



Safer Farms, Safer Farmers

Toolbox Talks

MANAGER'S INSTRUCTIONS

- Ensure all participants have a copy to refer to and make notes
- Ensure you write the name of your farm, record the date and have all participants sign the master copy (*which should be kept as part of your farm's WH&S records*)
- Ensure your *Toolbox Talk* is done in a location suitable for the topic
- **Engage** with each other, ask questions and give everyday examples.



WE ALL NEED TO REMEMBER

- If you are **unsure of anything** or feel that something you have been asked to do is dangerous, **DO NOT begin the task**. **ASK for assistance** or more information and we will work together to find a safe way to do the job or solve the problem.
- Ensure you are aware of the location of the nearest First Aid Kit.
- Make sure everyone is fit for work, free from signs of fatigue, drugs or alcohol. If in doubt, **ask** or talk to your manager.
- This farm is a workplace, but may also be a place of residence for the owner, their managers and employees. Be **vigilant** for children and bystanders at all times. Refer to *Child Safety on Farms*
- **The safety, health and wellbeing of all who live on, work on and visit this farm is the most important responsibility we all share.**

Even if we are busy and under time or financial pressures, **safety MUST come first.**



Farmsafe
AUSTRALIA

A Practical Guide Hazardous Substance and Chemical Use

Chemicals and hazardous substances including diesel, pesticides, fertilisers, herbicides and solvents are frequently used on farm. Veterinary medicines are also a major part of day to day tasks in the livestock industry. If used incorrectly these substances can cause serious injury, illness or even death.

Extreme Caution must be taken when working with chemicals, hazardous substances and veterinary medicines. Exposures or injuries may cause short term or chronic and long-lasting illnesses depending on the frequency, duration and type of contact.

Many chemicals used across the agriculture industry are **toxic** and can potentially cause poisoning to people and other non-targeted organisms.



A MUST

Risk Management Tools

[DOWNLOAD ONLINE MATRIX](#)

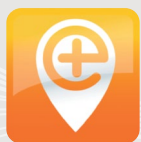
Use this simple and effective tool to assess and manage the risk of your farming activities prior to commencing. All team members can join in and contribute, developing different ways to manage risks on your farm. Doing a risk assessment helps determine hazards and develop appropriate control measures to lessen risks.

PRE-OPERATIONAL ADVICE

- This *Toolbox Talk* should be read and used in conjunction with *Toolbox Talk #3 Safe Chemical Handling*.
- **Read the label** and use according to manufacturer's instructions. Treat all products as **potentially harmful**.
- Ensure anyone using chemicals and hazardous substances have the **appropriate training or certification**.
- **Wear appropriate PPE**. Make sure it fits properly prior to any application starting- including masks fitting correctly for anyone with facial hair.
- Complete a **Chemical Pre-Application Plan** including weather conditions, exclusion zones – for example different regions in different states, chemical batch number, paddock number or herd type.
- Undertake regular inspections, completing necessary **repairs and maintenance** for all equipment including **small hand-held application equipment** to control weeds as well as veterinary application equipment used when drenching or needling of animals.
- **DO NOT** eat or drink where chemicals are stored or when they are being applied.
- **Ensure a minimum of 20L of extra clean water** is available with a simple tap and/or hose, for washing after mixing chemicals and in case of emergency. It is recommended that employees have access to an emergency shower and eye wash station.
- **Always wash your hands** after using chemicals or hazardous substances or coming in contact with animal bodily fluids or droppings, even if you have been wearing gloves.

BOOM SPRAYS OR SPRAY RIGS

- **Check, maintain and repair large machines** used in chemical application. Seek appropriate technical advice from trained technicians and **NEVER** circumvent the safety mechanisms.
- Check the **hoses and couplings**. Replace as appropriate.



emergencyplus

Save the app that could save your life.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case of emergency, **CALL 000** or your local emergency service provider, then call your manager or supervisor.

POLICE

AMBULANCE

FIRE

POISONS 13 11 26
Poisons Information Centre

Some people might have worked on a farm before, but...

- Have they worked on your farm?
- Do they know how you run your business?

OTHER RESOURCES

- Are you aware of your legislative responsibilities? Legislation may differ from state to state and it is your responsibility to be aware of what is required by law.
- AusChem Chemical Training

- Check the **cabin air filtration system**. Replace filters and seals if necessary.
- **Check** the headlights, tail-lights, windscreen and rear vision mirrors are clean, with good visibility. Ensure the cab is clean, tidy and free from chemical residue.
- **Check** First Aid Kit is well stocked, and a fire extinguisher is available.
- **ALWAYS double check** for bystanders and children prior to moving machinery or using spraying equipment.

HAND-HELD SPRAY APPLICATORS

- Always wear appropriate PPE such as masks and gloves.
- If using a back-pack, ensure all input and output points are sealing properly and not leaking chemical.
- Always point the nozzle away from yourself.

VETERINARY MEDICINES

- If using a drench back-pack, ensure all input and output points are sealing properly and not leaking chemical.
- Use appropriate PPE such as gloves when working with animals bodily fluids.
- Needlestick injuries can cause transmission of diseases or bacteria. Treatment of affected area should occur immediately.
- If using **veterinary medicines**, ensure application equipment needles, scalpel blades and syringes with needles attached (sometimes called *sharps*) are

disposed of appropriately in a leak-proof, puncture-proof plastic container with a resealable lid prior to disposal.

- Ensure correct dosage levels are given. **DO NOT exceed dosage** recommendations or frequency.

POST – OPERATION

- **Check, maintain and clean equipment** and machinery, completing repairs as needed.
- **Check, store correctly and replace PPE** as needed.
- **Never reuse** chemical containers. Triple rinse containers when empty and store containers for disposal in a way that prevents access by children, livestock and pets prior to disposal.
- **Dispose of unwanted chemicals** through DrumMuster™ and ChemClear™.
- Update and maintain the **chemical use and storage inventory**.
- **Ensure** you do post-application checks of crops and livestock and document any relevant observations - if there are any signs of negative environmental impacts or toxicity poisoning to livestock, contact the relevant authorities immediately.

OTHER RISKS

- **Manage fatigue** with time limits to be in place for individual operators using chemicals, especially at busy times.
- **Be vigilant - Chemical storage containers can all look the same**, using the wrong chemical when rushing or fatigued can be a very dangerous mistake.

Comments / Suggestions

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Toolbox Talks

OPERATION NAME: MEETING LEADER:

LOCATION: DATE:

PARTICIPANTS

1. NAME: 4. NAME:

SIGNATURE: SIGNATURE:

2. NAME: 5. NAME:

SIGNATURE: SIGNATURE:

3. NAME: 6. NAME:

SIGNATURE: SIGNATURE:



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment

This project is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, through funding from the Australian Government's National Farm Safety Education Fund.