

Farm & Ranch Maintenance

November in the Southwest brings a much needed reprieve from the summer (and sometimes fall) heat. Take advantage of the cooler temperatures by conducting preventative maintenance on your farm or ranch. Maintaining buildings and equipment can prevent injuries to people and livestock and save you money and grief in the long run.

You can also use this time to reflect on better safety practices to protect you and your family in the future. For example, should you use better personal protective equipment on the job?

Numerous farm and ranch safety checklists are available to guide your fall/winter maintenance activities. A relatively concise safety audit is provided by the Texas Department of Insurance. Topics on the audit include:

- Farm Tractors
- PTOs
- Other Farm Machinery
- Handling Facilities
- Pesticide Storage
- Grain Bins, Silos, Dryers and Handling Equipment
- Farm Ponds and Lagoons
- Home Safety
- Garage and Yard Safety

Find the complete document at:

<http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/pubs/videoresource/cklfarm.pdf>

Other resources for farm and ranch maintenance include:

http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_m/m-117.pdf

<http://smallfarm.about.com/od/farmmanagement/a/htmaintainfarm.htm>

