

News Articles

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Why Farmers Buy ROPS

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Glasgow, Ky., Daily Times, Pg. 10
Thursday, March 18, 1999

Reasons for a ROPS: Mark Bowman buys ROPS to protect 10-year-old son who enjoys farming

Ten-year-old Elliot Bowman can't wait for the day when he can drive a tractor by himself.

That day is still a few years away, but his mom and dad, Nancy and Mark, know that when it arrives Elliot will be a little bit safer because of the rollover protective structure they installed on one of their tractors.

The Bowmans bought the ROPS about two years ago, just shortly after they bought their 160-acre farm off Bristletown Road in Barren County.

Before moving to the country, they lived in Glasgow and owned a 16-acre baby farm near Bon Ayr, which they have sold.

Mark Bowman said he heard the tractor safety messages urging farmers to retrofit their tractors with a ROPS, and those messages, along with his wife and father convinced him he should buy one.

"Safety is number one, and then we knew we were going to a larger operation," he said. "We both still work public work...and a lot of times how farming is, everything is almost a crisis when things need to be done, either hay to put up or tobacco or whatever.

"A lot of times you're rushing more than you should," he said. "So I did it for safety and then also for Nancy and the children. And myself."

The Bowmans raise about 60 acres of hay and corn and about six acres of tobacco. They also raise Holstein heifers.

"With both of us working public work, I think there was concern there that we'd be rushing more," Mark Bowman said.

He said he feels safer about Elliot with the ROPS, and Nancy feels safer about Mark and Elliot.

"With Elliot, he's going to be more involved as time goes on," Mark Bowman said. "It'll finally get to the point that I'll have to turn him loose in the field."

Working full-time, Bowman and his wife do most of their farming in the afternoons, on weekends and even sometimes during their vacations. And while the farm lies rather flatly along Fallen Timber Creek, Nancy can not see or hear him when he is down in the bottom working.

"I think it's a lot better, safer," she said. "I don't worry about him as much when he gets out of sight and out of hearing. I don't have to worry about him as much.

"A lot of times things he's doing have to be done right then...you have a limited amount of time to do it, and we're at a rush," she said. "It's better than thinking something could happen and you couldn't hear.

"With Elliot coming along, it's definitely a lot better," she said. "He wants to do more now that he is allowed to."

Elliot, a fifth grader at Happy Valley Elementary, can't sit still and his eyes begin to dance when he talks about

driving a tractor and how you change the gears and how you use it to cultivate tobacco or rake hay or spread tobacco sticks.

His parents have allowed him to operate the tractor a few times under strict supervision.

The ROPS for Bowman's 1977 Ford tractor cost around \$600, or \$1.64 per day for a year, about as much as a Coke and a bag of chips.

Bowman, who grew up working on a farm with his dad, Howard, in the Freedom community, said the ROPS provides a sense of protection.

"When I'm on there...it gives you a sense that you feel safe, safer especially if you wear that seat belt. If you'll wear a seat belt with the ROPS and something did happen, you should be OK," he said.

Bowman recommends other farmers turn loose of the money to buy one.

"Well, of course, the dollar it always comes in. It always enters into the equation, but you've got to weigh the other factors, too," he said. "Six hundred dollars, I mean, would not even be a trip to the emergency room."

Nancy Bowman's uncle died in a tractor accident back in the 1960's.

And although Mark Bowman doesn't know anyone personally who's died in a tractor rollover, he figures the \$600 he invested in a ROPS is money well spent.

The main reason he put the money into a ROPS instead of buying something else?

"You're looking at them right here," he said, pointing to his wife, daughter and son. "These three. Probably more for them than for me."

Glasgow Daily Times, Pg. 4
Thursday, March 4, 1999

Reasons for a ROPS: Kari Button believes actions speak louder than words; she and father buy rollover protective structure

Tammy Hensley
Times staff writer

As a toddler, Kari Button remembers the many times her dad, Freddie, bundled her up and put her on the fender of the tractor to help with the farm work.

While she wasn't old enough to be of much help, her dad's actions instilled in her a deep love and fondness for agriculture.

The 26-year-old and her father farm full-time on their 200-acre farm on Tobacco Road in Barren County. They raise alfalfa hay, tobacco, and registered Simmental cattle.

Button has been an active leader in the Community Partners for Healthy Farming project in Barren County. She is a consultant for the University of Kentucky in which she talks with other farmers about the importance of a ROPS and seat belt on tractors.

"After you get to thinking about this farm safety stuff, you think about some silly stuff you did (as a kid)," she said.

Button and her dad bought a ROPS for their oldest tractor about two years ago. It costs around \$1,000, or less than \$3 per day for a year.

She said she and her father thought a ROPS was an important investment for their farming operation. Their two newer tractors already have a ROPS.

"I work with Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, and Daddy just thought with me

pushing that (that) we needed one," she said. "And, of course, the safety part with the rollovers. We just decided to purchase one."

Button said she feels safer on the 1977 International now and hopes other farmers will follow their lead.

"If you get on a hill and it turns over," she said, "it, along with a seat belt, will save your life."

"I've seen so many farmers not wear them, and, of course, they're killed or severely injured," she said. "It's just a major safety factor that each farmer should have them on each tractor regardless of what they do with the tractor."

Button said she doesn't know of anyone personally who has been injured or killed in a rollover, but she has consulted with victims and their families afterwards by trying to convince them to buy a ROPS.

"You're almost 99 percent sure that you will live if you have your rollover (protective structure) and a seat belt (on)," she said. "But, there's always that one-percent chance that it will happen."

