

The following are suggestions for teaching and demonstrating the potential dangers and proper use of tractors.

- ▶ Conduct a "Safety Sleuth" contest and ask adolescents to inspect farm machinery for dangers. Identify correct shielding and tractors with rollover protective structures (ROPS). Donated prizes can be awarded to winners who suggest the most improvements or recognize the most positives.
- ▶ Conduct a demonstration to show potential dangers of the Power Take-Off (PTO). Stuff old clothes with straw or paper. Tie a pant leg to an unshielded PTO with a 3 foot length of twine. Be sure kids stand 10 feet away so they can watch without getting hurt. Hand out PTO safety brochures.
- ▶ In 1 second, a PTO shaft will make 9 revolutions and could wrap 7 feet of string if it were caught by the PTO. Compare that time with how quickly a person can wrap a 7 foot string around a cardboard tube. Count the number of seconds it takes to manually wrap all the string and compare that time with the one second it takes the PTO. How much faster is the PTO?
- ▶ Identify the correct color of a slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign by comparing a new SMV sign with one that is faded. At night, or in a darkened room, shine a light on the SMV sign to show the difference in color and illumination.
- ▶ Teach small children about the inability of tractor operators to see or hear by having children make tractor noises while one child is a pretend "driver." Simulate a tractor with card board wheels, a steering wheel, and a chair with a belt. Instruct the child to imagine driving defensively over make-believe, rough terrain. Have another child "sneak" around to the front of the back tire while someone else distracts the "driver." Emphasize that the "driver" should be focusing his attention on driving.
- ▶ Collect small containers (ex: jewelry boxes). Develop a slogan such as, "I want you to hear me say 'I Love You' when you're old." Decorate and tape it around the container. Place donated ear plugs inside and attach a chain to the lid so they can be used with tractor keys.



Tractors are the single leading source of fatalities among youth working on the farm

Tractor Safety: Demonstration Ideas

- ▶ Copy crosswords or other tractor safety puzzles and distribute them to the school or local newspaper to use as page fillers. Examples can be found in the Tractor Safety packet.

Additional instructions about each of these activities are available from Farm Safety For Just Kids. Call 1-800-423-5437 for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tractors are essential on the farm, however, they can also be dangerous. Any machine can be harmful if recommended operating procedures are ignored.

- ▶ Farm machinery (including tractors) is the leading source of fatalities on the farm in the U.S., accounting for 36% of deaths to youth less than 20 years old.
- ▶ 47% of tractor- related deaths are the result of tractor overturns.
- ▶ Each year more than 250 US farmers, family members, or employees die as a result of tractor-related incidents.
- ▶ Tractors without ROPS that are involved in overturns account for 97% of the human and economic costs associated with these incidents.
- ▶ According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program, nearly 68% of fatalities to children under the age of six were due to tractor bystander runovers and extra riders.
- ▶ Tractors are the single leading source of fatalities among youth working on the farm, accounting for 43% of the vehicle deaths and 18% of all the deaths of young agricultural workers.