

# PROTECT YOUR HEARING!

## Hearing Loss Among Farmers in the United States

- There are **48 million Americans** who have a significant hearing loss. *(2011 National Health Interview Survey)*
- Hearing loss from exposure to noise is **common among farmers and agricultural workers**. *(Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, 2018)*
- Over **one-third of the farmers** in the United States have hearing loss. *(2016 National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)*
- Daily **exposure to harmful noise starts at a young age**, with the sounds of livestock, tractors, chainsaws, firearms, combines and other noisy equipment. *(2016 National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)*
- For most farmers, **hearing loss occurs gradually** over many years and may only be noticed once it is a serious problem. *(Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health 2018)*



### HOW LOUD IS TOO LOUD?

Farm Equipment	Noise Level (dB)	Max Safe Time*	*Max time without wearing hearing protection
ATV, Push Mower	90 dB	2.5 HRS	
Tractor/Combine (with Cab), Grain Auger	92 dB	1.5 HRS	
Air Compressor, Shop Vac	95 dB	47 MIN	
Pigs Squealing, Irrigation Pump	100 dB	15 MIN	
Riding Mower, Pressure Washer	102 dB	9 MIN	
Tractor (No Cab), Grain Dryer	105 dB	4 MIN	
Leaf Blower	110 dB	1 - 2 MIN	
Chain Saw	115 dB	< 1 MIN	



Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

632 Versailles Road

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

502-573-2604 \* 800-372-2907

502-44416-0607 VP \* kcdhh.ky.gov