

# Hearing Loss Among Farmers

Why should farmers and agricultural workers be concerned about hearing loss? Because hearing loss from exposure to noise is:

- **common** among farmers and agricultural workers
- **permanent** and **irreversible**
- **preventable**

---

**Agricultural equipment generates hazardous noise levels:**

Noise Source	Sound Level	Max safe time*
ATV, push mower	90 dB	2.5 hr
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

\*Without wearing hearing protection

# 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
5. Identify “HIGH NOISE” areas or equipment to remind you to wear hearing protection
6. Limit daily noise exposure duration

Select hearing protection that fits, reduces sound, and is comfortable.



Muffs



Disposable Plugs

*Permanently store hearing protection near noisy locations for easy access when you need it.*