



When working with front loaders, the object is to keep the bucket as low to the ground as possible, not in the air as this farmer is doing.

Keeping the bucket low allows for a lower center of gravity producing a potentially safer, more stable unit.

Loaders disrupt machine stability

LANCASTER — Of the five major factors involved in agricultural accidents, farm

machinery and motor vehicles rank number one and two, respectively. Together, they account for nearly one-third of all mishaps.

One of the most common hazards related to these two categories is machine stability or more specifically, overturns.

Basic design is usually the first faulty factor. Today the majority of all farm equipment is designed and constructed to be used primarily in row crop operations. Because they are designed to provide higher crop clearances, they may be inherently less stable in utility situations as secondary use tools.

In the case of front loaders, the ideal situation is to keep the bucket as low to the ground as possible. Keeping it low allows for a lower center of gravity producing a potentially safer, more stable unit.

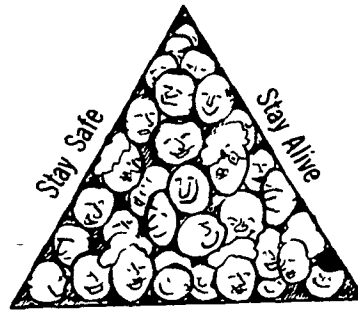
Today, most farm machinery is designed by expert engineers, field-tested and built for a specific job. Each model has its own individual design capabilities. When human judgment or error forces equipment beyond its design limits, two things can happen.

—First, the operator exposes himself to a potentially hazardous situation because the machine won't function properly.

—Secondly, improper use can lead to equipment damage.

Both can be extremely costly. Here are some tips to follow when working with your loader:

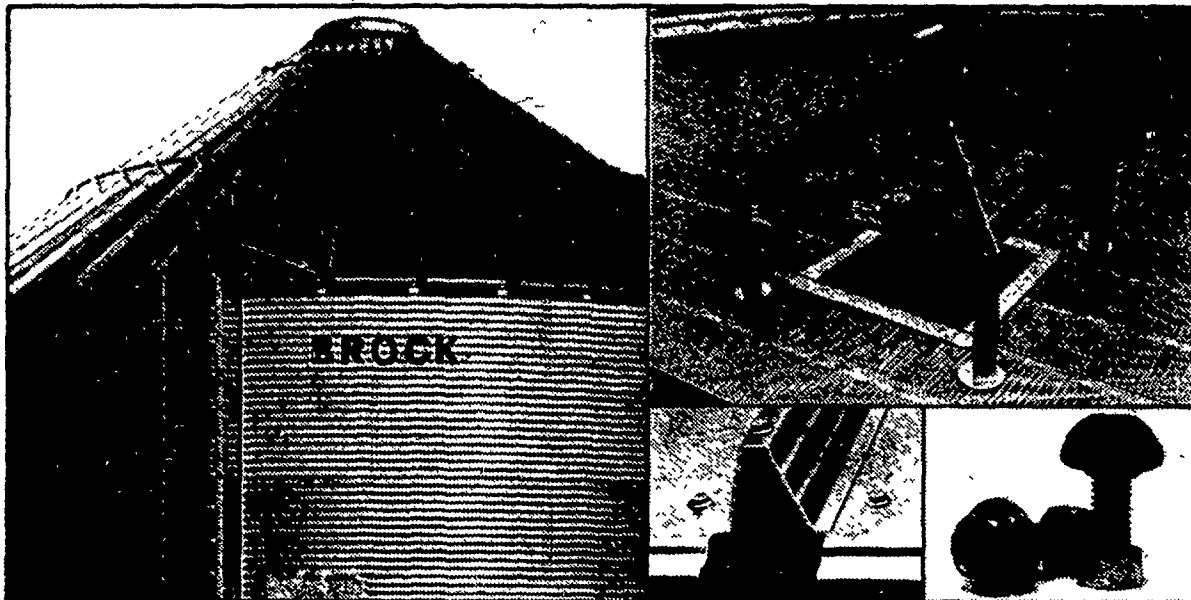
1. Operate at low ground speed.
2. Keep bucket low when traveling over rough ground or on inclines. This maintains a lower, stable center of gravity.
3. Never carry riders in loader bucket.
4. Never use loader as portable scaffold.
5. Brace irregular loads such as large rocks to prevent shifting to outer edge and causing tractor to overturn.
6. Never work under raised loader without safety supports.
7. Be alert for ditches, rocks or holes that may cause the tractor to overturn.—DK



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York Co. schedules tour

YORK - The 1982 Annual Fall Farm Tour, sponsored by the York ASCS Office, the York County Conservation District, Soil Conservation Service and County Extension Service, will be held Oct. 12th.

The bus tour will leave from the North Mall at 8:30 a.m. and return by 3:30 p.m. Included in this year's tour of the southwestern portion of the county is: a stop in West Manchester Township to view stormwater management practices; the James Bailey farm where visitors will see an animal waste management facility for this poultry farm; human waste disposal/utilization will be highlighted on a tour of Penn Township's Sewage Treatment Plant with a demonstration of sewage sludge injection to follow; a visit to the Utz Potato Chip Factory; a hot lunch at the West Manheim Township Fire Hall; a stop at the Wilson Nace farm to see soil and water conservation practices on the land; and rounding out the trip will be a tour of the Lana Lobel Horse Farm.

The cost of the tour is \$10 per person and includes lunch and a snack.