

Working Safely With Poultry

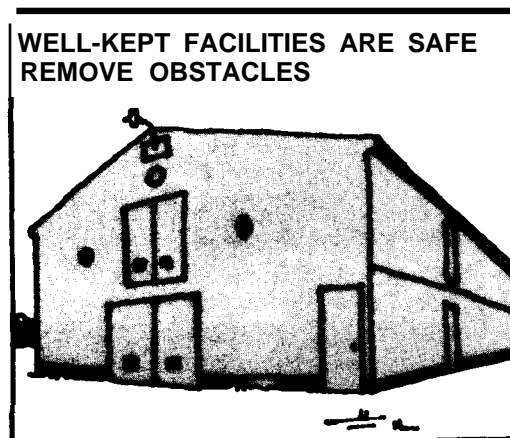
The first rule of farm safety is prevention. Whether you are operating equipment or working with poultry, taking a few precautions and observing safety rules can save you precious time, prevent injury, or even save your life.

Without safe equipment and working areas, even the most cautious person is likely to have an accident. So develop a safety conscious eye and practice good safety habits to prevent accidents.

Good Housekeeping for Safety

Removing hazards is a first step in making your work area safe. Hazards are often hard to spot, since they can be such a familiar part of the scene that they just aren't obvious.

Have a definite place for tools and equipment, and keep them there when not in use. Don't leave hammers, pinch bars and similar tools where they may fall and hit someone, and don't leave saws, planes, grease guns, and the like on the floor where they could cause falls.



Don't collect junk. Keep your buildings free of debris. It is very easy to let junk pile up and hard to find time to remove it; but in terms of safety, it is time well spent. Old boards, cans, glass, old machinery, fencing and wire can injure you or your stock. It may also be the source of a fire or may harbor rodents.

Many accidents can occur around buildings, pens, fences or equipment just from little things. Bolts or nails that stick out can cause a cut or tear; waterers and feeders with sharp edges can cut; weak or poor quality parts can give way, causing injury. Be alert to these small hazards and fix them.

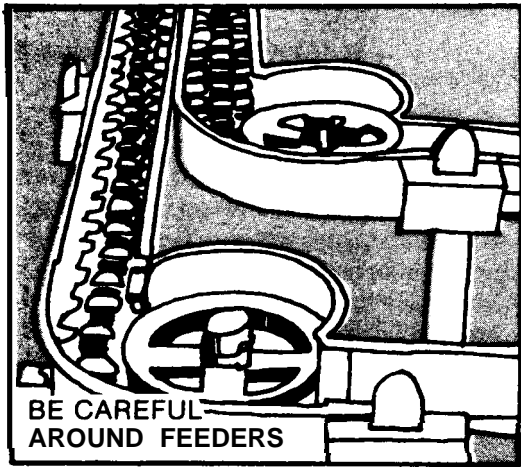
Other possible sources of injuries are loose boards, weak or poor quality rails or walkways, weak or broken ladders, and slippery floors. Watch for and repair things that are supposed to be bolted down but have worked loose.

Safety With Equipment

Removing hazards is one step toward a safe working environment. Another is to know the correct way to use your machinery and equipment and to follow good safety practices when doing so.

A first rule for safety with equipment is to know how to turn it off before you ever start it. Never use a machine that you do not know how to operate.

When you are working with machinery, such as fans and feed augers,



be sure you have taken steps to prevent accidental starting. Never work on equipment while it is running unless it is recommended in the operator's manual. Turn it off and remove the keys or fuses so that someone else won't start it up.

Feeding equipment, such as augers or grinders, needs special attention, because it can cause serious injuries. Chains, belts and rotating shafts must be guarded to prevent feet, hands or loose clothing from being caught up by moving parts. Never use equipment or machinery such as automatic feeding, egg gathering, egg processing or pit cleaning equipment unless guards are in place!

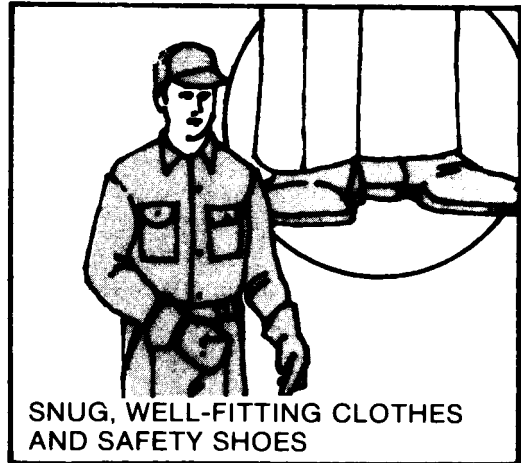
Electrical Hazards

Proper installation is the first key to electric safety. Follow the specifications of the National Electric Code and your local power supplier when installing electric wiring. Don't try to do wiring that you are not qualified to do. Use only equipment and wire that have been approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Factory Mutual Engineering Division (FM), or another recognized testing lab. Be sure the main switch is off when wiring.

Ground all electric equipment such as automatic egg gathering, feeding equipment, fans, standby generators, pit scrapers, and egg processing equipment. If you have an electric brooder, be sure it is grounded. Do not use equipment with frayed or ragged cords.

