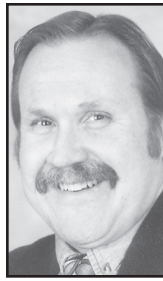


Youth tractor safety course scheduled for April 25

In 1970, the U.S. Department of Labor declared agricultural tasks as hazardous for children under the age of 16. With certain exemptions, this law made employment of youth under the age of 16 at these jobs illegal for anyone other than their parent or legal guardian. The long standing tradition of youth finding summer employment on local farms prompted the development of the Hazardous Occupations Training (Tractor Safety) program to train and certify youth 14 and 15 years of age to work in agricultural jobs for someone other than their

Views with Van Keith VanSkiel, Extension Director



parents. With the summer season right around the corner, you may be planning on working on a farm or if you are a producer, possibly you are planning on hiring a 14 or 15 year old youth. Youth that

are now 13 and will be turning 14 this summer or fall can also take the course, but cannot be issued the certificate until their 14th birthday. According to the laws set forth by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, he or she is required to take farm/tractor safety training.

K-State Research and Extension councils from this area are combining efforts and hosting a Tractor Safety Training which will be held in Hill City, Kansas on Saturday, scheduled April 25 at the Graham County 4-H Building. Registration needs to be into the

Norton County Extension Office not later than April 20.

The cost of the course will be \$10 which will cover materials and supplies and refreshments. Pre-registration is requested to distribute the manual prior to the course so reading and completion of the homework can be done before coming to the training. If you are interested in taking the course, call the Norton County Extension Office before April 20 at 785-877-5755. The youth will need to bring a sack lunch for the program.

Recent interpretations of the Hazardous Occupation Training

(HOT) law indicate that there are several instances where this training is required even though the youth is working on their "family's farm".

Specifically:
 • The farm is a partnership with the youth's parents being one of the partners. Technically, the youth is working for the partnership and not the parents.

• The farm is incorporated. Here again, the corporation is the employer, not the parents.

• The youth is working on a grandparent's farm. Exemptions for the HOT exist only for the

youth employed by their parents or legal guardian.

Youth that are 13 years of age are welcome also, but cannot be given the actual certificate until they turn 14 years old. Older youth and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the training. Information presented should benefit all farm residents and workers who have not previously attended these sessions. However, youth 16 and over are not required by law to take the training, but are highly encouraged to participate in the course if they have not taken it before.

Here are some of the farm-related injuries, deaths for 2008 in Kansas

Farm-related injuries

- Jan. 30, Clay County, a 63 year old man was injured after being pinned while attempting to attach a loader bucket to a tractor.
- Feb. 15, Doniphan County, a man was injured after the grain truck he had parked rolled back and pinned him between the truck and a building.
- March 25, Marshall County, a 15 year old boy was injured when a large square bale he was moving landed on him in a cab-less tractor.
- March 27, Shawnee County, an 80 year old man was injured after falling, and a cow fell on top of him.
- April 19, Ellis County, a man was injured after a bull kicked a gate that hit him in the head.
- May 18, Doniphan County, a 58 year old man was injured after

the tractor he was using to mow rolled twice and pinned him.

- June 9, Phillips County, a 48 year old woman and a 48 year old man were injured after the hood on an all-terrain vehicle popped up while they were rounding up cattle.
- June 26, Smith County, a man was injured when he fell off the combine he was working on.
- June 27, Smith County, a 68 year old man was injured after an auger hit him and knocked him to the ground.
- July 14, Butler County, a 35 year old man was injured after being run over by farm machinery.
- July 15, Brown County, a 75 year old man was injured in an accident involving a tractor and hay equipment on a roadway.
- Aug. 2, Sherman County, a 17 year old girl was injured when her

pick-up ran into a herd of cattle on a county road.

- Aug. 21, Barton County, a 31 year old woman was injured when she hit a tractor on a road.
- Aug. 21, Barton County, a 40 year old man was injured when his tractor was hit by a car on a road.
- Aug. 21, Woodson County, a man was injured when the grease gun he was using injected grease into his hand.
- Aug. 28, Reno County, a 76 year old man was injured when a field cultivator he was lowering came down fast and hit him.
- Aug. 30, Grant County, a 6 year old boy was injured when he fell out of the grain truck his father was driving; the truck ran over his leg.
- Aug. 30, Cherokee County, a 15 year old boy was injured after pouring a flammable liquid over a

large pile of trash.

- Sept. 2, Kingman County, a 25 year old woman was injured after hitting a horse that ran in front of her car.
- Oct. 2, Clay County, a female passenger in a vehicle was injured when the vehicle hit a tractor.
- Oct. 2, Clay County, a male was injured when the tractor he was driving was hit by a car.
- Oct. 11, Haskell County, a 44 year old woman broke several bones after falling into a cattle rut when she was trying to avoid a whirlwind.
- Nov. 10, Reno County, a 53 year old female was injured when a semi pulling two hoppers of soybeans tried to pass her tractor.
- Nov. 16, Shawnee County, a 56 year old woman was injured when the driver of the vehicle she was in hit a cow.

• Nov. 22, Doniphan County, a 17 year old boy lost the lower part of his leg after his foot got caught in an auger.

- Nov. 24, Franklin County, a 41 year old man was injured when the rear axle broke on the combine he was driving, sending the combine toward a bridge railing.
- Dec. 1, Osage County, a 3 year old boy was injured when an 18 foot gate fell on him; it fractured his left femur near the pelvis.

Farm-related fatalities

- Feb. 2, Kingman County, a 56 year old man died when the boom on a sprayer came into contact with a power line.
- April 2, Ottawa County, an 86 year old man died in a tractor accident. He received traumatic fractures and crush injuries.
- April 4, Butler County, a 24 year old man died after becoming

entangled in machinery.

- April 12, Butler County, a 53 year old woman died after being pinned under an all-terrain vehicle while feeding livestock.
- April 20, Chautauqua County, a 65 year old man died in a fatal all-terrain vehicle accident.
- May 17, Shawnee County, a 15 year old boy died after he rolled an all-terrain style go-cart on a farm.
- May 20, Finney County, a 56 year old man died after an accidental discharge of a gun while feeding cattle.
- June 14, Sumner County, an 86 year old man died after a tractor overturned on top of him while grading a driveway.
- July 7, Thomas County, a boy, 12, died when the all-terrain vehicle he was riding while spraying overturned and crushed him.

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