

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leaders September Challenge Make PTOs A-OK

A power takeoff (PTO) shaft revolves between 540 – 1000 RPMS. Little wonder that PTO entanglement nearly always results in devastating injury or death.

“Most PTO accidents occur when the shield is missing,” says Allen Kasten, Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leader District #14 State Representative. “Manufacturers have made tremendous strides in developing safer PTO shielding, but that’s no good when it’s not in place.”

That’s why the Young Leaders Committee challenges area farmers to establish a set of rules for family, employees, and themselves for working with or near PTOs. Here are few examples:

1. Always disengage the PTO, shut off the engine, and remove the keys before leaving the tractor seat. Taking the keys prevents unexpected start-up by another person while you are cleaning, lubricating, adjusting, or making repairs.
2. Keep the tractor's master shield in place at all times.
3. Frequently check to make sure that shields are in good condition. With the power shaft stopped, you should be able to rotate the shield freely by hand. Look for nicks, dents, or bends that could catch clothing.
4. Never step across a rotating PTO shaft!
5. Dress for safety. Wear close fitting clothes and keep long hair covered. Baggy old shirts, coats and long bootlaces can easily be grabbed by rotating parts.

“The toughest challenge we can think of when it comes to working with PTOs,” adds, Kasten, “is to stick to the set of rules and don’t ignore them when you’re in a hurry. Taking your time saves limb and life.”

This challenge is brought to you by the
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