

FARM SAFETY REMINDERS

No one deliberately has a farm accident — in fact, most people believe they will never be involved in an accident. Yet many farmers, family members, and employees are killed or seriously injured in farm accidents each year.

Following are some major safety reminders involving tractors, farm machinery, and chemicals that could prevent many of the deaths, injuries, and illnesses that occur. Post this checklist and take some time periodically to review these reminders with your family members and employees. The short time it takes might well be worth the effort.

TRACTORS AND FARM MACHINERY



- * Securely fasten your seat belt if the tractor has a roll-over protective structure. This could prevent most injuries and deaths from tractor overturns.
- * Do not allow extra riders on tractors or farm machinery. Each year several people are killed when they fall from the tractor and are run over by the tractor or trailing equipment.
- * Be sure that shields and guards are always in place when operating equipment. Getting caught in unguarded PTO's and other moving parts is another major cause of farm accidents.
- * Hitch only to the draw bar and hitch points recommended by tractor manufacturers. Hitching at other points could easily cause rear overturns.
- * Slow down on rough ground and when approaching ditches and turning corners. Slow down before making any turn. Centrifugal force is one of the major causes of tractor upsets.
- * Do not drive too fast for conditions. Keep in mind that as you double the speed of a tractor while turning, the danger of upsetting is increased four times.
- * Shut the equipment off before adjusting, unclogging, or servicing. Numerous accidents occur each year because of failure to follow this safety practice.
- * If at all possible, avoid operating the tractor near ditches, embankments, and holes. Check out the terrain before operating the tractor.
- * Be courteous to highway travelers when traveling on highways. Keep SMV emblem clean and in place when traveling on public roads.

CHEMICALS

- * Read the label carefully before handling pesticides and follow directions. Go over label with employees.
- * Understand what the signal words found on the label mean. Signal words tell you how toxic the material is.

Danger – highly toxic
Warning – moderately toxic
Caution – slightly toxic



- * Wear proper protective clothing and equipment when recommended. Always wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Rubber gloves, rubber boots, head covering, and goggles are also very important to protect against pesticide poisoning.
- * Avoid inhaling sprays and dusts. Wear an appropriate respiratory device if the label directs you to do so.
- * Do not eat, smoke, or drink while handling pesticides. Numerous illnesses have occurred because this safety rule was not followed.
- * If your clothes are saturated with a pesticide, remove clothes at once and rinse the skin immediately with clean, cool water. Wash the skin with large amounts of soap and water.
- * If you get a pesticide in your eye, wash your eyes immediately with clean, cool water and continue flushing the eye with clean water for at least 15 minutes. (NOTE: Do not add anything to the water or eye.)
- * If a pesticide is accidentally swallowed, read the label and determine whether or not to induce vomiting.
- * Clean equipment and clothing thoroughly after each use. Change clothes daily. Never wear the same clothes again without first having them washed.
- * Wash thoroughly with soap and water when the job is finished and dry off with a clean towel.
- * Do not wash contaminated clothing with the family wash.

Review these safety points with your family and employees. You may want to add others that fit your particular situation.