

How Loud Is Too Loud on the Farm?

The louder the sound, the quicker it can damage your hearing. Sound is measured in decibels. Sounds at or above 85 dBA* can cause hearing loss.

*dBA = A-weighted decibels

2 minutes at 110 dBA can damage your hearing.

140–170 dBA
Shooting sports, or fireworks



77–115 dBA
Chainsaw



Why Protect Your Hearing?

Noise-induced hearing loss:

- » Can build over time.
- » Is permanent.
- » Is preventable.

14 minutes at 100 dBA can damage your hearing.

85–107 dBA
Pig squeals



82–100 dBA
Grain dryer, grain auger, or tractor with no cab



How to Protect Your Hearing:

- » Lower the volume.
- » Move away from the noise.
- » Wear hearing protectors, such as earplugs or earmuffs.

8 hours at 85 dBA can damage your hearing.

87–98 dBA
Woodshop



76–87 dBA
Tractor with a closed cab



A program of the National Institutes of Health

<https://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov>

Toll-free voice: (800) 241-1044

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Sources: The Noise Navigator™ Sound Level Database and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health

At or below 70 dBA, sounds are generally considered safe.

60–70 dBA
Normal conversation, or hens clucking



30 dBA
Whisper



NIH National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

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