



Empowering the next generation of agricultural workers

Agriculture and farming is widely recognised as one of the most dangerous industries in Australia.

77%

of students first started working/helping on farm before 15 years of age

Young people aged 15-34 years are increasingly involved in agriculture, either through paid or unpaid work [1]. Exposure to farm related health and safety hazards continues to significantly increase the risk of our young people experiencing short or long term illness associated with agriculture exposures or being killed, injured or permanently disabled.

The Gear Up for Ag Health & Safety program recognises young people are central to an innovative and sustainable future for agriculture and seeks to influence farm safety culture. The program provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their current farm safety practices and discuss important health and safety topics. Students are engaged in learning through various demonstrations and interactive activities to build their understanding of common agricultural hazards, promote health and wellbeing and empower them to improve their farm safety practices.

79%

of students rate their own health and safety practices on farm as very or extremely important

32% do not wear respiratory protection when working in a dusty environment

26% do not wear gloves when mixing, handling or applying chemicals



76%

of students have been exposed to loud noise in farm work over the last 12 months

65%

of students report experiencing ringing in ears or decreased ability to hear after being exposed to loud noise



PROGRAM SUMMARY

TARGET AUDIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary School Students from Year 9 - 12 (including VCAL) Agricultural College Students (VET, Tertiary)
DURATION & LOCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 - 4 hours As an incursion on the school premises
FACILITATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained facilitators who have completed Agricultural Health & Medicine (through Deakin University) or who are highly experienced in agriculture Current Working with Children Check
WHAT'S INCLUDED?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pre-program student survey to develop customised training and provide key health and safety education relevant to student's attitudes, behaviour, knowledge and exposures, at home and on the farm. An education session that promotes health, wellbeing and safety in agriculture including interactive demonstrations and class activities. This includes identification of local agricultural hazards, how working on farms and in agriculture can impact physical and mental wellbeing and ways to minimise risk of fatality, injury and illness on farms. A post-program student survey to gauge learning and effectiveness of the program and report back to the participating school.
PPE KIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student is provided with a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) start-up kit including discussion on where and when to wear appropriate AS/NZS approved PPE and interactive demonstration of correct usage.
RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing Health on the Farm Managing Stress on the Farm Farmer Support Guide
REQUIREMENTS	<p>Participating schools and ag colleges will be required to complete a program evaluation and ensure that students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete the pre and post program surveys; and have access to WI-FI electronic device (phone, tablet, computer) to participate in online quizzes during session.

“ I took away a lot of knowledge about health and safety on farms including stuff about respirators/masks & handling chemicals in the correct way. I'll definitely take all this informatin into my daily farm practices. ”

Lucy, 19 - Cert II Ag Student, Hamilton

97%

of students have a better understanding about why you should wear respiratory protection

96%

of students say that their knowledge of farm hazards has increased a little or lot

57%

of students state the Gear Up program has positively influenced their own farm safety behaviours.

48%

of students say that the Gear Up program has changed the way they talk about farm safety