SAFETY TALKS:
Tractor Safety

Farm tractors provide the primary source of power on many farms. Studies show that the farm tractor is involved in a high proportion of farm fatalities and severe injuries. To avoid them, follow safe management principles and implement a tractor safety program on your farm.

- Develop a “safety first” attitude. Follow safe work practices and set a good example for others.
- Be physically and mentally fit when operating tractors. Fatigue, stress, medication, alcohol and drugs can detract from safe tractor operation. Take breaks.
- Read operator’s manual and warning decals. Pay attention to safety information.
- Equip the tractor with a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) and wear seat belts.
- Inspect the tractor for any hazards and correct them before operating.
- Make sure everyone who operates a tractor has received training and is able to operate it safely.
- Shut down equipment, turn off engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.
- Keep bystanders and others away from tractor operation area. Do not allow “extra riders.”

**Inspection**

Are ROPS in place and seat belts used?
Is a PTO master shield in place?
Is the operator’s platform clear of debris?
Is a reflective “Slow Moving Vehicle” emblem posted?
Are lights and flashers operational?
Are tires properly inflated?
Is the hydraulics free from leaks?
Are Brakes can be locked together?
Is a 20 lb. “ABC” fire extinguisher in place?
Is a fully equipped first aid kit on the tractor?

Information supplied by the National Safety Council’s Agricultural Division.