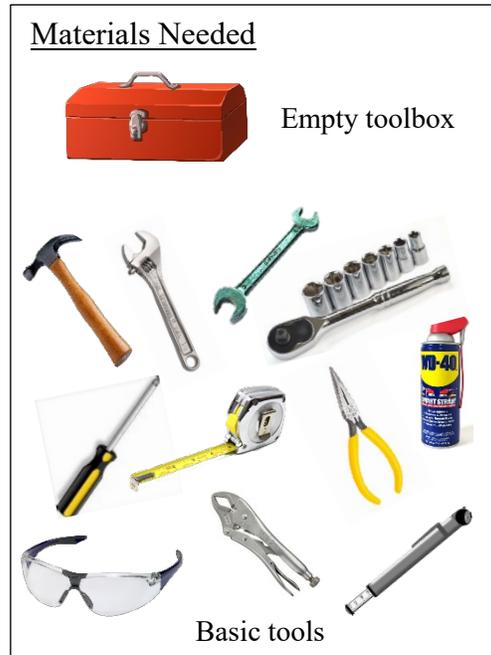


Every farmer needs a safety “toolbox”

Using an empty toolbox and an assortment of tools, this activity will impress on the participants that having the appropriate personal “tools” can make working on a farm safer and more productive for both themselves and their co-workers.

Procedure:

1. Hold up the empty toolbox and ask participants what can be accomplished with an empty toolbox. Not much! Maybe one of them can recall a time a machine broke down at an isolated site on their farm and a simple set of pliers or a screw driver was all that was needed to fix the problem. But upon opening the toolbox, nothing useful was to be found, just a lot of broken parts. A toolbox without the right tools, is also not very helpful.
2. Ask participants what “tools”, or personal qualities, a person needs to have to stay safe when working on a farm. Have them think beyond what goes into a normal toolbox.
3. Using actual tools, illustrate the importance of personal attributes needed to be a safe worker. These should include:



- Knowledge (tire inflation gauge, micrometer, tape measure, antifreeze tester) – you need to know what you are doing and understand the workplace.
- Patience (WD-40, paint brush, sand paper or file) – some tasks are hard and take extra patience. Being in a hurry can cause trouble.
- Strength (large hammer, breaker bar with socket, chain) – workers need to have the physical strength to complete many farm tasks.
- Willingness to working together (ratchet and socket, hammer and punch, drill bit and drill) – many farm-related tasks require teamwork.
- Flexibility (adjustable wrench, pliers, vise grips, rope) – uncertainties like the weather, requires flexibility.
- Discernment (plain, Phillips, hex head screw driver, ratchet and several sockets) – you need to be able to select the right tool to get the job done safely.
- Self-preservation (goggles, safety glasses, gloves, dust mask) – you need to care about yourself and others to avoid taking unnecessary risks.

The attitude, skills, and behaviors that a worker brings to the job site are just as important as the actual tools he or she might need to complete the job.