In Kentucky, Button said she doesn't believe anyone has been killed in a tractor rollover if they had a ROPS installed and were wearing a seat belt.

"You can be injured, actually, by the ROPS if you don't have your seat belt on because it can pin you between the ground or the object," she said. "The

ROPS and the seat belt hold you in the seat, and then there's your protection.

"You always want to make sure that you stress that you have your seat belt on with the ROPS," she said.

Wearing a seat belt on a tractor that is not equipped with a ROPS, however, can be just as dangerous or deadly because there is a slight chance that you could jump away from the tractor if it rolled over.

If you were wearing a seat belt, you would be trapped on the tractor and could not escape the rollover.

Button says the rushed society we live in may contribute to a lot of tractor accidents.

"Farmers just don't get on the tractor and take the time to put their seat belt on, and that's a shame to say," she said. "They just hop on their tractor and take off.

"A lot of farmers have farming now as a part-time job. They've worked all day and then they come home to do the feeding or whatever and that's when a lot of accidents happen," she said.

Button asks that any farmer with concerns or questions about ROPS call her. You may also call Vickie Brandt, coordinator of CPHF project.

Glasgow Daily Times

Reasons for a ROPS: David Bastien and his brothers found the perfect, practical Christmas present for dad - a ROPS

TAMMY HENSLEY
Times Staff Writer

A rollover protective structure, or ROPS, is a unique idea for a Christmas present. Expensive, you say?

If you're like Paul Bastien and have four sons, the gift suddenly becomes more affordable; who says large families aren't nice?

David Bastien, of Glasgow thought about buying his father a ROPS for Christmas. He tossed the idea out to his three brothers, Charles, Chris, and James, and they all thought it was a great idea.

"I'm pretty practical, and I know that was something he would've never bought himself," David Bastien said. "Even myself, if I buy a tractor, I'll put a bar on it. I think there's enough information out there that justifies" (it).

"It's almost like insurance," he said. "It's an insurance policy that you get to keep 100 percent of every year. It's paid."

Bastien said his father uses the 1950 Massey Ferguson TO-30 in the garden and to mow fields, to haul firewood and to move brush off the 100-acre farm.

Bastien used to farm some with his dad when he was younger. He recalls instances when the tractor raised up while he was operating it. He didn't

realize how dangerous that was at the time, but now knows he could have rolled it over.

"I don't think any tractor should be on a farm that doesn't have rollover protection. Everybody should use the seat belt," he said. "People are still dying on farms from rollovers. You can't buy a new tractor without a rollover protection, so that in itself should tell you that it's risky.

"If I had a tractor I would use one, and since my dad has a tractor I think he should have one," he said. "But he's like most farmers, or part time farmers, they don't want to spend the money. They don't think that it is justified."

Bastien and his brothers, however, saw the justification of buying the ROPS. They figured it was the best gift they could give their father

because it might save his life.

"I sleep better at night knowing that if he gets up early tomorrow and goes out to cut wood or something (he's safe)," Bastien said. "Hopefully, he'll be using the seat belt. He has to remember to use the seat belt."

Bastien said one of the reasons the brothers bought the ROPS was because of their father's age.

"Mainly because my dad just retired, and I know a lot of people that are part-time farmers that have accidents on rollovers with older tractors," he said.

"You have to take the initiative and bite the bullet, basically. It's a one-time expenditure. It's worth a lot more (than) things that you could buy."

--David Bastien

“So the fact that he retired and he’s in his 60’s - that’s a risky area.”

The ROPS for Bastien’s tractor cost \$600, or about 41 cents per day for a year for each of the three brothers.

“I’d say that if you can’t afford it... I’m not much on financing, but even if you have to finance it, it’s very cheap,” he said.

“It’s easy to tell somebody else to spend money,” he said. “A rollover bar is something that somebody’s not going to come forward and spend the money for you.

“You just have to take the initiative and bite the bullet, basically,” he said. “It’s a one-time expenditure. It’s worth a

lot more (than) things that you could buy.”

David Bastien said he and his father installed the ROPS in just a couple of hours. It basically consists of attaching the ROPS with four bolts.

“You don’t really need instructions, but it comes with instructions,” he said.

Bastien said he doesn’t know anyone personally who has experienced a tractor rollover, but he remembers the story of a state road department worker who died in a rollover several years ago.

The man was working near the county road department on Roseville Road when the accident happened.

Glasgow Daily Times, Pg. 6
February 18, 1999

Reasons for a ROPS: Jerry Rutledge hopes son never experiences accident similar to his father's

Tammy Hensley
Times staff writer

A lot of parents go out of their way to do things that will help their children.

Such is the case with Jerry Rutledge of Glasgow.

Rutledge's father had a farming accident about 10 years ago, and Rutledge had a farming accident when he was a teenager.

He bought a rollover protective structure for his 1974 and 1964 Massey Ferguson last year so that his 14-year-old son, Jonathan, will never experience a similar accident, or if he does, maybe he will be better protected.

"My main concern was safety for him," Rutledge said. "The biggest thing you have here is trying to get the older people to use the seat belt."

Rutledge said his father avoided serious injury when he tipped a tractor over backwards. He wasn't injured, but he could have been if the tractor had flipped sideways and he hadn't had a ROPS-equipped tractor and a seat belt.

"He reared it up and fell off it backwards and was sitting there watching it," Rutledge said. "It was a miracle that it didn't turn over backwards. It's hard to understand why it didn't."

"When I got over there where he was, the tractor was still running, and he was on his hands and knees trying to get out from under it," he said. "I turned the key off, and it was standing straight in the air. I reached on the side and ... took

it out of gear and took my hand and pushed it back over."

