

Safety Videos for Dairy Employees

by Libby Eiholzer

New employees need to receive safety training *before* they face exposure to risks in the workplace. That means that it's not sufficient to hold one safety training per year for all employees on the farm (unless you have not hired any new employees that year). Many farms rely on NYCAMH (New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health) to conduct safety training. While NYCAMH is set up to help farms meet the OSHA requirement for annual safety training, NYCAMH can't possibly provide safety training for all new dairy employees in NY on or before their first day of work.

The good news is that there are materials to help you provide some basic safety training before a new employee begins working, or at any time during their employment. The NYCAMH website hosts a great video series titled "Considering Human and Animal Safety," <https://www.nycamh.org/resources/videos.php>.

These videos are in both English and Spanish, and cover a variety of topics for jobs around the farm. Part one includes Outside Animal Care, Milking Barn Safety, and Feeding and Other Safety Issues (20 minutes total). Part two includes General & Outside Worker Safety, Milker & Calf Caretaker Safety, and Feeder Safety (35 minutes total).

You'll notice that the farms in the videos look different than ours- that's because the videos were created by the High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (HICAHS). Although you'll see people working with cows in dry lots, the principles taught in the videos apply just as well to our freestall barns.


View the videos first to help you decide which videos are appropriate for the different positions on your farm. When you click on the YouTube link, you'll see a brief description under the video that explains exactly what is covered. For example, "Feeding and Other Safety Issues (Dairy Safety Training Part I, Section 3)," discusses working with PTOs, tractors, loaders, mixers, and other large machinery, as well as using ATVs and working around manure lagoons. If you're tight on time, you could make a note to skip the section on ATVs if that's not relevant for your farm, or for that particular employee.

Are you using other training videos as well? An idea that some farms are trying out is using Google Classroom to post links to all of the training resources that they are using to onboard new employees. That can include video links, standard operating procedures, maps, and other documents that are important for employees to view. You can use Google Forms to create short quizzes for employees to create after viewing the videos and/or materials. All you need to set this up is a Gmail account.

As always, remember to document any training that you give. NYCAMH also has a bilingual safety training roster that you can print here: <https://www.nycamh.org/resources/osha-ny-dairy-lep.php>.



The video series "Considering Human & Animal Safety" is a great resource for training dairy employees. <https://www.nycamh.org/resources/videos.php>



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