

# From Where We Stand... That Tractor Is A Killer

Agriculture is the nation's third most hazardous industry. And so with National Farm Safety Week starting tomorrow through next Saturday, July 26, we again call your attention to the fact.

President Nixon in proclaiming the period noted that agriculture has made great strides in production, but ranks right behind mining and construction in number of fatal accidents in its work force.

While all the causes of farm accidents are too numerous to mention, the one of the most common involves tractors.

Guy Gienger, power, machinery and safety specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Maryland, says, "more than half of all farm accidents involve tractors."

"And of these," Mr. Gienger continues, "over fifty per cent occur when the tractor is being used for a purpose other than for what it was intended."

Mr. Gienger, who is also Secretary of the Maryland Farm and Home Safety Committee, goes on to say, "Tractors in this country are made for only one person... the operator, and places to hang on are getting scarcer and scarcer. So have one person operate the tractor, and let the rest of the people walk... and live."

One of the most common causes of tractor accidents, he continues, is people falling off the tractor. Most of these people have no business on the tractor in the first place.

Commenting on preventative measures, he adds, "If people would only realize how important it is to have cabs and roll bars on their tractors, fatalities would be greatly reduced."

And a University of Nebraska survey also shows this to be true. They say if you tip over a tractor you have only a slightly better than a 50-50 chance to survive if the tractor is without roll-over protection. In fact, results so far in the study indicate that in farm tractor upsets, the operator has a 42 per cent chance of being killed.

During the past two years, ag agents investigated 83 farm accidents and found that 35 people including two passengers died. Of the remaining 46, only 3 persons escaped without some degree of injury.

Two of the drivers who escaped injury were driving tractors equipped with cabs. None of the nine drivers of tractors equipped with roll bars, cabs, or loaders that kept them from rolling completely over were killed, however, seven did have some type of injury such as a bruised elbow and broken ribs.

This makes the roll bar or cab look like an essential piece of equipment in our opinion. Apparently, if their tractors had been so equipped, none of the 35 fatalities need have died.

Some significant fact in the report show:

- A disproportionate share of the victims were less than 20 years old.

- Causes most often mentioned were: (a) inexperienced operator, (b) driving too fast, especially among the under-20 drivers, and (c) operating tractors on an incline.

- Three-fourths of the accidents happened somewhere besides in the field, most of them on public and private roadways.

- Tricycle type tractors were involved in about two-thirds of the accidents.

- In nearly two-thirds of the accidents the tractor turned upside down.

And though our teenage sons will not want to believe it, pop is a better tractor driver and less likely to have a farm tractor accident than they are. Specific figures on age groups, which show under 20 to be the most dangerous age, also show that 30 to 49 is the safest age.

So what should we do? We should manage for safety to PREVENT tractor accidents.

- Stay clear of ditches, embankments, holes.

- Don't permit others to ride. Keep children off and away. Make sure everyone is clear before moving.

- Slow when turning, crossing slopes and on rough, slippery or muddy ground and roads.

- Watch for, avoid obstacles.

- Stay off hills and slopes too steep for safe operation.

- Do not overload. Engage clutch slowly.

- When stopped, take tractor out of gear. Set brakes firmly.

- Watch where you are going, especially at row ends, on roads, around trees, etc.

- Be fit and ready to drive safely today. Be sure other drivers also are fit and experienced in particular job.

- Set wheels wide as practical for job.

- Operate tractor smoothly—no jerky turns, starts, stops.

- Hitch only to drawbar set low or to specified hitch points.

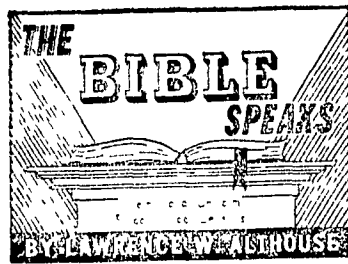
- Disengage PTO before unclogging, cleaning or adjusting machines.

- Stop, look before entering or crossing roads. Obey traffic rules and signal your turns. Use SMV emblems.

- Equip your tractor(s) with a protective frame or crush-resistant cab and safety belts. They might save your life if the tractor upsets.

Remember—! That tractor that makes you love her more every time she shows her power in the plow or on the power-take-off is a potential killer.

Treat her with the proper care and respect she is due. The life you save may be your son's — or your daughter's. It may be your own. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.



**"NO GOOD!"**  
Lesson for July 20, 1969

Background Scripture: Genesis 26:1-5, 28:10-22; 32:1-5; 37:25-28, 45:1-15, 46:1-7; Deuteronomy Reading: Deuteronomy 31:11-12.

