

BARN STORAGE SAFETY

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On most farms, barns are used to store supplies, equipment, and some house animals and animal feed. Consequently, barns pose many hazards to farm workers, children, and visitors. Inspecting and maintaining barns to eliminate those hazards only takes a few minutes each day to reduce the risk of accidents.



GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

Make sure all floors are kept clean and dry to avoid slips and falls. Replace old and worn planks in the floor to prevent falls or breakthroughs. Stow away tools such as pitchforks and shovels to avoid cuts and puncture wounds. Don't leave baling wire, twine, and fence wire hanging. Shield controls for augers in cattle barns and electrical boxes in humid areas. Repair trap doors and railings. Keep all cleaning and veterinary supplies out of reach of animals and children.

HAY STORAGE

Guard all hay in the haymow. Trap doors, cages or railings should be present at hay chutes to prevent anyone from accidentally falling into them. Repair all trap doors or railings that are not sturdy. Make a trap door for any unguarded hay chute. This will cover the chute when it is not in use.

Prevent mold growth by storing only fully dried hay at a moisture content appropriate for the length of storage in a structure that prevents moisture from entering. Large round bales tend to contain mold spores, especially when stored outside. Use caution and respiratory equipment if necessary when feeding. Moldy hay can heat up and can pose respiratory hazards to humans and animals.

DUSTS IN LIVESTOCK CONFINEMENT

Moving, handling, or feeding animals can create a lot of dust that can become harmful when breathed. Inadequate or improper ventilation or confinement compounds this problem. The seasons pose more problems. Tightly closed buildings in cold weather do not provide enough circulation and many contain poorly vented or improperly functioning heaters. In warm weather, fans and open doors create wind that kicks up dust. Regular cleaning with a power washer and installing floors that are as self-cleaning as possible can reduce dust levels. Feed falls a shorter distance with extended spouts on automatic feed delivery systems and produces less dust. Covers on feed spouts, pelleted feed, or the addition of fat to feed will help reduce dust levels. Keep ventilation systems in top working order.