



The Plain Facts ... About Tractor Safety

Farm tractors should be equipped for roll-over accidents.

More than half of all farm tractors are not equipped with a roll-over protective structure (ROPS). ROPS and seat belt-equipped tractors would save approximately 350 lives annually on U.S. farms.

Farm tractors should be equipped with bypass starter covers.

Many farm tractors do not have bypass starter covers for preventing jump starting. Tractor operators may attempt to jump start a farm tractor if the battery is dead. If the tractor is in gear, it could lurch forward and run over operators and innocent bystanders. A bypass starter cover would save lives.

Farm tractors should be equipped with master shields.

Many farm tractors do not have their original equipment power take-off master shields. Many master shields are removed by farmers and are not replaced. If the missing shield exposes an operating power take-off, operators are at risk for entanglement around the spinning shaft.

Farm tractors should be equipped with SMV emblems.

Many farm tractors driven on public highways do not have a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem. State ve-

hicle codes require the mounting of an SMV emblem on equipment moving at less than 25 miles per hour on highways. SMV emblems warn other drivers of the slow moving vehicle on the roadway.

Farm tractors should be equipped with emergency lighting.

Many farm tractors do not have functioning hazard warning lights. Operating headlights and hazard warning lights provide advance warning for other drivers sharing the highway with farm equipment.

Farm equipment should be hitched properly.

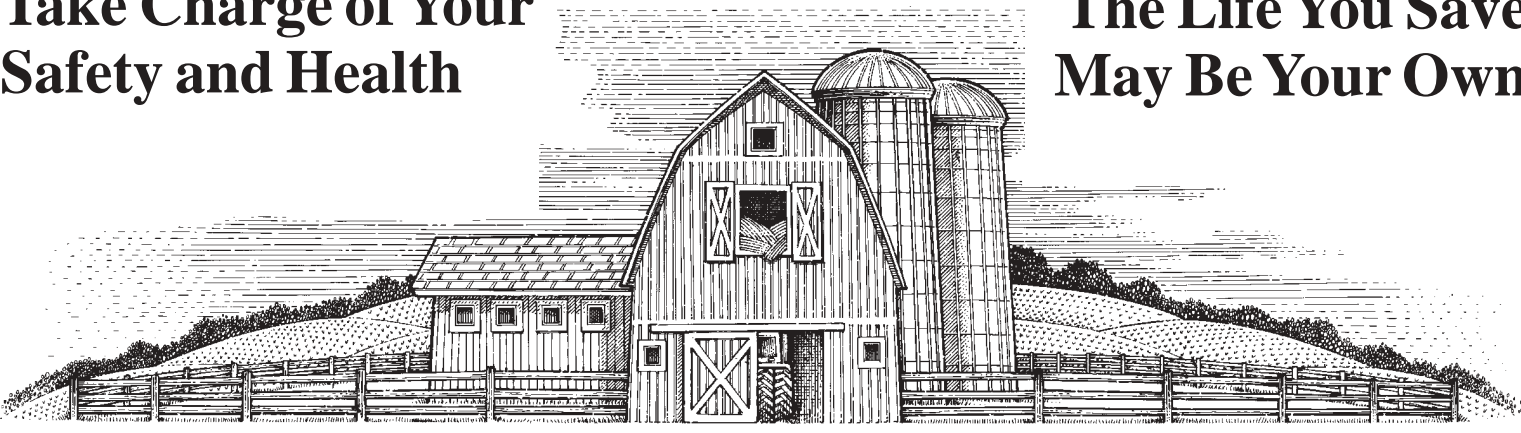
Farm tractors may become unstable when improper hitching is attempted. Tractor drawbars are designed for towing and take into account the tractor's crucial center of gravity. Hitching or towing at points other than the drawbar may result in a rear over-turn.

Farm tractors should not transport extra passengers.

Most farm tractors are only designed for one person. Extra riders on farm tractors is discouraged due to the hazard associated with falling from the tractor or falling into the path of trailing equipment. Carrying passengers may divert the attention of the driver from the important task of operating the tractor.

Take Charge of Your Safety and Health

The Life You Save May Be Your Own



Tips For Farmers and Rural Motorists: How To Coexist With Farm Equipment On The Road

Kansas State University Research and Extension farm safety specialist John Slocombe offers the following guidelines for farmers and non-farmers who meet on the road.

*Farm machinery has a legal right to use public roads just as other motor vehicles.

*Farm machinery can unexpectedly turn onto a public road from a field or driveway. It is important for everyone's safety to have patience and share the road.

*Farm machinery travels slower than normal traffic, often at speeds of 25 miles per hour or less. Automobile drivers must quickly identify farm equipment and slow down immediately to avoid rear end crashes.

*Farm machinery operators may not be able to see you because the large equipment or a load can block part of their rearward view. If you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you.

*Slow moving farm machinery traveling less than 25 miles per hour should display a slow moving vehicle emblem on the back of the equipment. This is a quickly identifiable sign to other motorists.

*Machinery that is half on the road and half on the shoulder may suddenly move completely onto the road.

*Extra-wide farm machinery may take up more than one lane to avoid hitting obstacles such as mailboxes and road signs.

Before passing farm machinery:

*Check to be sure the machinery is not turning left. Look for left turn lights or hand signals. If the machinery slows and

pulls toward the right side of the road, the operator is likely preparing to make a wide left turn. Likewise, sometimes to make a right turn with wide equipment, the driver must fade to the left.

*Determine if the road is wide enough for you and the machinery to safely share.

*Look for roadside obstacles such as mailboxes, bridges, or road signs that may cause the machinery to move to the center of the road.

*Be sure there is adequate distance for you to safely pass.



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