

Farm Safety Tip – Winterizing Your Farm

Winter creates special hazards on the farm. Liquids inside machinery or containers can freeze, causing ruptured pipes and containers. Ice can cause slips and falls. Fumes from heaters and pressure washers can produce deadly carbon monoxide gas.

Late summer is good time to do a farm safety inspection, fix items in disrepair, clean and service farm equipment, and make sure your pesticides are stored properly.

Here are some tips on preparing your farm for winter:

#1 Conduct an all-farm inspection in the late summer which includes machinery and equipment, buildings, walkways, gates, wiring, and pesticides (see links below). Clean, service, and repair items where needed.

#2 Inform workers they must never use pressure washers indoors.

#3 Install carbon monoxide alarms in shops and other buildings where non-electric heaters are used.

#4 Analyze hydraulic fluid and antifreeze and replace as recommended.

#5 Clean and drain pesticide application equipment. Use lightweight oil to prepare for storage (see link below).

#6 Take an inventory of your pesticides. Read the label. Note any expiration dates and storage temperatures. Make sure dry pesticides are stored above liquid pesticides.

#8 Determine if unused pesticides can be stored or need to be disposed of (contact the State Dept of Environmental Quality for info on disposal options).

For inspection checklists, see: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/A3619.pdf> and <http://www.farmsafety.ca/ohsa-tools/ASAP.pdf>

For information on proper storage of farm equipment, see: <http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/FM-25.pdf>

For information on carbon monoxide poisoning, see: http://www.cbs.state.or.us/osh/pdf/hazards/2993_11-2005.pdf

For information on cleaning and storing pesticide application equipment, see: <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/live/g1770/build/g1770.pdf>

For information on correct and safe storing of pesticides, see: <http://entweb.clemson.edu/pesticid/saftyed/storage.htm>