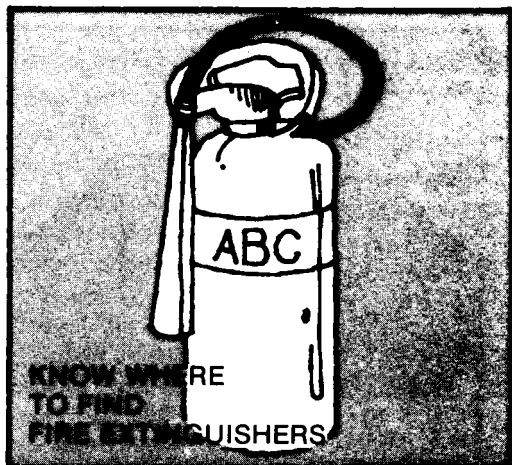
Beware Of Feed Bins

If you have to work in a feed bin, never work alone. Check the bin from the top first to make sure there is no feed crusted over in it. Be sure the bin is well ventilated. If you are to work from the top down, wear a safety belt and use a life line.



Wear The Right Clothes

Your clothes should be appropriate for the job and should fit well. When working around moving chains, belts or shafts, egg gathering belts and feed augers, wear clothing that fits well. Loose or torn sleeves or pant legs, long hair, or neckties can become tangled in moving parts, and could cost you your life. When you are working with birds and around cages, protect yourself from scratches and cuts. If you are working where you could bump your head or where objects could fall on your head, wear a hard hat. If you are working with drills, compressed air or welding devices, wear goggles.

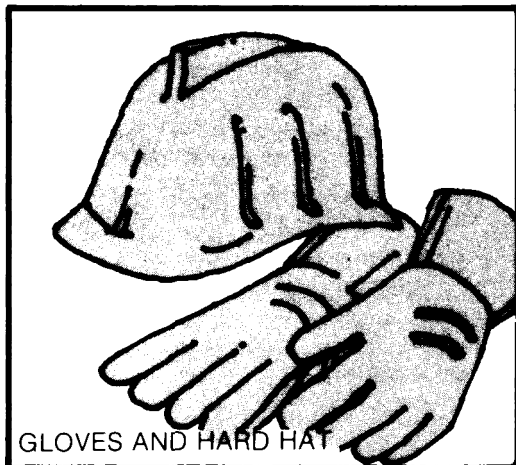


Be Alert to Fire Hazards

Put oily rags in covered containers, and store gasoline and other flammable materials in a safe place. Keep flammable materials away from flame and sparks. Never smoke in areas where such materials are stored or in use. Use flammable materials only in well ventilated rooms.

It is important to know where your fire extinguishers are and how to use them. Don't hide them under other materials. Know what to do in case of fire.

If you are building brooder or laying houses, use only insulation material that will not burn easily. Build fire walls between buildings if you have several that are attached. Be sure to have enough fire exits in a long building.



Use And Store Pesticides Wisely

Store, mix, apply and dispose of pesticides according to instructions on the label. Wear protective clothing and other equipment as specified. Do not permit anyone to enter the treated rooms until the concentration of toxic materials has been reduced to a safe level. Check the label for the safe re-entry time.

Handling Wastes Safely

Keep deep pits well ventilated to prevent buildup of dangerous gases. Anyone who works around waste storage must remember that even non-poisonous gases can displace the oxygen needed for breathing. You can be killed. Be sure there is plenty of ventilation. Open all doors and windows, and turn on all fans.

When walking in the pit, use great care. Some of the stored manure will support a person's weight, but in other places it may appear solid, but actually be liquid.

Take Care of Yourself

Removing hazards, using equipment wisely, and being alert to danger spots are all parts of working safely with poultry. Another important part is you. If you are overtired or feeling ill, you, yourself, will become a hazard. Don't try to do more than you are physically able to do.

When lifting heavy objects, such as feed bags, egg crates, crates of birds or large turkeys, lift with your legs, not your back. If the object is too heavy to lift or move by yourself, get help. Let equipment designed for the job do the lifting and moving whenever possible.

Use the right equipment for the job. Proper tools and equipment that are kept in good repair will save you time and energy and make the job easier and safer.



Salmonellosis (Paratyphoid). In humans this disease is caused by the salmonella organism that may be widespread in chicken litter. The carcass of poultry, chicken or turkey may become contaminated in the slaughtering process and thus find its way into the kitchen. It has also been found in raw egg products, such as meringue on pies and desserts, made from eggs from salmonella-infected chickens. Symptoms are fever and diarrhea.

Histoplasmosis is a fungus disease which grows very readily in fowl litter. It is contracted by humans and other species by inhaling dust from the litter. In humans it causes such symptoms as respiratory problems, coughing, fever and weight loss. The disease has been traced to litter accumulating under pigeon roosts as well as roosts of other birds. Wearing a respirator can prevent this disease.

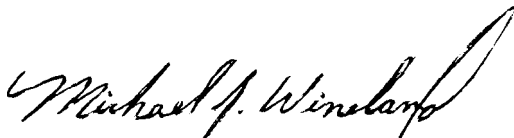
Psittacosis and Ornithosis are virus diseases of psittacine and non-psittacine birds, both wild and domestic. It is called Psittacosis when it occurs in birds of the Parrot family (Psittacine) and Ornithosis when it occurs in other wild or domesticated birds. It is transmitted to humans by handling infected birds.

If You Are Under 16

A federal child labor law affects you. Except when working for your parent or guardian on a farm owned or operated by such parent or guardian, you cannot work in a yard, pen or stall occupied by a bull, boar or stallion kept for breeding purposes, or by a sow with suckling pigs or a cow with newborn calf.

Neither can you operate a tractor over 20 hp and certain other farm machinery, although, with special training you may perform some of these jobs at age 14.

Youth under 14 may be employed to do any job that is not classified as particularly hazardous if they have the written consent of parent or guardian. Check with your County Extension Office for full details.



Michael J. Wineland
Extension Specialist
Poultry



Thomas L. Bean
Extension Specialist
Safety

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, West Virginia University and the United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating. R. Rudy Filek, Interim Director, Morgantown, West Virginia. Published in Furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.