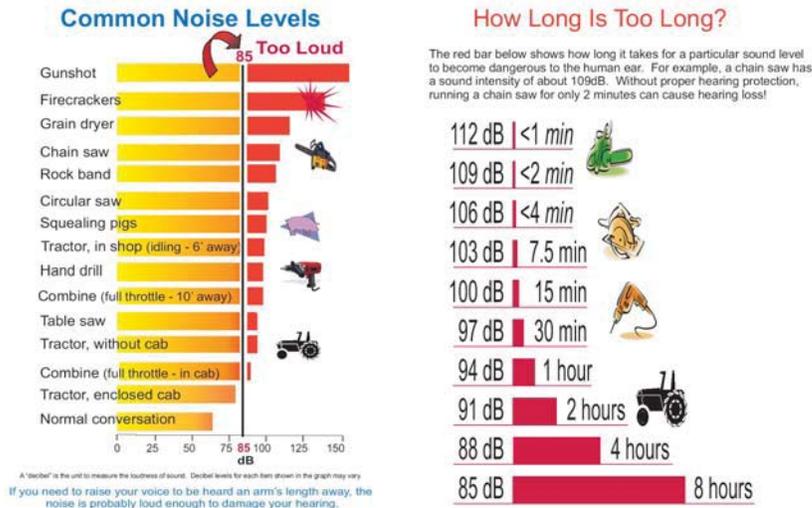


Hearing Safety in Agriculture

Agricultural tasks often put workers' hearing at risk. Tractors, machinery and animals can all create loud noises that damage hearing.

You should know:

- Hearing loss can be permanent and irreversible.
- Noise induced hearing loss is preventable.
- Hearing protection will decrease noise and sound, not eliminate it. You will still be able to hear voices and your equipment.



A variety of hearing protection devices are available, including formable earplugs, pre-molded earplugs, canal caps and ear muffs. It is important to only use products designed for hearing protection; cotton balls will not protect your hearing. In addition to wearing hearing protection, CDC/NIOSH recommends that you become aware of noisy tasks, make hearing protection convenient, reduce equipment noise through regular maintenance, limit your exposure, have your hearing tested and keep children away from noisy situations.

Hearing protection is an inexpensive way to maintain optimum use of one of your basic senses.

Additional Resources

CDC/NIOSH Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention Resources;
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise>

National Hearing Conservation Association; www.hearingconservation.org

National Institutes of Health WISE EARS! Campaign Resources;
<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/wise/index.asp>

National Ag Safety Database Hearing Conservation;
www.cdc.gov/nasd/menu/topic/hearing.html

Dangerous Decibels; www.dangerousdecibels.org