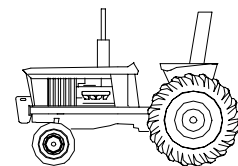




CU Safe



R_x for Ag Safety & Health

Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering

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Year 2003

I have posed various safety questions at the beginning of the past three years: “Will you have a safe year?”, “Did you have a safe year?”, and “What have you done in order to be safe this coming year?”. One can see from these questions that it not only takes effort to be safe, one must also have a positive attitude as it relates to safety. I pose a new question this year, “What can I do to help you/ your workers/your clientele be safe this year?”

One possibility that I am working on right now is to be able to offer Farm Safety Mini-grants. These grants would be available for putting on farm safety meetings. I plan to have additional information on this by the February newsletter. I hope we all have a safe 2003 and I look forward to assisting you with your farm safety plans.

Charles V Privette III

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**CLEMSON
EXTENSION**

Inservice Training

There are still spots available for the inservice training “SC ROPS”. The course is listed in the inservice training catalog under the section Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems as 105-F: SC ROPS.

Agricultural fatalities make agriculture one of the deadliest industries in the United States. The most dangerous piece of equipment on the farm is the tractor. More than thirty-five people have been killed in South Carolina over the past ten years while operating a tractor. The majority of these fatalities have been due to tractor rollovers that

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Youth Safety - Day Camps

2003 *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day Camp Schedule (Tentative)

Everyone in agriculture knows someone whose life has been affected by a farm-related injury or death. The statistics are sobering and do not apply to just adults. Many youth are injured or killed each year on the farm. According to the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), each year more than 100 children are killed and 33,000 seriously injured on farms in the United States.

Even more tragic is that most of these incidents could have been prevented if simple safety precautions had been followed. That's why safety education for our youth is critical in preventing these horrible statistics.

One measure that has been implemented to educate our youth on the safety precautions required around the farm is farm safety day camps — a one-day, hands-on workshop that teaches farm children and their parents safe farm practices.

This year we will have seven *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day Camps. The following schedule lists the camps, their tentative schedule, and the camp coordinator.

March 21

Hampton Camp
Paula Rhodes
803.943.2586

May

Allendale Camp
Karissa Ulmer
803.548.4207

June

Beaufort Camp
Phyllis Atkins
843.846.4450

June (3rd week)

York/Chester Camp
Robin Currence
803.385.6181

September 6

Pickens/Anderson Camp
Corey Brown
864.246.9426

September

Beaufort Camp
Beverly Connelly
843.470.6355

October 24

Orangeburg Camp
Glenda Lewis
803.534.2409

Inservice Training - SC ROPS

Continued from Page 1, SC ROPS

could have been prevented by the use of rollover protective structures (ROPS). The SC ROPS Program uses interactive presentations to teach the importance of ROPS and seat belts on farm tractors.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Encourage farmers to install ROPS on older tractors or replace them with newer ROPS-equipped tractors.

- Encourage the retirement of older tractors without ROPS or restrict them to jobs with less chance of overturning.
- Help farmers learn about the financial and injury protection benefits provided by a ROPS and seat belt.

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Tractor Safety

The tractor by all means is the workhorse around the farm. The tractor is the one piece of equipment that may get used everyday. With our high dependency on the tractor, safety has to be a priority. Tractor related injuries account for nearly 32 percent of all agricultural related fatalities. This translates into approximately 270 deaths annually. In 2000, South Carolina experienced 6 farmers being killed due to tractor related events.

Three areas of concern that tend to get most of the attention when addressing tractor safety are rollovers, runovers, and highway incidents. Rollovers or overturns account for 54 percent of the tractor related fatalities followed by runovers (24 percent) and highway incidents (13 percent).

ROLLOVERS

- Set wheels at widest possible spacing for the job.
- Lock brake pedals for road travel.
- Reduce speed while turning, crossing slopes, and on rough, slick, or muddy terrain.
- Watch where you are going; bumps, stumps, holes, etc.
- Avoid steep slopes if possible.
- Use weight to increase stability.
- Pull heavy loads at slow speeds.
- Hitch towed loads to the drawbar only.
- Keep side mounted equipment on up-hill side of slope.
- Start forward motion slowly and change speed gradually.
- Back up steep slopes.
- Avoid driving too close to ditches, stream banks, and canals.

RUNOVERS

Most occur when an operator or extra-rider falls from the tractor (50% of runovers).

NO EXTRA RIDERS

On ROPS equipped tractors, make sure you wear your seat belt.

Twenty seven percent of runovers occur to bystanders. Pay attention to your surroundings.

The other cause of runovers is starting a tractor from the ground. Start from the driver's seat, not the ground - No bypass starting.

HIGHWAY INCIDENTS

Make sure all lights are working properly and the SMV emblem is in good condition. Use lights all the time, not just at night. Majority of all highway collisions involving farm equipment and automobiles occur during daylight hours.

Continued from Page 2, SC ROPS

Why bother you may ask?

To save farmers and their loved ones from being injured or killed.

To save farmers money by preventing costly injuries.

To provide farm family members with peace of mind.

These programs can easily be taken back to the counties and presented at various meetings to inform clientele of the various hazards that they face. This program is adequate for individuals ranging from youth to elderly farmers.

A training date has not been set other than this spring. I will contact the people enrolled in the class in a few weeks to determine what date is appropriate.

This publication is written and designed by Charles V. Privette III. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for future articles, please send to Charles V. Privette III, 224 McAdams Hall, Box 340357, Clemson, SC 29634-0357, privett@clemson.edu, or (864)-656-6247.

This publication can be found at www.clemson.edu/farmsafetyandhealth/pubs.htm.

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