



FARM SAFETY CHECK

Silage Storage Safety Checklist: Piles and Bunkers

Silage is vital to the cattle industries. The smell of silage on any cattle operation brings a sense of habitual chore time activities. However, silage bunkers and silos have unique hazards, like silo gas, dust that may contain mold, avalanches, falls, and more. During the silo fermentation process lethal gases are produced. This is especially dangerous in confined areas like around silo rooms. Take precaution during crop production, during ensiling, and when working with silage to keep everyone on the farm safe.

You and/or your employee(s) can use this form to complete safety checks on your farm. Use the form below to list additional safety checks you think are important when inspecting your farm. Keep the completed forms for follow-up, future reference and inspections. Additional copies of this form can be downloaded at:

<http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Are you scheduling a team meeting to talk about potential safety hazards? Make sure everyone understands their roles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there signs or markings to manage traffic in the area of the silo or silage bunkers? (packing tractors, trucks, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do silage harvest teammates remain in their tractor/truck and wear safety vests with high visibility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you conscious of timing when working in the silage area? Silage gas is elevated for up to 10 days after storage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you using the buddy system when working around silage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you properly filling storage structure to the capacity for which it was built? Never fill higher than a loader can reach.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you keeping a safe distance from the face of the silage pile to avoid an avalanche? No one should be closer to the face of a pile than 3 times its height.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you following the safest techniques during removal? Never undercut or dig from the bottom.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when working around silage that may contain gas? The only method for this gas is a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the storage area marked with signage? Consider "Danger! Silage Face Might Collapse"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is everyone trained on symptoms and how to prevent silage gas exposure, with an emergency plan in place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: ____ / ____ / ____

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



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Additional Hazards	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ohio State University Extension

Silage Pile Feeding Management and Safety

<https://wayne.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/silage-pile-feeding-management-and-safety>

Corn Silage: Part 4 Feed Out Safety

University of Wisconsin-Extension

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/agpodcasts/2016/09/08/corn-silage-part-4-feed-out-safety/>

University of Wisconsin Extension

Silo Gas and Silo-Filler's Disease

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/silo-gas-and-silo-fillers-disease/>

Silo Gas - What is it?

University of Wisconsin-Extension

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety/files/2012/07/Silo-Gas-7.27.12-final1.pdf>

Silo Gas - the Hidden Danger

PennState Extension

<https://extension.psu.edu/silo-gases-the-hidden-danger>

Silage Safety

Kansas State University Beef

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdTOBDhVCUg>

The facts and information provided are suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all actions needed to ensure your safety, and are not an endorsement of any products mentioned.

For additional Farm Safety Check topics and resources, visit: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

To receive Farm Safety Check topics via email, join the UMASH email list at <http://umash.umn.edu/join-our-email-list>

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