

Hand & Finger Injury Prevention with Power Tools & Machinery

Why It Matters:

Hand and finger injuries are some of the most common farm accidents and can lead to permanent damage.

Key Safety Points:

- Always use guards and safety shields on saws, augers, and power tools.
- Wear gloves when handling rough materials but remove them when using rotating equipment (gloves can get caught).
- Keep hands away from pinch points and moving parts—use tools like push sticks instead.
- Before maintenance, always shut off power and lockout/tagout machinery.
- Stay focused—distracted or rushed work increases injury risk.

Real-Life Risks:

- Many hand amputations occur from unguarded augers and PTO shafts.
- Accidents happen when workers reach into running machinery to clear blockages.

Discussion Questions:

- What hand injuries have you seen or experienced?
- How can we make power tool use safer on the farm?