"It was just sitting there on its own," he said. "It could've gone backwards, it could've gone forwards."

That memory will never be erased from Rutledge's mind. Neither will the memory of an accident he had as a 16-year-old when he reared up a tractor, but fortunately wasn't hurt.

"Scared," he said. "It hurt my feelings more than anything. I fell off it backwards. It just reared up to the point where it was unstable and you know, (it had) no seat belt on it."

Rutledge said the accident happened in an instant, and he didn't know what was going to happen next.

Another reason he bought rollover protective structures for his tractors is because he is participating in a cost-share program with the Soil Conservation Service in which he plants 10,500 trees on 80 acres over a 3-year period.

The terrain is rugged and hilly, and Rutledge thought it only made sense to have a tractor equipped with a ROPS for the job of setting the seedlings.

Rutledge raises cattle and 13,000 pounds of tobacco on his 233-acre farm on Hacker's Branch Road near Freedom. The farm is a way for Rutledge to relax after a week of business travel working with engineering firms doing supervisory and construction work.

He uses the 1974 Massey Ferguson mainly to bush hog, and he has a 1964

Massey Ferguson he uses to cultivate tobacco.

The ROPS for his tractors cost \$675 each, and he has another tractor, a 1947 International Farmall, he needs to retrofit.

Rutledge wants to teach Jonathan proper tractor safety while he's young because he says a lot of older farmers don't always make safety a priority.

"To me, it's more for the children than the adults, but still the adults get killed too," he said.

He encourages all farmers to retrofit their tractors and to not forget to wear their seat belts.

"Children do it because they don't know any better. Adults do it because they're taking chances," he said. "I think the seat belt is the biggest thing- to get people to wear the seat belt after they get the ROPS."

Glasgow Daily Times

Earl Kinslow says ROPS keeps him safe because he's not as attentive as he was in his younger days

Tammy Hensley
Times Staff Writer

For nearly two years now, I - along with the University of Kentucky officials - have preached, I guess you could say, about the importance of rollover protective structures, or ROPS, on farm tractors.

If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times that from 1994-96, 43 people in Kentucky died in tractor overturns.

In the same 3-year period, 122 Kentucky deaths were attributed to farming, and 74 were tractor-related, including overturns, tractor or attachment runovers, falls from tractors, and tractor and motor vehicle collisions.

And, in Barren County, 56 percent of farms do not have a ROPS on any tractors, and only 15 percent have a ROPS on all tractors. One-third of farms have a ROPS on at least one tractor.

The University of Kentucky is in the middle of a pilot project in Barren County to prevent farmers and their families from being injured or killed in farm accidents, to save them money and to provide some peace of mind.

You've probably heard of the group by now. It's called the Community Partners for Healthy Farming ROPS project.

The group tries to teach farmers why ROPS are so important, to instruct them on proper installation, and to encourage them to install one and wear their seat belt. Without a seat belt, a ROPS will not keep you safe in a tractor rollover.

Information and materials developed in Barren County during this 2-year study will be used in farm-safety programs across the United States and Canada.

Since the project began, farm equipment dealers in Barren County have sold 25 ROPS to farmers. That's a lot fewer than the group's goal of 152,

but they hope farmers will remember the farm safety reminders long after the pilot project is over.

On the farm page for the past several months, we have been telling farmers why they need to install a ROPS on their tractors.

Now, I plan to introduce you to farmers in the area who have bought a ROPS and let them tell you why they decided to buy the safety feature.

“A little bit of safety may be expensive, but a little bit of safety means a lot. But, of course, a ROPS is only good as long as they're using a seat belt.”

Earl Kinslow

My first interview is with Earl Kinslow, a 74-year-old part-time farmer and retired X-ray technologist of nearly 40 years.

The upright ROPS he bought for his Massey Ferguson 165 cost between \$700 and \$1,000, or \$1.92 to \$2.74 per day for a year.

Here's the story Kinslow told me last week:

"I have this big ravine that runs through the farm here, and it's anywhere from 6 to 10 feet deep. I just get a little bit nervous when I get next to it, so I decided for safety's sake to buy that and at least that would give me a fighting chance if it rolled over in the ravine sometime," he said.

"I have - not this tractor, but the one before - had it go off in there twice but never did turn over. I knew it was going, so I just jumped off and let it go.

"It didn't turn over. Each time it had a heavy implement on the back that kept it upright," he said. "But like I said, I saw it was gonna go. That was one time was in the '60's and one time was in the early '70's.

"This is my home place. We moved here in Feb. 1929, and I was close to 5-years-old. This is my home place.

"I think it's well worth it (the money) because let's face it, I'm not as attentive to things that go on as I used to be.

"A little bit of safety may be expensive, but a little bit of safety means a lot. But, of course, a ROPS is only good as long as they're using a seat belt.

"After all, the injuries nowadays with a tractor usually require hospitalization and medical bills can be astronomical anymore," he said.

"Actually, the new tractors with the roll bars on them impressed me more than anything about checking into them because I figured if the new tractors were coming out on them, (then) they were something that should be seen into.

"Well, the main thing was the safety of it. I guess I'm safety-minded. I had a friend of mine that was mowing, bushhogging along a ravine and the bank crumbled on him and he was killed, so I mean I've had plenty of reminders."

Kinslow says farmers who believe a rollover will never happen to them are mistaken.

"They're just kidding themselves," he said. "Absolutely kidding themselves. It's just like a person driving down the highway at 80 mph when the speed limit is 60. I mean, it's gonna happen sometime.

"We all have that spirit of adventure I guess you could say, but the older I get, the less adventurous I get.

