

'No Riders' Policy on the Farm

Each year many youth die when tractors run over them. In almost all cases, they were an extra rider while someone else was driving. The victims fall off or are thrown from the tractor after hitting a bump or an incident in which the tractor rolls over. A study conducted in Pennsylvania showed that youth age 14 and under were run over while being a rider in 42.9% of the reported tractor runaway cases.

A study by Dr. Frederick Rivara study, completed in 1997 from data collected nationally in 1990-1993, expresses serious concern for children of preschool age. Data indicated that 33% of all farm-related injuries to this age group (0-5 years) are tractor related. In addition, Rivara reported that these children were also at risk for higher severity of injury. Tractors manufactured since 1976 have a special rollover protective structure (ROPS) that provides a safe environment for the driver only. A seat belt will keep the operator in the safety zone. Extra riders have no such protection.

Most tractors are built for one person and do not have a safe place for a passenger. Passengers on tractors can interfere with safe operation of the machinery by distracting the operator, blocking access to controls, or obstructing the operator's vision.

A cab on a tractor can give the operator a false sense of security. Deaths can occur when a bump causes the rider to fall from an enclosed cab. An enclosed cab can reduce the chance that a rider will be bumped off a tractor, but can not eliminate the risk. The small measure of protection from an enclosed cab is not a guarantee of safety for extra riders.

What can you do?

- Make a permanent policy to never allow riders on farm implements.
- Place NO RIDERS decals on farm equipment, reminding operators and potential passengers of the dangers.
- Tractors are designed for work, not transportation. Walk, ride a bike, or ride inside the cab of a pickup instead.
- Be smart, don't take unnecessary chances, refuse to allow your friends and family to ride with you.
- Instruct youth old enough to operate tractors on proper driving techniques.



The NO RIDER rule should be a policy on all farm equipment. Any motorized farm vehicle such as lawn mowers, ATVs, cargo areas of pickups, and combines that have only one operator's seat should have only one person on board.

Make sure your family is safe. Don't become a statistic!

Farm Safety



Just Kids