**Obtaining Necessary PPE for Agricultural Operations During COVID-19**

*Developed by INPREPared Staff, June 2020*

Many farm and agricultural-related work activities require the use of personal protective equipment by workers to prevent injury or illness. Pesticide handling and application, livestock work, welding, grinding, and many other common farm and shop tasks present hazards to workers if PPE is not available and properly used.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major shortages in commonly used personal protective equipment. Safety glasses and goggles, face shields, gloves, and especially respiratory protective devices are in short supply. In previous years, a quick trip to the farm store, or placing an online order with one of many different suppliers would almost certainly have provided farmers or agricultural businesses with the appropriate items, but that’s not the case in 2020! Despite the difficulty in obtaining PPE, agricultural employers are still obligated to provide appropriate personal protective equipment to their workers.

Finding the proper equipment will likely require persistence. Many common items are out-of-stock, and/or suppliers have directed sales toward health care industries for front-line medical workers. Once PPE is obtained, proper usage and care can extend the useful life of the equipment. The Federal Emergency Management Agency published a fact sheet for managing PPE needs in non-healthcare setting, which can be accessed by [clicking here](https://extension.purdue.edu/INPREPared/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FEMA_FactSheet_COVID19_NonHealthPPENeed_FINAL_20200422.pdf).

To assist farmers and agribusinesses in finding the necessary protective equipment for their family and staff, INPREPared has produced the following list of potential online suppliers. ***No endorsement or recommendation by INPREPared or Purdue University is implied for these companies.*** The list simply provides possible sources agriculturalists may consider when searching for PPE, and is not expected to be an exhaustive listing. Also, please consider local options such as hardware stores, lumberyards, or agricultural businesses that might have PPE in stock, or be able to special-order through their wholesalers.

***Online Agricultural PPE Suppliers***

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| AM Leonard | [www.amleo.com](http://www.amleo.com/) |
| Amazon | [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com/) |
| ASC Agri Supply | [www.agrisupply.com](http://www.agrisupply.com/) |
| Black Hawk Industrial | [www.bhid.com](http://www.bhid.com/) |
| Cintas | [www.cintas.com](http://www.cintas.com/) |
| Discount Safety Gear | [www.discountsafetygear.com](http://www.discountsafetygear.com/) |
| eBay | [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com/) |
| FarmTek | [www.farmtek.com](http://www.farmtek.com/) |
| Fastenal | [www.fastenal.com](http://www.fastenal.com/) |
| Gemplers | [www.gemplers.com](http://www.gemplers.com/) |
| Grainger Industrial Supply | [www.grainger.com](http://www.grainger.com/) |
| HD Supply Solutions | [www.hdsupplysolutions.com](http://www.hdsupplysolutions.com/) |
| Hisco | [www.hisco.com](http://www.hisco.com/) |
| Home Depot | [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com/) |
| J.J. Keller & Associates | [www.jjkeller.com](http://www.jjkeller.com/) |
| Lake Industries | [www.lakeindustries.com](http://www.lakeindustries.com/) |
| Lowes Home Improvement | [www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com/) |
| MSC Direct | [www.mscdirect.com](http://www.mscdirect.com/) |
| Orscheln Farm & Home | [www.orschelnfarmhome.com](http://www.orschelnfarmhome.com/) |
| Rural King Supply | [www.ruralking.com](http://www.ruralking.com/) |
| Safety Protection Equipment | [www.safetyprotectionequipment.com](http://www.safetyprotectionequipment.com/) |
| Stock & Field (Big R) | [www.bigr.com](http://www.bigr.com/) |
| Tractor Supply Co. | [www.tractorsupply.com](http://www.tractorsupply.com/) |
| Uline | [www.uline.com](http://www.uline.com/) |
| UniFirst | [www.unifirst.com](http://www.unifirst.com/) |
| Wrist-Band | [www.wrist-band.com](http://www.wrist-band.com/) |