






Protect Your Health with PPE

Tips for Selecting and Storing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on the Farm

Dust, gas, noise, and other exposures may be a risk to your health. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can help you protect your health, but it is important to select the right PPE, and store it properly.

Selection and Fitting of PPE:

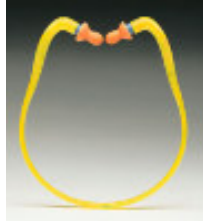
The Certified Safe Farm (CSF) health screening at the local AgriSafe Clinic includes a discussion of the type of farming you do and what PPE are appropriate on your farm. You can try various types of PPE and receive fit testing for respirators. When the safety reviewer visits your farm, he/she will pay attention to the availability and condition of PPE. Based on discussions with you, CSF staff will create a PPE “prescription”, which indicates your PPE needs. You can purchase PPE at the AgriSafe Clinic or other vendors – but be aware that there are PPE on the market that provide little or no protection. Below are examples of PPE for some farm tasks.

	<p>RESPIRATORY PROTECTION</p>
	<p>Disposable dust mask is helpful in animal confinements, grain handling facilities and other dusty environments. Check that the mask has NIOSH approval and N95 or N100 dust reduction rating. One-strap masks, or surgical masks may be inexpensive, but do not provide protection for fine dust particles.</p>
	<p>Half-face mask provides protection against dust and gasses in many conditions. Most have very effective P100/HEPA filter cartridges available for dust. Paints, solvents, and pesticides require organic vapor cartridges. Ammonia, chlorine, and other gases may require specific filters. Consult with AgriSafe to fit-test and find the right type of respirator and filter cartridges for your application.</p>
	<p>EYE / FACE PROTECTION</p>
	<p>Use eye and face protection when power washing, mixing chemicals, using grinders, metal- or wood working equipment, or other situations where you are exposed to splashes, projectiles, sparks etc. There are many options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Face shield <input type="checkbox"/> Goggles (vented and non-vented) <input type="checkbox"/> Protective glasses <input type="checkbox"/> Protective eye glasses with optical correction



HEARING PROTECTION

Use **hearing protection** when exposed to noise. There are many options:



- Expandable foam plugs**
- Pre-molded, re-usable plugs**
- Canal caps** (in picture above)
- Ear muffs** (in picture below)



When selecting hearing protection, make sure they are approved and have a noise reduction rating, at least NRR 20 (20 dB noise reduction). For loud noise from tractors, machinery, chainsaws, swine, or guns, use ear muffs with at least NRR 30 rating. Ear plugs typically provide 10-30 dB noise reduction. Ear muffs provide 20-38 dB reduction. There are many products on the market that are not approved, and may provide much less protection.

HAND / SKIN PROTECTION

Use **protective gloves** when exposed to chemicals or wet work.

There are many options:



- Disposable latex gloves
- Chemical resistant gloves for pesticides, solvents
- Cotton liner gloves to reduce irritation from rubber/chemical gloves
- Special gloves for welding, cutting, chain saws



Check with the AgriSafe clinic which gloves provide protection for your needs.

FOOT PROTECTION

Use **safety boots** with toe protection for most jobs around the farm. Many new safety boots are light, comfortable, and durable – well suited to be your regular work boots on the farm. For livestock work or chemicals, you may need safety boots that are designed for wet conditions. There are many options available.



SPECIAL PROTECTION



Use **disposable coveralls**, **respirator** with organic vapor cartridges, **chemical gloves**, and **boots** when mixing pesticides – especially those marked “danger”, “poison” or “warning” on their product label.



Use a **helmet set** with **ear muffs** and **face screen** when using a chainsaw or a clearing saw (brush cutter).



Use special welding protection, **face shield, gloves, apron, safety boots** when welding or cutting metal. You may also need a **respirator** for protection from welding fumes.



Use **wide-brim hats** and **long-sleeve shirts** for sun protection.

Storing PPE

PPE should be stored so that they are readily available when and where needed, and protected from dust, moisture and contamination.



We recommend a central location on the farm for storing most PPE supplies. This could be a cabinet in the office or machine shed – the main thing is that PPE can be easily found, clean, and ready to be used.



In addition, we recommend keeping specific PPE in locations where they are regularly needed. This includes the machine shop (welding protection, metal working PPE), livestock facilities (respiratory and hearing protection), tractors and combines (hearing protection), feed and grain facilities (respiratory protection), and chemical storage areas (PPE for pesticides, chemicals). The two photos show examples of PPE storage.

**Certified Safe Farm Program
The University of Iowa
AgriSafe Network**