

Hearing Loss Among Farmers

Why should farmers and agricultural workers be concerned about hearing loss?

- Hearing loss from exposure to noise is common among farmers and agricultural worker
- Hearing loss from noise is **permanent** and **irreversible**
- Hearing loss from noise can be **prevented**



Hazardous levels of noise are produced by many kinds of agricultural equipment, including:

- Grain dryers
- Tractors
- Combines
- Livestock
- Chainsaws
- Firearms



Common noise sources, sound level, and maximum recommended daily exposure

ATV, push mower	90 dB	2.5 hours
Enclosed cab tractor or combine, grain auger	92 dB	95 min
Air compressor	95 dB	47 min
Pigs squealing, table saw, irrigation pump	100 dB	15 min
Tractor, combine (no cab), grain dryer	105 dB	4 min
Chainsaw	115 dB	<1 min

Hearing Loss Prevention

Exposure to noise can be controlled. Farmers & agricultural workers should:

1. Reduce sound levels by selecting equipment with the quietest option.
2. Perform routine equipment maintenance.
3. Isolate yourself from noise.
4. Use hearing protection; the higher the NRR, the better.
5. Indicate “HIGH NOISE” areas or equipment to remind you to wear hearing protection.
6. Limit daily noise exposure duration.