

## Tips for “News Articles”

### Content

These articles are stories about tractor overturns. Some of the stories are about fatalities as told by family members or friends of the person who died. Others are about farmers who were severely injured. Some stories are about how ROPS and seat belts prevented farmers from being injured during tractor overturns. Other stories describe farmers’ motivations for purchasing and installing ROPS on their tractors. These 20 stories (and approximately 20 more) appeared in local newspapers, newsletters, and magazines in two Kentucky counties as part of a three-year ROPS promotion campaign. The stories were run on the farm page of local newspapers on a regular basis throughout the campaign. Many farmers in these communities reported that the stories helped convince them to install ROPS on their tractors. The stories are reprinted here with the written permission of the newspapers and magazines, and with the understanding that others may also reprint and disseminate the stories.

The stories are included in this notebook so that others can use them to educate members of farming communities about the importance of ROPS and seat belts. The articles can also serve as examples of how similar stories can be collected locally and published in local farm community newspapers.

### Objectives

Reading these and similar stories on a regular basis can help farm community members become more aware of the:

- Risks of overturns to persons who operate farm tractors
- Severe injuries and deaths that result from overturning tractors that don't have ROPS
- Lifesaving protection provided by ROPS and seat belts during tractor overturns
- Financial savings, peace of mind, and quality of life that ROPS provide because they protect farmers and their family members from catastrophic injury, death, and loss

### Intended Audience

- Members of farm communities who drive tractors or who have loved ones who drive tractors
- Family members who make decisions about farm finances, operation, and safety
- Farmers who are concerned about the welfare of their family members
- Farm community groups who provide educational, financial, business, social, spiritual, and health services and advice to farmers and their family members

### How to Use These Materials

- Examine the News Articles table of contents. Note that the articles are listed in four different groups.
- Scan the articles and select those you wish to use.

- Use the articles in any of these ways:
- As short articles to be included in local newspapers and newsletters read by farmers (Contact and work with your local newspaper publishers and reporters.)
- As stories that can be excerpted and written in large type and used in farm safety displays and exhibits (Contact and work with your local 4-H, FFA, extension agents, the Farm Bureau and other farm service groups.)
- As stories that can be read and discussed by groups of farmers and farm family members at community meetings
- The articles are most effective if they are presented over a period of time, for example once a week for a period of many weeks.
- Collect additional information and stories from local farmers about tractor overturns, ROPS and seat belts. Write and publish these new stories in local newspapers and publications.

### **Materials Needed**

- The printed articles included in this section of the notebook.
- Other information about risks of tractor overturns and the effectiveness of ROPS and seat belts for preventing injuries. (Much additional information like this is found throughout this notebook.)
- The “How to Get a ROPS and Seat Belt on Your Tractor” brochure. (It is a good idea to keep a supply of these brochures handy. They provide detailed information about where and how to get ROPS for different types of tractors.)

### **Discussion Questions and Teaching Points**

1. Do tractor overturn events and the severe consequences that often result from them happen in this community?
2. Do you know about a tractor overturn that resulted in a close call, an injury, or a fatality?
3. Are you and members of your family at risk of overturns as you drive farm tractors?
4. Are your tractors equipped with ROPS?
5. What barriers prevent farmers from getting ROPS on their tractors? In what ways can these barriers be removed or overcome?
6. During tractor overturns, ROPS and seat belts are 98% effective in preventing injury to the operator. It usually costs less than \$1,000 to have a ROPS installed on a tractor. Many farmers (even those who have plenty of money) say this cost is too high and won't spend the money to buy a ROPS. Why do you think they feel this way?

### **Ideas, Notes, and Comments**

Use this space to write down your ideas and plans for using these “News Articles.”