



Farm Safety Fact Sheet for Rural Areas

Did You Know...

- Agriculture work is one of the most dangerous occupations in the U.S., with an average death rate of approximately 25 people per 100,000 workers in 2009, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- In 2009, approximately 1,783,000 full-time workers were employed in production agriculture.
- Each day, approximately 243 agricultural workers suffer lost-work-time-injuries. Five percent of these injuries result in permanent impairment.
- Most farm-related incidents are caused by machinery, with tractors being the leading cause of farm-related deaths.
- More than half of all farm-related deaths are caused by tractors. Of these fatalities, more than 50% are from tractor overturns.
- Slips and falls are the leading cause of farm-related injuries.
- Farming is one of the few industries in which families (who often share the work and live on the premises) are also at risk for injuries, illnesses, and deaths.
- Additional passengers on tractors, especially children, are at a very high risk of being injured.

Contributing Factors to Farm Fatalities in Rural Areas

- Farmers operating a tractor may not see oncoming cars when making wide turns, which can cause a fatal collision.
- Tractors may not have Rollover Protection Structures (ROPS).
- Some farmers do not wear seat belts when operating tractors equipped with a ROPS, falsely believing it is safer not to wear one.
- Stress and fatigue can lead to farm accidents as farmers can lose concentration and focus when operating machinery for long periods of time.
- Loud noise is a common cause of farm-related hearing loss. Farmers should wear earmuffs or ear plugs while working in the vicinity of loud noises.

For Additional Farm Safety Information: Contact the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) at www.osha.gov, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at www.cdc.gov/niosh, and the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety at <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children>.

Founded in 1911, and celebrating its centennial, the Des Plaines, IL-based ASSE is the oldest professional safety society and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Its more than 34,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members lead, manage, supervise, research and consult on safety, health, transportation and environmental issues in all industries, government, labor, healthcare and education. For more information, please go to www.asse.org and to view the new ASSE-A Century of Safety film, go to www.asse.org/assecenturyofsafety.

Contact: Diane Hurns, PR Manager, at dhurns@asse.org or ASSE Customer service at customerservice@asse.org for additional farm safety tips, fact sheets or if you need assistance. Go to www.asse.org/newsroom for more information.