SAFETY AND HEALTH
ON THE FARM
IT'S YOUR RIGHT
AND IT'S THE LAW
Juan was a milker on a dairy farm. He is from México.

Today, the crowd gate got stuck. Juan jumped into the holding area to open the gate...

A cow pinned Juan.

¡AHHH!

Juan was hurt...

Help me! I've been pinned by a cow. My chest hurts and I can't breathe.

Don't worry. We'll get you to the hospital right away.
Even though Juan is in great pain, he is worried about how he is going to pay for his medical bills. He is scared that he will lose his job.

Don’t worry. Our farm has workers’ compensation insurance for all employees who get hurt on the job.

Right now, it’s important that we get you to a doctor. You will need to tell the doctor this happened at work. You broke 4 ribs. What happened?

Doctor this happened at work. I got pinned by a cow.

Working on farms can be dangerous. We’ve arranged for you to see another doctor tomorrow.

Talk to that doctor about getting you back to work as soon as you can. It’s good for you and it’s good for the farm.
As soon as we get back, I will make a report of your injury. It’s the law.

Workers’ compensation is an insurance that employers buy to cover workers if they get injured on the job. It’s different from health insurance.

New Mexico requires all farms with 3 or more employees to have workers’ compensation, but the laws are different in each state.

It pays for medical costs including the hospital and other treatment needed.

So it covers the cost of the hospital. And what am I to do for money if I can’t work?

Don’t worry. Workers’ compensation also pays for part of your wages while you get better.

The doctor mentioned something about workers’ compensation. What is that?

Workers’ compensation is an insurance that employers buy to cover workers if they get injured on the job. It’s different from health insurance.
The farm needs to know what happened so that they can make changes to prevent injuries in the future.

Whenever a worker gets hurt or becomes sick because of work, the worker should report it to their supervisor.

OSHA is the government agency that ensures people have a safe and healthy place to work. In English it is called the “Occupational Safety and Health Administration or OSHA”.

Farmers and workers need to follow OSHA rules when it comes to worker safety and health.
I want to tell you what I learned from getting pinned by that cow. We need to be aware of cow behavior and look for signs of stress or aggression.

Communication is very important on the farm, among workers and between workers and the farmer.

Workers have certain rights like the right to know about the hazards in their workplace and how to keep safe.

How to stay safe when working with animals is the topic of today’s training.

It’s very important for workers to know where the escape routes are when working with cattle.

Escape routes will help workers exit safely in case cows are stressed or aggressive.
Wearing gloves and safety glasses will help protect us when using chemicals and giving medications to cows. Another right that workers have is to receive information about the chemicals used at work.

It’s great to have you back so soon. I know we can find some useful tasks for you to do until you fully recover.

It’s great to be back at work!
Workers’ Rights

All workers have these rights:

- Right to a safe and healthy workplace.
- Right to information about workplace hazards.
- Right to know about chemical hazards and how to avoid injury.
- Right to demand a safe workplace without fear of discrimination or punishment.
- Right to health and safety training about hazards at your workplace.
- Right to file an OSHA complaint and to request an OSHA inspection of your workplace.

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For more booklets, call (715) 387-5891 or visit http://www.migrantclinician.org/dairyworkercomic

For more information about workers’ compensation in your state visit www.migrantclinician.org/workerscomp

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