"Really I think it ought to be a requirement just like the seat belts in a car," he said. "I think it ought to be required - even if you're out here just mowing a flat field.

"For instance, this field out here doesn't look that rough, but twice I have been mowing hay there and that's not driving fast," he said. "That's mowing hay. I've almost been bounced off the tractor with the groundhog burrows. This can happen anywhere.

"A car usually has enough speed that it can throw you, but still you can get killed that way too. But a tractor doesn't have that much speed, so you just roll under it."

Glasgow Daily Times

Greg Jagers bought a ROPS because no one would likely see him if his tractor overturned

Tammy Hensley
Times staff writer

Last week, I met a 47-year-old farmer who has been hearing the public service messages about ROPS produced by the Community Partners for Healthy Farming Project.

Greg Jagers, who lives near the Barren-Metcalf County line on a 25-acre farm between Kino and Randolph, finally decided that maybe he should buy a rollover protective structure for his tractor.

He works full-time in the maintenance department at Dana Corporation in Glasgow, but in his spare time he raises about 2,000 pounds of burley and 15 acres of hay. He also raises 10 beef cattle.

Jagers bought a fold-down ROPS for his 1973 John Deere and installed it himself. It costs \$475, or a mere \$1.30 per day for a year.

This is the second in a continuing series entitled "Reasons for a ROPS."

Here, Jagers explains why a ROPS is a good life insurance policy.

"I think it is," he said. "Our life's valuable and \$475 is... real cheap. It can save your life one time or just keep you from getting real seriously hurt."

He said he bought the ROPS for several reasons, but one of the main

reasons was because his farm - like most in south-central Kentucky - is hilly.

"I knew I was going to use it with a front-end loader putting out hay... and that's very dangerous," he said. "I'm pretty safety-minded on a lot of things.

"Like on my place, it's hilly anyway and anything can happen," he said. "It's like a seat belt in a car. I've had seat belts save my life in a vehicle, so therefore I'm convinced that a ROPS will too.

"But it's only good if you wear your seat belt," he said. "If you don't wear your seat belt then it's not any good.

"It's more dangerous with it on there if you don't wear the seat belt because you cannot get off (the tractor)," he said. "You've got to wear the seat belt. One without the other is not any good."

Jagers has never been injured on a tractor, but he remembers a few times as a teen-ager when he came close to an accident.

"When I was growing up I lived on a farm. I was about 14

years old... and had a couple of tractors off in sinkholes," he said. "But, of course, back then they didn't have anything like that (ROPS).

"One time we were hauling hay and we were going out across the field to get to the barn where it was grown up, and a sinkhole fell in," he said. It was in the

"It's like a seat belt in a car. I've had seat belts save my life in a vehicle, so therefore I'm convinced that a ROPS will too."

-Greg Jagers

winter and nobody knew it. We just drove off in it.”

Jaggers wasn't injured in the accident, but it scared him enough that he has never forgotten how close he may have come to death at age 14.

He has a 56-year-old neighbor and friend who overturned a tractor a few years ago, but wasn't as fortunate.

“Probably about six years ago, it turned on over on him, and he's still paying the price for it today,” Jaggers said. “He lived through it, but he was in intensive care.”

The overturn crushed the man's chest.

“Today, he can hardly do anything. He's not physically able to do anything,” he said. “He cannot walk across this house without stopping to rest.”

Jaggers' wife is another reason he has a ROPS because he said she continually encouraged him to buy it.

“I hope she thinks a lot of me,” he said, laughing. “She knows it's a safety issue just like the seat belts,” he said. “We just automatically put them on for safety reasons. You can never be too safe.”

“With me, there's usually nobody else around me when I'm out working... and I could be gone for hours before anybody would know it,” he said. “It's

not that far back there but you can't see back there. And like I say, I've got some pretty good hills back there that I bush hog.”

Jaggers said he usually doesn't think of the ROPS when he hops on his tractor, but in the back of his mind he knows he's safer because of it.

“You normally don't think about it, but when you do think about it you feel safer,” he said. “But I wouldn't put it in any more dangerous places just because I have it. It's there hopefully to help, but there's no guarantee.”

Jaggers advises all farmers to buy ROPS, but he said he knows of some farmers who have bought a new tractor and taken the ROPS off.

That, he says, is just asking for trouble.

“Some people just don't care, and there's nothing you can do for those kind of people because no matter what you say, you know... you're not going to change them,” he said.

For farmers who take the ROPS off their tractors and for those who still haven't bought one for their tractors, Jaggers has some plain and simple advice concerning overturns.

“Drive safely because it can happen,” he said. “I hope it doesn't, but it can.”

The Fleming Shopper, Pg. 20
Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. Barker Is Sold On ROPS and Seat Belts

It was in early March when Mr. Randy Barker attended a Community Partners for Healthy Farming program. This program has been active in Fleming County since late 1996 and is designed to encourage safe tractor operation and especially to promote fitting older tractors with Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) and seat belts. Mr. Barker said it was an eye opener when he heard the tractor-related fatality rate for Kentucky.

Mr. Barker, the local Farm Bureau president, decided that the safety of his family was worth the investment to fit his Massey Ferguson 255 with a ROPS. "I use this tractor every day for just about all jobs on the farm," said Mr. Barker. He also added a canopy to the tractor because "it keeps me cooler and the sun is not baking down on my head all day." Mr. Barker has been a resident of Fleming County for 18 years. He raises tobacco, dairy, corn and hay. "I would hate to lose the farm if something happened to me, my wife or children," he stated.

Since 1994, 97 farmers died in tractor-related injuries in Kentucky; 56

deaths were due to tractor overturns. All 56 would have survived if their tractor had been equipped with a ROPS and the operator had been buckled in.

