

# Safety Concerns: Grain Boxes and Play Bins

**Grain boxes** have become popular attractions at farm shows, festivals and other agritourism events. However, in addition to desensitizing children to danger, a pile of grain carries with it other safety concerns and health risks.

**Sending an unsafe message:** young children's ability to distinguish play situations from the real world is not well differentiated. When they "play" in grain, we are suggesting it's "okay and fun." This mixed message could prove fatal on a working farm with grain bins and flowing grain.



**Choking** can result from inhaling grain or sticking grain in mouth



**Allergies** may be caused by grain or chemicals used in grain production



**Animals** may be attracted by "food source", resulting in animal bites or illness caused by germs/contact with feces



**Ventilation** concerns may result from a lack of windows or openings on re-purposed grain bins



**Supervision** can be inhibited by lack of windows or openings



**Crowding** often occurs in re-purposed grain bins, which cannot be enlarged to provide more room

## Recommended Alternatives

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sandbox or Sand Tables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Can be expanded to add more room</li> <li>-Add toy tractors and farm toys</li> <li>-Provide awning canopy for shade</li> <li>-Cover at night or when not in use</li> </ul>                                       |
| Water Tables           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Tables with water a youth can play with</li> <li>-Add farm toys</li> <li>-Empty at night or when not in use</li> </ul>                                                                                           |
| Dirt Tables            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Tables with dirt that youth can play with</li> <li>-Can use to teach kids basics of gardening</li> <li>-Add farm toys, plastic plants, garden tools, etc.</li> <li>-Cover at night or when not in use</li> </ul> |

