

# EYE PROTECTION FOR AG WORKERS



AgHealth  
Central States

Center for Agricultural  
Safety and Health

 University of Nebraska  
Medical Center

## EYE INJURY PREVENTION

Proper eye protection is important for ag workers to prevent eye injury. Eye injuries can be expensive and painful, and can lead to blindness or even death. Most eye injuries can be prevented by using proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Eye protection should be used when handling chemicals, feed grinding, haying, welding, repairing equipment, and any work done in a dusty environment or where particles are in the air.

## EYE PROTECTION

There are 4 main types of eye protection.

### BASIC SAFETY GLASSES

Provide protection when particles may enter the eye from the front. Choose tinted lenses when activities are being completed in bright sun or may include bright flashes of light. If you wear prescription glasses, you can choose to purchase prescription safety glasses.

### GOGGLES

Fit snugly around the eyes and provide protection from all angles. Best for jobs like chainsaw operation, grinding, etc. Usually fit over prescription glasses. Typically ventilated.

### FACE SHIELDS

Face shields need to be worn along with either glasses or goggles. Designed to protect from heat, glare, and flying objects

### WELDING HELMETS & GOGGLES

Designed specifically for welding. Helmets are equipped with special lenses to protect eyes from strong UV and infrared rays. Goggles are equipped with filter lenses to protect eyes from sparks, rays, and flying particles. Be sure you use the appropriate filter lens for the type of welding being done.

*Information Source: Eye protection. (2013). Farm and Ranch eXtension in Safety and Health (FReSH) Community of Practice. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.org/pages/66976/eye-protection-for-agricultural-workers>.*

## GET IN TOUCH

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# MAINTENANCE

- Regularly clean eye protection with by washing with warm, soapy water, and dry with a soft tissue or cloth.
- Replace elastic bands on goggles when they become stretched.
- Store eye protection in a hard case to prevent dust build up and damage.
- If you wear contacts, always wear eye protection in work areas. It is safer to wear prescription eye protection rather than contacts in dusty work environments as contact lenses can trap particles in the eye.
- Do NOT share eye protection. Eye disease can be very contagious.
- Sunglasses are NOT considered eye protection.

# EYE INJURY FIRST AID

INJURY	TREATMENT
Particle in the eye	Flush eye with water. If unable to flush, cover and seek medical attention.
Object embedded in the eye	Bandage both eyes, seek medical attention.
Cut near the eye	Loosely bandage both eyes, seek medical attention.
Bump or bruise near eye	Apply cold compress for 15 minutes to reduce swelling, seek medical attention.
Welding arc burn	Keep eyes closed and seek medical attention.

# RESOURCES



**EXTENSION:  
EYE PROTECTION FOR  
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS**



**NASD:  
EYE PROTECTION FOR  
FARMERS**



**OSHA:  
EYE AND FACE  
PROTECTION**



**UMASH:  
FIRST AID FOR EYE  
INJURIES POSTER**