

Don't fall from farm machinery

LANCASTER — Falls cause one-fourth of farm work injuries according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More people are hurt in falls connected with machinery than by any other kind of work falls on the farm.

How do people fall?

- Jumping on or off moving equipment.
- Riding on drawbars.
- Slipping while trying to mount or dismount a tractor or machine.
- Not using available handrails, steps, or other safeguards.
- Being thrown when the machine strikes an obstacle, hits a deep rut, bump, or groundhog hole, makes a sudden start or stop or fast turn, or is driven on a steep slope.
- Being thrown off moving

equipment while standing or not holding on tight.

- Wearing muddy shoes or the wrong kind of shoes for the job.
- Falling while loading or unloading wagons.
- Slipping on muddy, frozen or icy ground while servicing or repairing equipment.
- Riding on top of loaded wagons, especially baled hay or straw.
- Jumping or climbing from one machine to another — as from a combine to a wagon.
- Becoming suddenly dizzy or ill, extremely fatigued, or having a heat stroke.

To not only protect yourself but the safety of your loved ones, the best thing you can do for them is to say no when they request a ride on the tractor.

Tractors are for work, not for recreation or transportation. Notice that your tractor has one seat — this seat is, obviously, for the operator only.

Make sure no one has climbed aboard the tractor or trailing equipment without your knowledge. Be certain everyone is out of the way before you move.

And don't use your tractor for baby-sitting purposes. Arrange for suitable child care if necessary.—DK



These Bedford County farmers hopped aboard the tractor at silo-filling time to help demonstrate poor tractor operating practices. Never haul extra passengers. Notice that the tractor has one seat. Guess who that's for?



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