



National Farm Safety and Health Week 2025: Safety First: Avoid the Worst



Agriculture ranks among the most hazardous industries. Farmers/ranchers are at very high risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries; and farming/ranching are one of the few industries in which family members (who often share the work and live on the premises) are also at risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries. While a better, more uniform method of reporting and compiling information is needed, the annual mortality from farm accidents is currently estimated at 60 to 70 per 100,000 of farm population, while nonfatal injuries occur to about 33% of the farming population annually in the United States, with 3% of those accidents resulting in a permanent disability. (Source: National Ag Safety Database.)

This year, **National Farm Safety and Health Week** is **September 21-27** with the theme, “**Safety First: Avoid the Worst**”. Every September, **AgriSafe** joins with partners across the US to raise awareness about the safety and health of people working in agriculture. AgriSafe was formed in 2003 by rural nurses who believed that together they could improve the health and safety of farmers and ranchers. Believing that preventative education is key to reduce the workplace rates of injuries and fatalities, AgriSafe is hosting ten free webinars from Monday, September 22 through Friday, September 26. You’re encouraged to join in for all of them or just pick the ones that interest you most. Thanks to various generous sponsors, these webinars are **FREE** and open to the public!

Monday, September 22: Equipment and Rural Roadway Safety

Road Safety and Agriculture as We Age

Farm Equipment Hits the Highway: Growing Risks and Smarter Solutions

Tuesday, September 23: Health and Wellness

Changing our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET) Community Training

Strong Roots: Keeping Farming in the Family through Health and Resilience

Wednesday, September 24: Generations of Farming

Communication Coaching to Support Farm Harmony Across Generations

Too Young to Plow Alone: Keeping Youth Safe on the Farm

Thursday, September 25: Confined Space

Confined Spaces in Agriculture

AgriSafe Natural Disaster Recovery Think Tank

Friday, September 26: ATV/UTV

Safe Operation of ATV’s and UTV’s for Agriculture

Wheels of MisFortune: Off Road Vehicles on Public Roadways

To register for any or all of these free webinars or for more information please visit:

<https://www.agrisafe.org/nfshw>

Many of us work directly in farming and/or ranching, we have family, friends and neighbors who do, or we own businesses that serve farmers and ranchers in our community. Please take some time to promote health and safety on your farm/ranch or those of your friends, family or neighbors during **National Farm Safety and Health Week** this year! I am glad to provide you with flyers promoting these AgriSafe webinars and other agricultural safety topics!



The next parish nurse advisory board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis. **Visitors are invited to attend any meeting** and to contact Nancy or one of the advisory board members any time with ideas, questions or concerns. Current board members include: Bev Armbruster, Donna Deines, Mary Cunningham, Margaret Schmitt, Liz Deines, Chuck Rhoades and Josh Keller. The parish nurse ministry wants to support the health and wellbeing--mind, body and spirit--of Prairie Faith Shared Ministry and the surrounding community. *Please let us know how we can help!*



Fellowship of the Broken

Let us not underestimate how hard it is to be compassionate. Compassion is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to the place where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely, and broken. But this is not our spontaneous response to suffering. What we desire most is to do away with suffering by fleeing from it or finding a quick cure for it. As busy, active, relevant [people], we want to earn our bread by making a real contribution. This means first and foremost doing something to show that our presence makes a difference. And so we ignore our greatest gift, which is our ability to enter into solidarity with those who suffer. . . .

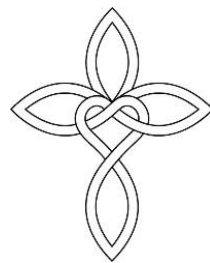
Those who can sit with their fellow man, not knowing what to say but knowing that they should be there, can bring new life into a dying heart. Those who are not afraid to hold a hand in gratitude, to shed tears of grief, and to let a sigh of distress arise straight from the heart can break through paralyzing boundaries and witness the birth of a new fellowship, the fellowship of the broken. (Author: Henri Nouwen)

*"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made." - Psalm 145: 8, 9*



Our Father, I think of all the pain and heartache, the tears and sorrow,
the greed and cruelty unloosed around the world. Help me to be an
instrument of Thine to alleviate the pain, by this day:

returning good for evil,
returning soft answers for sharp criticisms,
being polite when I receive rudeness,
being understanding when I am confronted by ignorance and stupidity.



So, may I, in gentleness and love, check the hasty answer, choke back the unkind retort,
and thus short-circuit some of the bitterness and unkindness that has overflowed Thy world.
I ask this in the name of Jesus, who alone can give me the grace so to act.

Amen

(Prayer by Peter Marshall (1902-1949))



Feel free to call or email me to: schedule a confidential appointment to discuss your health/wellness questions, schedule transportation to a medical/dental/counseling appointment if you need a ride, request a prayer shawl for someone in the community going through a difficult time, request a comfort meal gift card for a friend or neighbor, locate community health resources, request other parish nurse work, or discuss your ideas for the health ministry!
Nancy Bollig, RN parishnurse@ruraltel.net 785-743-2005 (leave a message, please)