



Sample Letter to Parents

[LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

Dear Parent:

Agricultural production continues to be one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States. Children and youth under the age of 18 account for a disproportionate share of farm-related fatalities and injuries, especially those incidents involving tractors and machinery.

If your child is younger than 16 years of age and is considering employment on a farm or ranch, you should be aware that state and federal laws are in place that are designed to protect him or her from being exposed to tasks considered especially hazardous. These laws either restrict youth from performing certain hazardous tasks or require certification of training prior to performing certain tasks considered hazardous for youth. These restrictions currently DO NOT apply to your own children operating tractors and equipment on your own farm or ranch, or one operated by you, or in cases where you have assigned the role of guardianship to another person such as a relative.

To ensure that your children meet the federally mandated training requirements prior to being employed on a farm or ranch, a training program is being offered at [LOCATION] on the following dates:

[SCHEDULE]

The training is designed to help your child become familiar with the most serious hazards associated with operating tractors and agricultural machinery along with the fundamentals of safe operation and maintenance. The material also covers other important safety information related to performing farm and ranch tasks and being able to respond appropriately in the event of an injury or other emergency. The training does not contain enough time to provide your son or daughter sufficient opportunity to develop all of the skills required to become a safe tractor or machinery operator. It is assumed that he or she will have access to a tractor and adequate supervision to acquire additional operator skills outside the training sessions.

As a parent, it is your responsibility to ensure that the activities your child participates in do not expose him or her to unacceptable levels of risk of injury. You, not the potential employer, is in the best position to determine whether or not your child is intellectually, emotionally, and physically prepared to safely handle certain tasks. You might consider making completion of this training a requirement prior to allowing him or her to operate agricultural equipment, even if employment away from home is not being considered.

It should be noted that completion of this or any other safety training does not guarantee that your son or daughter will be a safe tractor or equipment operator, or a safe farm or ranch worker. Just knowing the safe way to complete a task does not always mean that the safe way will be chosen. The training cannot substitute for your ongoing supervision, correction and evaluation, and demonstrated commitment to ensuring a safe and healthy workplace for your son or daughter.

If you have questions on this upcoming training check out the Web site at [_____SITE ADDRESS] or call [PHONE NUMBER].

Sincerely yours,

[NAME]
