

Recognizing farm health hazards

Play areas should be located with as much protection as possible from common agricultural environmental hazards

Organic Dusts

- Severe respiratory problems can result from exposures to unhealthy amounts of organic dusts
- Hair, bedding, grain, silage, and dried urine and feces, can become airborne and easily inhaled
- Areas where organic dusts are prevalent include animal confinement facilities, grain bins and hay lofts

Common Pathogens

- Areas harboring pathogens include places where livestock and poultry manure is present or where livestock congregate
- *Cryptosporidium parvum*, *Salmonella* species, *Campylobacter jejuni* and *E. coli* O157:H7 are pathogens found on farms

- Children should always perform good hand washing following outdoor play on a farm.

Loud Noises

- Tractors, grinders, conveyors, compressors, grain dryers, chain saws and squealing sows are common sources of loud noise on a farm
- Farm workers experience some of the highest rates of noise-induced hearing loss because of repeated noise exposure that begins in childhood
- Protection from factors contributing to hearing loss (e.g. decibel level and the length of exposure to noise) should begin at birth

