

## National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

**Kelsey Wood**

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I recently completed the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry (Agriculture) course online for a requirement in one of my agricultural education classes at Texas A&M University. Since the OSHA course was a grade for my class, I originally considered it as a task and not necessarily something I could learn from and use in the future. Upon working on and completing the OSHA 10-Hour course my opinion most definitely changed.

The OSHA 10-Hour wallet card has drastically changed how I recognize hazards. From seeing employees on forklifts at Home Depot to walking around horses and cattle, the training has really made me pay attention to people and hazards around me. There were many ideas and topics in the training that may seem like common sense to people, however, it is more necessary than most people think to refresh your memory on the ideas and topics in the OSHA 10-Hour course. Along with the everyday safety issues, there were many things mentioned in the course that I had no idea could cause any harm whatsoever. I complete daily tasks with more awareness and caution because I have my OSHA 10-Hour wallet card. I am about to enter into the field of agriculture education, and I am certain that those common safety skills will be very beneficial for my future classroom and students as a high school agriculture science teacher.

Because of my background in agriculture, I am very aware of the safety issues involved in the industry. Whether in a shop class, show barn, or on a field trip, the safety of my students will always be my top concern. Children must be taught how to be safe. This course was not only a great reminder on issues to point out to students but also allowed me to realize the need for the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry (Agriculture) course online to be a requirement for all students in many different agriculture science courses. I did not come into this college course with the OSHA credential already complete, however, there were a few in our class that had previously completed the credential due to it being a requirement in their high school course. If I get the opportunity to teach the freshman agriculture science course when I am an educator, I hope to be able to make the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry (Agriculture) course a requirement for the course so that students will have great safety information to get them through their experiences in high school agriculture science.

I look forward to seeing how the OSHA 10-Hour wallet card will continue to influence how I see and react to safety hazards. There is a lot to be excited about in the future of the agricultural industry, but it will go no where without the implementation of safety in the many variations of practices. I hope that by introducing OSHA into my future agriculture science classroom there will be a continuous trend of fewer accidents and injuries in the future of agriculture.