Basic Tractor Operations

Hired Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines



Main Hazards



Tractor Roll-over



Tractor Run-over



Collision

Remember



Non-skid Shoes



Hearing Protection



Seatbelt

Work Conditions

- Ensure all safety devices are in place (Roll-over Protective Structure, seat belts, shields, proper lighting and marking)
- Complete pre-operational inspection
- Only allow operation by youth during daylight and calm weather
- Ensure work area is as free from hazards as possible
- Establish safe route to work site
- Maintain 2-way communication

Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines (AYWG)

cultivatesafety.org/aywg

- While some characteristics are common to teens, cognitive and physical ability can vary – even among teens of the same age. These guidelines help assess a youth's ability to safely perform tasks.
- Tractor Operation Chart – assess tractor fit using youth's age
- Tractor Developmental Guidelines – determine if youth is developmentally ready to operate a tractor
- Operating a Tractor Guideline – assess youth's overall ability to safely operate a tractor

Federal Regulations: Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

- Refer to Employer/Supervisor Responsibilities for information on federal and state regulations
- Youth under 16 years may not operate a tractor with more than 20 PTO hp or connect/disconnect farm implements. In some states 14- and 15-year-olds who have safety training certification are exempt from this restriction. See extension.psu.edu/national-safe-tractor-and-machinery-operation-program
- Youth under 16 may not ride on a tractor as a passenger or helper; work in a horizontal silo while operating a tractor for packing purposes; or drive a bus, truck, or automobile when transporting passengers
- Youth under 16 may not operate or assist with certain types of machinery, such as skid steers, earthmoving equipment, forklifts, grain or potato combines, hay mowers or balers, feed grinders, crop dryers, auger conveyers and other specified equipment
- Some state health and safety laws require rollover protection structures (ROPS) and seat belts for tractors
- Check state laws for additional regulations. State-specific information is available at youthrules.dol.gov

Training and Supervision

- Ensure employee completes tractor certification training
- Assess youth's ability to operate equipment using the Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines materials
- Have employee demonstrate ability to safely perform specific job
- Check on employee every 30 minutes until he/she demonstrates ability to perform job successfully

Other Factors

There are other factors that can impact a teen's ability to safely perform work. These factors include things like

- Fatigue
- Substance use/abuse
- Emotional disturbances
- Stress

These factors can change from day to day, spurring the need to meet with youth prior to work each day and assess their condition and abilities. Visit agsupervisortraining.org for more information on assessing these factors.