"I feel a lot more secure now especially when I drive from field to field or on roadways. That seat belt keeps me put," Mr. Barker said. "But that's not all! Now I feel much better knowing that if my wife or daughters are using the tractor on the farm, they too are more protected," he continued. "I use the seat belt more than I thought I would."

Mr. Barker has 5 tractors on his farms. He selected this particular tractor to retrofit after thinking about the tasks he uses the tractor for and talking with Lonnie Brewer at Brewer Tractor Sales. He had the ROPS installed on the tractor in June. "It took us a while but we did it," he said.

Most older model tractors can be fitted with a ROPS," said Mr. Brewer. Costs vary from \$400 to \$800 and it takes about 3 to 6 weeks to get them in. "It's cheaper than a funeral," he said, "and it's a good life insurance policy."

Saved by ROPS

- ◆ Metcalfe teen credits ROPS with saving life
- ◆ Tractor Accident Survivor: This young farmer wants others to be careful out there
- ◆ Farmers hear first hand how ROPS can save lives

Glasgow, Ky., Daily Times, Pg. 19
Thursday, September 30, 1999

Metcalfe teen credits ROPS with saving life

Last September, Joseph Jeffries, 13, of Edmonton, was helping his father, Billy, mow a field when his tractor overturned sideways in the creek bed.

Joseph escaped with an injury to his neck and one of his legs. He now credits a rollover protective structure with saving his life.

Billy Jeffries yelled at Joseph, realizing he was close to an overturn, but Joseph did not hear him and was thrown off the tractor.

One leg was pinned underneath the tractor, but he was able to reach up and shut the engine off.

Emergency personnel used air bags to lift the tractor off Joseph's leg and he was treated at a local hospital for injuries and burns.

Statistics indicate a ROPS and seat belt are 99 percent effective in preventing death during a tractor overturn.

Progressive Farmer
November 1999

Tractor Accident Survivor: This young farmer wants others to be careful out there.

It's a farmer's worst nightmare.

You're mowing pastures. Your son is operating another tractor and rotary mower ahead of you. You see him going too close to a creek bank. You yell, but he doesn't hear you.

The steep bank crumbles. The tractor, mower and your son drop out of sight.

This nightmare was real for Billy Jeffries of Edmonton, Ky. When he got to the edge of the creek bank, he saw his 13-year-old son, Joseph, with his leg pinned under the tractor. The rollover protective structure bar had kept the tractor from rolling and crushing the young man.

"Without the ROPS, Joseph would have been killed," says his father.

Billy ran to his mother's house and called the Metcalf County Fire and Rescue Squad. Again, Joseph was lucky. Because their farm was at the edge of town, the squad was there in five minutes. The rescuers were also trained and equipped to do the job. They pushed a flat air bag under the tractor and inflated it to lift the machine off of Joseph.

The teenager suffered a blood clot in his leg and burns to his neck and arm. He later needed an operation to remove the blood clot. After months of therapy, he's fully recovered, working with his dad on the family farm and active in his school FFA.

This year, Billy and Joseph participated in their local farm safety

camp. Billy was a group leader, and Joseph shared his story with young safety campers.

With its hills, sinkholes and creeks, Kentucky has a high rate of tractor overturns. From 1994 to 1998, 64 Kentuckians were killed in these mishaps.

Nationwide, tractor overturns are the single greatest cause of death among agricultural workers under the age of 25 and over the age of 55. Investigations of farm fatalities in Kentucky suggest that 90% of tractor-related deaths could be prevented by using ROPS and seat belts.

"Now I tell everyone to make sure they have a ROPS on their tractor and to wear their seat belt," says Joseph.

He points out that he wasn't wearing his seat belt. He's thankful that the ROPS saved him from more serious injury and perhaps death. If Joseph had been wearing his seat belt, he might not have been pinned beneath the tractor. Safety experts say that for an operator's full protection, a tractor's safety equipment must include a ROPS and a seat belt, and the seat belt must be fastened.

Billy and Joseph still enjoy working together on the farm. They count themselves lucky that in the long run their nightmare had a reasonably happy ending.

By *BOYD KIDWELL*

Glasgow Daily Times, Pg. 10
September 23, 1997

Farmers hear first hand how ROPS can save lives

BY TAMMY HENSLEY
Times Staff Writer

A tractor accident May 21, 1990 changed John Cory's life forever.

"It just changes your whole attitude on life," the Munfordville resident told farmers Wednesday at Southern States' annual meeting. "If I'd had a safety belt I don't think I would have been thrown off the tractor."

Cory was working on the farm when his tractor slid down a hill and got stuck in the mud. He said he fell from the tractor because he wasn't buckled up, and he can recall those events and his feelings as if it happened a few days ago.

"I didn't want it to run over my face because I wanted to have an open casket," he said. "How stupid you feel when it does run over you. How could I let this thing run over me?"

Cory's hip was crushed and his back was broken.

His tractor accident seven years ago caused injuries which took 19 months to heal, wiped out his life savings, and changed his mind about the "weekend farmer" who is often not familiar with the dangers of farming.

"I still don't know how it happened," he said. "I think ROPS is one of the best things you can do for your family, for yourself.

"It's cheap insurance," he said.

Cory was one of two guests at the annual meeting on behalf of the Community Partners for Healthy Farming project, a three-year pilot program that lasts through October 1999.

It has been implemented to help reduce farm injuries in two Kentucky counties with the highest number of farm injuries - Barren and Fleming. If it is successful, it may be expanded across the state.

