

Curriculum Guide for Classroom & Workshop Settings



Overview

The Think F.A.S.T. (Farm & Ag Safety Training) program is an initiative from Farm Bureau designed to proactively address on-farm safety concerns for youth. The program materials are tailored for audiences 14 to 17 years old and focus on general safety, leadership, and critical thinking skills applied to technical and agriculture-specific contexts.

There are both online self-paced and in-person direct instruction options for the following Core Safety Skills and Technical Safety Skills:

Core Safety Skills

Attention & Distractions
Spatial Awareness
Looking at Situations from Multiple Points of View
Task Breakdown and Job Safety
Matching Tasks and Skills
Decision Making for How to Complete a Task
Situational Management
Empowerment and Permission to Say No
Tough Conversations
Impact of Injuries

Technical Safety Skills

ATVs and UTVs
Livestock
Tractors & Machinery
Personal Protective Equipment
Electrical
Manual Labor
Bins, Silos, and Pits
Chemicals & Pesticides
Slips, Trips, and Falls
Shop Safety

Using the Think F.A.S.T. Materials

There are both online self-paced and in-person direct instruction materials within Think F.A.S.T. Each self-paced online module will require approximately 10 minutes to complete, and in-person lessons are designed to be completed within 40 minutes.

Provided here are recommendations for ways to incorporate the content in your formal learning setting such as a school classroom or community program.

Instructional Unit

- The Instructional Unit would have 10 total lessons including 1 self-paced online module and 1 hands-on instruction per lesson.
- Use a flipped classroom approach with self-paced online modules as homework for before the class session.
- Apply the concepts in the classroom with hands-on instruction.
 - To enhance the experience, prepare to conduct the lesson in topic-appropriate locations or with relevant equipment. You may decide to partner with local farmers for this.

Supporting Supervised Agricultural Experiences

- Offer the Think F.A.S.T. online modules as a prerequisite for students who will be participating in Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) in a farm setting.
 - Conduct a seminar to summarize the key topics and applications.
- After the SAE is complete, assign a specific project for students to articulate ways they applied what they learned through Think F.A.S.T. at their SAE.

Workshop Series

- The Workshop Series would have 5 total sessions including 2 self-paced online modules and 2 hands-on instruction experiences per session.
- Allow access to self-paced online modules as pre-work before the in-person experience.
- Apply the concepts during hands-on instruction at a part-day workshop.
 - To enhance the experience, prepare to conduct the in-person workshops in topic-appropriate locations or with relevant equipment.
- Invite community members or local farmers to assist with instruction throughout the workshop series based on their areas of expertise or experience.

Communication Campaign

- Support local farm safety efforts through a Communication Campaign that features material from Think F.A.S.T.
 - Use Think F.A.S.T. Core and Technical Safety Skills to inform topic areas
 - Link to Think F.A.S.T. assets and other related material for reference
- Create communications calendar to deliver content to your local audience periodically
 - Example 1: One newsletter per month for a year
 - Example 2: Social media posts throughout a designated farm safety month
- Create instructional videos using the in-person lessons as a guide
- Always credit Think F.A.S.T. and American Farm Bureau Federation when sharing adapted content

Tips for Promoting Safety

The Think F.A.S.T. program dives deeply into specific safety skills and situations, but here are some tips for the general promotion of safety in farm contexts:

Inform youth that thinking and acting safely is expected of them. Empower youth to know that safety is their responsibility and they have an important role in achieving safety on the farm.	
Seek out opportunities for teaching and learning in real-time. Don't shy away from teaching and re-teaching safety topics.	Create a posture of proactivity regarding safety, not just reactivity.
Model proper safety precautions yourself.	Share examples of safety dos and don'ts from your own experience.
Make safety a common part of conversation no matter the topic or situation.	Invite youth ask questions and voice concerns regarding safety in farm contexts. Then, take the time to address them thoroughly.

Farm Bureau Commitment to Safety

Farm Bureau has a long history of promoting safety on farms and this program is an extension of that commitment, specially developed for the youth audience.

The mission of the Farm Bureau Safety and Health Network is to provide leadership and assistance to local and state Farm Bureau organizations promoting safety and health in agricultural and rural communities. The network creates open communication channels between Farm Bureau safety and health professionals and volunteers to share resources, programs and initiatives.

Farm Bureau promotes safety and health in agricultural and rural communities to reduce the number of farm work-related injuries and deaths by promoting safe practices and increasing public awareness of the importance of safety and health in agriculture.

Additional Resources

Safety in Agriculture for Youth

by Agricultural Safety and Health eXtension

Community of Practice, a collaborative effort between universities, industry, and government to provide user-friendly information for the general rural population, agricultural producers, and agricultural safety and health professionals.

Website: www.ag-safety.extension.org/safety-in-agriculture-for-youth/



Cultivate Safety

by The National Farm Medicine Center and National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety was created to provide easy access to agricultural safety information and resources for farmers, ranchers, supervisors and media.

Website: www.cultivatesafety.org/work/

