under OSHA (and/or equivalent state regulations)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
2.5 <i>Recordkeeping and Reporting</i>	Are you familiar with your safety reporting requirements under OSHA (and/or equivalent state regulations)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

Section	3. Safety Management Principles		Notes
3.1 <i>Components of a Safety Management Program</i>	Do you have a written safety plan or program?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does your written safety plan or program include the following fundamental elements?		
	• Owner and Manager Commitment	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	• Employee Participation	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	• Ongoing Hazard Recognition / Control	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	• Training	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do employees know how to report safety concerns?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do you review your written safety plan or program annually, and update as needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

3.2 Causes of Workplace Injuries and Fatalities	Do you follow a process for identifying and controlling safety hazards on an ongoing basis? One example is the Anticipate-Recognize-Evaluate-Control model. See section 3.2 for more information.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	When a hazard has been identified, do you evaluate the risk of injury or death? An example of a simple risk evaluation is to determine two factors: Likelihood and Severity. See section 3.2 for more information.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
3.3 Hierarchy of Controls	When a hazard has been identified, do you implement a consistent method to prevent/control it? An example is the Hierarchy of Controls method: elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
3.4 Safety Inspections, Audits and Investigations	Are safety inspections conducted on a regularly scheduled basis? For example, weekly or monthly walkthroughs.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do you keep records of safety incidents and near miss events?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do you investigate safety incidents and near miss events?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do you follow a consistent process for conducting safety incidents and near miss investigations?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do you document safety incidents and near miss investigations?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	If available, have you taken advantage of a consultative visit from your OSHA office ,state OSHA equivalent or your regional NIOSH Ag center?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
	If available, have you taken advantage of a safety audit through your workers' comp provider?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

3.5 Worker Safety Training	Do all new employees receive safety training?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do employees receive refresher safety training? For example, through monthly safety talks.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do employees receive refresher training following a near miss or safety incident?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Is safety training documented?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
3.6 Leading and Lagging Indicators	Do you use indicators to measure the effectiveness of your safety program?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Do you review the results of the indicators /statistics on a regular basis? For example, monthly or annually.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

Section	4. Safety Topics		Notes
4.1 Worker Safety During Animal Handling	Has the farm conducted a hazards assessment for worker safety during animal handling, evaluating both likelihood and severity of hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Has your farm used one or more of the following to manage hazards during animal handling? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination / Substitution • Engineering Controls (Facility Design, Structures, Railings, etc.) • Administrative Controls (Training, Procedures, Signage, Documentation, etc.) • PPE 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct initial safety training for worker safety during animal handling?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct regular refresher safety training for worker safety during animal handling?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Are regular inspections or audits conducted to ensure safe practices and procedures are being used during animal handling?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

4.2 Confined Spaces on Dairy Farms	Has the farm conducted a hazards assessment of confined spaces, evaluating both likelihood and severity of hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Has the farm used one or more of the following to manage hazards of confined spaces? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination / Substitution • Engineering Controls (Facility Design, Structures, Railings, etc.) • Administrative Controls (Training, Procedures, Signage, Documentation, etc.) • PPE 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct initial safety training for confined spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct regular refresher safety training for confined spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Are regular inspections or audits conducted to ensure safe practices and procedures are being used for confined spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
4.3 Slips, Trips and Falls	Has the farm conducted a hazards assessment for slips, trips and falls, evaluating both likelihood and severity of hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Has the farm used one or more of the following to manage hazards for slips, trips and falls? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination / Substitution • Engineering Controls (Facility Design, Structures, Railings, etc.) • Administrative Controls (Training, Procedures, Signage, Documentation, etc.) • PPE 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct initial safety training to prevent slips, trips and falls?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct regular refresher safety training to prevent slips, trips and falls?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Are regular inspections or audits conducted to ensure safe practices and procedures are being used to prevent slips, trips and falls?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

4.4 Hazard Communication and Chemical Safety	Has the farm conducted a hazards assessment for chemical use, evaluating both likelihood and severity of hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Has the farm used one or more of the following to manage hazards of chemical use? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination / Substitution • Engineering Controls (Facility Design, Structures, Railings, etc.) • Administrative Controls (Training, Procedures, Signage, Documentation, etc.) • PPE 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct initial safety training for chemical use?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct regular refresher safety training for chemical use?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Are regular inspections or audits conducted to ensure safe practices and procedures are being used during chemical use?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
4.5 Control of Hazardous Energy and Lockout Tag Out (LOTO)	Has the farm conducted a hazards assessment for sources of hazardous energy, evaluating both likelihood and severity of hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Has the farm used one or more of the following to manage sources of hazardous energy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination / Substitution • Engineering Controls (Facility Design, Structures, Railings, etc.) • Administrative Controls (Training, Procedures, Signage, Documentation, etc.) • PPE 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct initial safety training for sources of hazardous energy?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct regular refresher safety training for sources of hazardous energy?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Are regular inspections or audits conducted to ensure safe practices and procedures are being used for sources of hazardous energy?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

4.6 Machine Guarding	Has the farm conducted a hazards assessment for machinery with moving parts, evaluating both likelihood and severity of hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Has the farm used one or more of the following to manage hazards of machinery with moving parts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination / Substitution • Engineering Controls (Facility Design, Structures, Railings, etc.) • Administrative Controls (Training, Procedures, Signage, Documentation, etc.) • PPE 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct initial safety training for machinery with moving parts?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct regular refresher safety training for machinery with moving parts?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Are regular inspections or audits conducted to ensure safe practices and procedures are being used for machinery with moving parts?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
4.7 Silage Safety	Has the farm conducted a hazards assessment for silage management, evaluating both likelihood and severity of hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Has the farm used one or more of the following to manage hazards of silage management? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination / Substitution • Engineering Controls (Facility Design, Structures, Railings, etc.) • Administrative Controls (Training, Procedures, Signage, Documentation, etc.) • PPE 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct initial safety training for silage management?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Does the farm conduct regular refresher safety training for silage management?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	Are regular inspections or audits conducted to ensure safe practices and procedures are being used for silage management?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	