In Barren County, 458 agricultural accidents were reported during a 54-month period that ended October 1996. Barren County was second to Fleming County in the number of farm injuries during the study period.

During 1994 and 1995, 41 men, women and children in Kentucky died when the tractor they were on overturned, according to information gathered by the University's Community Partners for Healthy Farming project.

Vickie Brandt, coordinator of the project, said one in nine people will roll over on a tractor during their lifetime.

Mistianna Barnes from Commissioner Billy Ray Smith's office at the Department of Agriculture spoke about the importance of rollover protective structures and wearing seat belts.

"Farm safety is everybody's business," Barnes said. "We want you to be around. We **need** you to be around."

In Barren County, 55 percent of farms don't have rollover bars on tractors, 33 percent have at least one ROPS on a tractor, and 12 percent have ROPS on all tractors, according to Southeast Center for Agricultural Health & Injury Prevention.

After the farm safety program, a local farm equipment dealer demonstrated how a ROPS is installed,

and balloons were released to signify the kickoff of the farm safety project.

Glasgow resident Millie Null attended the meeting to demonstrate a mirror system for blind spots she invented and is awaiting a patent on.

She came up with the idea when she saw her brother nearly have an accident on a forklift. She grabbed a napkin and jotted down plans for a mirror system

that may be used on forklifts, farm equipment, and possibly school buses.

“It stops the distorted view that the concave mirrors have,” she said.

The system uses flat mirrors that show images actual size, and Null said it’s a better system because drivers can judge their distance with the mirrors.

The mirrors can be installed on the front, back or sides of equipment.

Killed without a ROPS: It could happen to you!

- ◆ Older farmer killed in tractor overturn
- ◆ Backward tractor overturn kills farmer
- ◆ Older farmer falls from tractor and dies
- ◆ Farmer dies when restored tractor overturns
- ◆ Man witnesses his brother's death in a tractor overturn
- ◆ Farmer dies when tractor overturns into ditch
- ◆ Father of three run over by rotary mower and dies

Glasgow Daily Times
June 5, 1997

Older farmer killed in tractor overturn

On a morning in September 1994, a 64-year-old part-time farmer was on his way to a neighbor's property where he had been hired to do some mowing.

He owned a 1969 Massey Ferguson 135 tractor that was not equipped with a Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) or seat belt. To get to the property, he drove the tractor with a bushhog attachment approximately one-quarter mile along a public roadway.

He had many years of experience operating this type of equipment. As he turned from the roadway to a private driveway, making a sharp right turn, the front wheel went over an embankment.

The momentum caused the tractor to continue down the bank and overturn, pinning the victim beneath the tractor. The property owner witnessed the event and called 911 for help. However, when the rescue squad arrived they found he had suffered severe head and chest

injuries. The farmer was pronounced dead at the scene.

Tragic events like this happen unexpectedly and occur within seconds. The farmer's injuries could have been prevented if the tractor had been equipped with a ROPS and he had been wearing a seat belt. A ROPS, when used with a seat belt, is designed to protect the operator in the event of a turnover.

For about \$500 a ROPS kit could have been purchased to retrofit this tractor. To find out if your tractor could be retrofitted with a ROPS and seat belt, call your local farm equipment dealer.

Editor's note: This is the sixth in a series of actual reports written by University of Kentucky officials in a project called Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE). These reports, brought to you by the Glasgow Daily Times, will run each week on Thursday's farm page.

Glasgow Daily Times
June 6, 1997

Backward tractor overturn kills farmer

A 38-year-old part-time farmer was mowing a section of his farmland on an August evening in 1994.

He and his wife raised tobacco and a few head of cattle on the land. They had been living on the farm for several years and he had experience operating farm machinery since he was 16 years old.

He owned a 1973 Long 460 tractor that was not equipped with a Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) or seat belt. Taking advantage of the good weather that day, he mowed several areas of his property with a bushhog attachment. About 8 PM, he started up a path that he had used many times before to mow one last section before heading home for dinner where his wife would be waiting.

The path was covered with gravel and had a slope of 30 degrees. When he got about halfway up the hill, the front wheels of the tractor lifted off the ground and the tractor flipped over backward.

The farmer was crushed under the weight of the 4000 pound vehicle as it turned over. "When it began to get dark and he hadn't returned home, his wife went searching for him. She found his body lying near the tractor and ran

back to the house to call for help. The coroner estimated that the farmer's death had been instantaneous and pronounced him dead at the scene.

His immediate family included a wife, daughter, step-daughter, two sisters, and six brothers who were devastated by the sudden tragedy. The best prevention strategy for tractor rollover deaths is to use tractors equipped with a ROPS and seat belt. A ROPS kit is available for this type of tractor for approximately \$700 plus installation charges. However, the cost of retrofitting a tractor with a ROPS does not compare to the loss this family has suffered.

Consult your local equipment dealer to find out if your tractor can be retrofitted with a ROPS and seat belt.

Editor's note: This is the seventh in a series of actual reports written by University of Kentucky officials in a project called Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE). These reports, brought to you by the Glasgow Daily Times, will run each week on Thursday's farm page

Glasgow Daily Times
June 19, 1997

Older farmer falls from tractor and dies

Last spring, a 79-year-old farmer went out on his tractor to check fence lines and make repairs on his 136-acre farm.

He had lived on this farmland nearly all of his life and - like most farmers - loved his work, mainly raising beef cattle.

His two sisters lived on the same property in a nearby house, and he had dinner with them every night.

When he did not show up for dinner that evening, the sisters went out to check on him. They followed the path of the tractor through the grass and found that he had been driving along a ridge when, for an unknown reason, the tractor went off the side of the path and down a long, sloping hill.