"That boy's just no good!" That seems to be a favorite line for some adults. It probably has been said millions of times since the beginning of history. It has been said of some of the world's most infamous tyrants and villains, including Adolph Hitler, John Dillinger, Al Capone, and others whose names are found upon history's "dishonor roll."



These same words have also been spoken of some of those who have been judged by history as "greatmen." Winston Churchill is a good example. It was said of him more than a few times as an adolescent. He was dismissed from several schools, we are told, and seemed to have a knack for getting into "close scrapes."

Productive channels Yet, this same troublesome youth became one of the world's greatest statesmen and political leaders. What happened? In all probability, the best explanation is that his intelligence and boundless energy found worthy and productive channels. Who knows what he might have become under different circumstances?

You might regard Churchill as an exception to the rule, but, in reality, there have been many great men who have begun in much the same way. For example, people probably said of young Jacob, "That boy's just no good?" They had plenty of reason to say it, for Jacob was the kind of boy who craftily turned every situation to his own advantage, regardless of what it might cost others.

In Genesis 25 we find him using his brother's near-starvation for his own profit, exacting

from Esau the birthright that legally belonged to him as eldest son. What kind of brother would do that? Answer: the kind of brother that Jacob was! He was well-named, for Jacob meant "the supplanter," (he takes away that which belongs to another). That was Jacob all right!

### The supplanter

Again in Genesis 27 we find Jacob the Supplanter at work on his brother Esau. The "blessing" which he wants from his father so desperately was more than just some "nice words" from the dying Isaac. The ancients believed that a man's dying words were capable of exercising real power over the events he would fortell. The words were thought to be so powerful that they would hold true even despite Jacob's deceit over his father.

Once more Jacob supplanted his brother, Esau. It is not surprising, then, when Genesis tells us, "Now Esau hated Jacob..." (27:41). Fearing for his life and guided by his mother, Jacob begins a three hundred-mile trek back to Haran (from which God had called his grandfather Abraham). The trip would be long and treacherous and he would carry with him an additional load: a burdened conscience. The neighbors probably said: "Good riddance!"

### God's strange choices

Many years later Jacob returned home, now a different man. Furthermore, God has chosen this man to bear the promise of the covenant which he had first made with Abraham. Why, we may wonder, did God choose this Supplanter? Abraham had been a man of faith; Isaac was obedient to God's will; but why Jacob?

We can never completely know the answer to such a question. We do know that when God chooses a man, it is not because the man is worthy as he is, but because he has the potentiality to become a useful servant of God. Thus God has often made what seem to us to be "strange choices" in picking his servants.

Perhaps this is also true of some of these people upon whom we pronounce those words, "He's just no good!" If we were to see in them the potentiality for good as well as the tendency toward evil, perhaps there would be far fewer men lost to society and the kingdom.

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## Farm News This Week

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## Across The Fence Row

An antique can be described as a fugitive from a junkyard with a price on its head.

The first Scotchman to use free air at a service station blew out four tires.

## Local Weather Forecast

(From the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Harrisburg State Airport)

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average near normal with daytime highs in the mid 80's and over-night lows in the upper 60's. Warm at the beginning of the period and turning cooler Sunday through Wednesday.

Rain may total one-half to three-fourth inch as showers and thunder showers over the week end and the beginning of the week.

## For Full Market Reports Read Lancaster Farming



**NOW IS THE TIME...**

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

### To Use Band Seeder

Alfalfa growers who are going to make an August seeding should keep in mind that the use of the band seeding method has given excellent results. The idea of placing a band of fertilizer directly under the seed and then pressing the soil, seed, and fertilizer firmly should give the best stands. The Alfalfa should be seeded by the same method later in the month.

### To Beware Of Wild Cherry Leaves

From questions received it seems there is some confusion about the danger of poisoning from livestock eating wild cherry leaves. The fresh, green leaves that may be pulled from a low branch on the tree are not toxic; however, wild cherry leaves that are wilting, wilted, or dead are poisonous and animals should

not have access to them; they will eat these leaves in place of other good forage following a storm or whenever they can get to them. Producers are urged to inspect their pastures after wind storms, when wild cherry trees are known to be present.

### To Prepare Silos

The corn crop is growing rapidly in most areas. Many acres of corn will go into the silos this fall to feed the large livestock and dairy population. The proper care of the silo is important to provide an air-tight structure. Many concrete silos need to be "pointed" at the masonry joints in order to prevent leaks. Some may need a coating of wax or other water-proof material to prevent pitting and loss of the smooth interior surface. Special care of the interior of the silo will prolong its useful years.