



Tractor Safety

Farm tractors provide the primary source of power on many farms. Studies show that the farm tractor is involved in a high proportion of farm fatalities and severe injuries. To avoid them, follow safe management principles and implement a tractor safety program on your farm.

- Develop a "safety first" attitude. Follow safe work practices all the time and set a good example for others.
- Be physically and mentally fit when operating tractors. Fatigue, stress, medication, alcohol and drugs can detract from safe tractor operation. Take breaks.
- Read operator's manual and warning decals. Pay attention to safety information.
- Equip the tractor with a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) and wear seat belts.
- Inspect the tractor for any hazards and correct them before operating.
- Make sure everyone who operates a tractor has received training and is physically able to operate it safely.
- Shut down equipment, turn off engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.
- Keep bystanders and others away from tractor operation area. Do not allow "extra riders," especially children.

Inspection

- Are ROPS in place and seat belts used?
- Is a PTO master shield in place?
- Is the operator's platform clear of debris?
- Is a reflective "Slow Moving Vehicle" emblem posted?
- Are lights and flashers operational?
- Are tires properly inflated?
- Is the hydraulics free from leaks?
- Are Brakes can be locked together?
- Is a 20 lb. "ABC" fire extinguisher in place?
- Is a fully equipped first aid kit on the tractor?

Information supplied by the National Safety Council's Agricultural Division, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) – www.necasag.org or 888-844-6322.

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