They found their brother's body lying on the ground underneath the

tractor. His right shoelace was caught on the brake pedal.

Evidence suggested that he had been thrown off the tractor and then dragged as the tractor continued down the hill in high gear.

Emergency medical personnel were called to the scene, but the farmer had sustained fatal injuries.

The nearly new Ford 4630 tractor he was operating was in good condition and came equipped with a Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) and seat belt, however the farmer never wore the seat belt.

In this case, if he would have had the seat belt fastened, it would have kept him from being thrown off of the tractor and he would have likely avoided any serious injuries.

Glasgow Daily Times
June 26, 1997

Farmer dies when restored tractor overturns

It was a cool, clear morning in March 1997 when a 44-year-old full-time farmer began his usual routine of tending to the cattle.

He was very proud of the old IH Farmall Model M tractor that he had restored and routinely drove it to the cattle pasture a couple miles away.

Although the tractor was in fairly good condition, it was not equipped with a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) or seat belt. On that morning, he backed the tractor out of the shed where he kept it and began driving down the 6-foot embankment toward the private road that led to the highway.

As he turned to the right, the tractor flipped over the edge of the embankment. The farmer was crushed under the tractor as it rolled over. His wife found him and called 911 for help. Rescue personnel arrived within minutes, but they found no vital signs.

This tragedy could have been avoided if the tractor had been equipped with a ROPS. A ROPS, in conjunction with a seat belt, is designed to keep the driver in a protected zone in the event of a rollover.

Many older tractors can be retrofitted with a ROPS and seat belt. Although a ROPS kit may be a big expense initially (\$400 - \$700), it costs less than the price of losing your life or that of a loved one.

Editor's note: This is the eighth in a series of actual reports written by University of Kentucky officials in a project called Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE). These reports, brought to you by the Glasgow Daily Times, will run each week on Thursday's farm page.

Glasgow Daily Times
July 10, 1997

Man witnesses his brother's death in a tractor overturn

On a rainy afternoon in January 1997, two brothers, aged 19 and 21, were working together clearing trees on their grandparents' farmland to sell for firewood.

They were using a 1950 Massey Ferguson Model 30 tractor which was not equipped with a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) or seat belt. Usually the younger brother operated the tractor to pull the cut trees to a clearing, but on this day the older sibling wanted to do it.

He had experience operating tractors, but had never done this task before. After chaining a downed tree to the back of the tractor, the older brother started the engine and began to pull the load.

Almost immediately the tractor reared backward and flipped over onto its left side. The younger sibling was

standing nearby and saw his brother crushed under the weight of the tractor.

He ran to his grandparents' house about a mile away and called 911 for help. Rescue workers arrived within 10 minutes and he led them back to the site, however his brother had sustained severe injuries and died at the scene.

Proper hitching techniques and using tractors with ROPS are the best prevention methods for fatalities due to rear rollovers such as this one. It is likely that this young man would be alive today if the tractor had been equipped with a ROPS and he had been wearing a seat belt.

A ROPS kit could have been purchased for this tractor for approximately \$500 — a small investment when compared to the loss of a loved one's life.

Glasgow Daily Times
August 13, 1997

Farmer dies when tractor overturns into ditch

It was a wet spring in May 1995 when a 66-year-old farmer began discing a tobacco patch in preparation for planting. His well manicured 80-acre Kentucky farm filled him with pride as he drove the 1966 International through the field. He had decided to till only a small portion of the land near his home this year because of some recent health complications.

The morning was cool as he began the plot preparation. At the far edge of the relatively flat plot, the land sloped off to a drainage ditch. He began to make a turn at the end of a row when the tractor's wheels slipped over the edge of the plot causing the tractor to flip over into the ditch. The tractor landed on the

farmer as it rolled over. His wife heard the change in pitch of the tractor's engine and went out to check on her husband. When she found him lying near the tractor, she ran back to the house to call 911 for help. The EMS arrived within minutes, but due to severe internal injuries, he could not be saved. The farmer died as his wife watched,

His wife was devastated by the tragedy. This event could have been prevented if the tractor was retrofitted with a Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) and seat belt. In addition, the tractor was found to be in need of new brakes which may have contributed to this fatal incident.

Glasgow Daily Times
Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Father of three run over by rotary mower and dies

Charlie, a 23-year-old father of three, had been working for six months as a tractor operator for a company that contracted with the state to mow highway rights-of-way. Having grown up on a farm, Charlie had plenty of experience driving tractors. He had never experienced a tractor injury, and his foreman considered him a cautious operator.

One day in early July, though, Charlie had his first - and last - tractor injury. He was driving a tractor equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) and a seat belt, pulling a five-foot-wide rotary mower. He was following another tractor that was pulling a twenty-foot-wide rotary mower. With his smaller mower, Charlie could reach places the larger mower could not.

They had started work, as usual, at 7 AM, and had taken a break for lunch at

noon. The total crew consisted of about 20 men; six operated tractors while the others operated trimmers and picked up litter. Everyone went back to work at 1 PM, but just fifteen minutes later Charlie, who was not wearing his seat belt, fell or was jolted off his tractor, and was run over by the attached rotary mower. Charlie was rushed to a regional trauma center, but died later that afternoon. His right front tractor wheel had hit a concrete drainage culvert about six inches up, but since no one actually saw Charlie fall, it is not known if that caused the fall, or if he fell before the wheel hit the culvert.

But whatever the reason for Charlie's fall, it would have been prevented, and he would have gone home to his family that evening, had he been wearing his seat belt. Operators of ROPS-equipped tractors should *always* fasten their seat belts!

