

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: Tractor Safety

OVERVIEW: Tractor accidents are the leading cause of death and serious injuries in Agriculture according to several studies in the U.S. Approximately 250 farmers, family members and farm workers are killed every year in the U.S. Accidents involve rollovers, highway collisions, runovers and entanglements.

TALKING POINTS:

- Inspect the tractor daily to ensure it is in good working order.
 - Only start and operate the tractor when seated in the operator's position.
 - Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) is the preferred protective device to prevent injury in case of a rollover.
 - Wear your seatbelt in tractors with ROPS to stay within the framework of the tractor in case of a rollover.
 - Only start the tractor with parking brake on and the transmission in neutral.
 - Look around before starting to make sure no one is near the tractor.
 - Never allow riders on the tractor.
 - Reduce speed when turning, crossing slopes and maneuvering through rough, slick, or muddy surfaces.
 - Watch where you are going and operate the tractor smoothly to avoid bumpy turns, starts or stops.
- Hitch only to the drawbar and hitch points as recommended by the tractor manufacturer.
 - Make sure the shields and guards are in place to protect yourself from the Power Takeoff (PTO).
 - When the tractor is stopped, set the brakes securely.
 - When operating a tractor on a public road take all necessary precautions such as using flashing lights, maintain a slow speed, drive in the right hand lane as close to the edge as possible, and drive defensively.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. How often should you inspect the tractor? (Answer: Daily)
2. When are riders allowed on the tractors? (Answer: Never)
3. What piece of equipment is necessary along with ROPS to keep you safe in case of a turnover? (Answer: Seatbelt)
4. What does the shield and guard protect you from? [Answer: Power takeoff (PTO)]

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