

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leader July Challenge: Prevent Tractor Overturns

Tractor overturns are the leading cause of injury death of farmers. According to Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leaders, in the last few years, hundreds of drivers and passengers suffered fatal injuries while working on a tractor, with a majority attributed to overturns.

“Most of these fatal incidents could have been prevented with the use of rollover protection,” says Thomas Marten, Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leader member. “Unfortunately, nearly 50 percent of farm tractors currently in use don't have a certified ROPS (rollover protective structure) with a seatbelt.”

Overturns typically occur when tractors are operated on slopes or uneven terrain, often at speeds that render them unstable. Other overturns results from improper hitching of trailing equipment to axles or other tractor components that disrupt the tractor's center of gravity. Another risk for a tractor overturn results from a highway collision with another vehicle that sideswipes or rear ends a tractor moving at a slower speed.

Retrofitting farm tractors with ROPS and a seatbelt will significantly reduce the risk of being fatally injured in a tractor overturn. Marten adds, “Extra riders should not be allowed so that the tractor operator can pay full attention to operating the tractor. And always hitch trailing equipment to the drawbar with a sturdy hitch pin.”

This month, the Young Leaders challenge all farmers to retrofit their tractors with ROPS before they begin to mow or do other summertime activities. Call your local farm equipment dealer.

This challenge is brought to you by the
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