

FACT SHEET

FEED MIXER OPERATION



OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

Using a feed mixer can help streamline the feeding of livestock, however there are a number of risks that farmers need to be made aware of. Farmers need to ensure that the environment where the feed mixer is to be loaded is free of hazards like overhead powerlines and that their workers are well trained in the use of the machinery which is used to fill the feed mixer, as well as the operation of the feed mixer.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Learn how to safely operate a feed mixer
- 2 How to apply to your farm/actions to take forward

BEST PRACTICE DETAIL

There are many ways farmers can keep safe while loading and using a feed mixer.

- Assess the area where the feed mixer is to be loaded - is it relatively flat? Is there ready access to the components being put in the feed mixer? If earthen ramps are used, are they in good condition and adequate to support the machinery being used?
- Park feeder at designated loading location with appropriate wheel chocking and park brakes applied
- Fill and start feeder using front end loader for silage/ hay, augers from feed bins for grain and overhead pipe systems for liquids
- Transport loaded feeder wagon to where feed is required, ensuring safety of bystanders with safe tractor driving
- Enter alleyway with tractor and begin discharging feed material from feed mixer
- Never climb on feeder ladders during operation

ACTIONS

There are actions you can take right now to ensure you are as safe as possible when next operating a feed mixer.

- Inspect the area where the feed mixer will be loaded and ensure there is adequate room to load and operate the feed mixer
- Ensure operator is competent to use the farm machinery they will be operating
- Ensure farm machinery has been maintained and serviced as per the manufacturer's requirements
- Ensure all workers follow the process in place in case of blockage, breakdown or other problems occurring
- Keep pedestrians out of areas where feed mixer loading is occurring
- Ensure there is a designated parking location for feeder
- Ensure alleyway is free of debris, objects or hazards
- Ensure emergency brake is in good working order
- Ensure staff are aware to report any hazards they spot immediately

KEY CONTACT

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