A ROPS Promotion Campaign

- ◆ Are you a Mr. Good Egg farmer?
- ◆ Barren 1 of 2 counties in farm safety pilot project
- ◆ Practice safe farming all year
- ◆ The Importance of tractor rollover protection structures
- ◆ Prevent farm accidents (small column insert)
- ◆ Tractor companies unite to promote ROPS

Glasgow, Ky., Daily Times, Pg. 6
Thursday, June 19, 1997

Are you a Mr. Good Egg farmer?

Tammy Hensley
Times staff writer

I was. My husband, Aaron, was. And Frank and Cynthia Rowland were, too.

We were Mr. Good Egg farmers at a meeting Tuesday night sponsored by the Community Partners for Healthy Farming.

We (our egg) had a rollover protective structure on a tractor and, even better, we (again, our egg) wore a seat belt.

Coordinators of the project demonstrated an activity with eggs to show that a ROPS and a seat belt are 99 percent effective in preventing injury or death to the operator.

Before the activity, they split everyone into groups of about four, gave each group an egg, and asked us to draw a face on our egg. I took our fragile egg and drew it some bright eyes, a large round nose and a huge smile. It soon developed a personality, as did the other groups' eggs. We seemed like kindergartners as we proudly boasted our artwork.

Henry "Hank" Cole, professor at the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention, took each egg, placed it on a toy tractor, and rolled it down a make-believe, hilly pasture.

Our egg with a ROPS tractor and seat belt endured the overturn well. It stayed in the seat and kept smiling. On the other hand, the egg that didn't have a ROPS on his tractor or wear a seat belt cracked when his tractor overturned. Its

white and yolk poured onto the table, symbolizing a farmer who would have likely been killed in a similar accident.

This could have been my husband, you, your husband, father, son, uncle, grandfather and so on. I first became aware of the importance of ROPS after I started writing farm articles for this newspaper. But last night, I became more aware of how quickly a farming accident can happen and how easily a family member or friend can be killed.

That little egg cracked instantly when the tractor overturned, and the Farm Bureau office where we met grew silent as the 15 people there watched the egg spill onto the table.

Cole said at least 20 to 25 percent of tractor over turns are likely to be fatal, and some studies suggest up to 75 percent will likely be fatal. The Community Partners for Healthy Farming project, which lasts two more years in Barren County, is trying to pinpoint the figure.

Nearly 40 percent of Kentucky farmers believe they will never overturn a tractor, according to a study in the project. Fifty-eight percent of farmers believe they may have an overturn, while the other two percent are almost certain they will overturn a tractor.

Another astonishing statistic: almost 75 percent of Barren, Hardin, Nelson, and Fleming County farmers never wear a seat belt on a ROPS-equipped tractor, 19 percent sometimes wear one, and six percent always wear a seat belt,

according to a University of Kentucky study.

Eleven percent of farmers will roll a tractor at least once in their lifetime and survive. Of that 11 percent, nearly a third will roll a tractor twice and survive, Cole said.

Aaron and I discussed “what ifs” all the way home. What if your tractor

overturned sideways, could you jump off and avoid injury if you weren’t wearing a seat belt? Probably not. What if you had a ROPS but weren’t wearing a seat belt. Would you be protected? Probably not. What if you wore a seat belt on your ROPS tractor. Would you escape injury and death? Probably so.

Glasgow, Ky., Daily Times, Pg. 18
September 30, 1999

Barren 1 of 2 counties in farm safety pilot project

Some 60 Kentucky farm tractors are safer this year because of a pilot farm safety program initiated three years ago in Fleming and Barren counties.

The pilot effort sought public support for efforts to make old farm tractors safer through the installation of Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS), commonly called roll bars, and seat belts. The program is called The Kentucky Community Partners for Healthy Farming.

As a result of intensive educational efforts, and some funding provided by Kentucky Farm Bureaus and local businesses, UK safety specialists say that at least 60 tractors have been retrofitted with ROPS in the two counties in the past two seasons.

That means that the machines, many of them 20 or 30 years old but still operating, have added protection for drivers if the tractors overturn.

Tractor rollovers are the primary culprit in farm fatality figures in Kentucky that rank agriculture as one of the most hazardous industries.

Betty Barrick, a Farm Bureau leader in Barren County, said local sponsors of the pilot program were honored recently at a banquet.

She said several local businesses, including Southern States and RR Donnellys, had helped promote the effort by hosting safety demonstrations and showing employees videos demonstrating the value of ROPS in saving lives.

“Many of our farmers are part-timers, and we wanted to get the safety message to them where they work,” Barrick said. “These companies were very helpful in that regard and we hosted a banquet to show our appreciation.”

Barrick said the program operated on a modest budget, but with the help of local businesses and agencies, they were able to show strong results.

She said local farmers who installed ROPS on their tractors were encouraged to sign up for a cost-share drawing to defray part of their expenses.

Six farmers dropped their names in the hat, so to speak, and each received \$100 to offset their costs, which typically ranged from \$500 to \$600, depending on the tractor model and age.

In Fleming County, local sponsors of the program met with much the same success. Albert Simmons, the county Farm Bureau safety committee chairman, said the local news media were very helpful in getting the word out to local farmers.

He said local businesses helped bolster the seed money provided by Kentucky Farm Bureau to cost-share with local farmers who installed ROPS.

Simmons said he put the equipment on one of his tractors, and received about half his investment back in the form of a cash grant.

He said he probably would have installed the ROPS anyway, because he has become very safety conscious regarding machinery in recent years, but that the pilot program provided the

impetus for him to go ahead and do it now.

“This is very important for me, because I have a lot of employees, and a lot of young people operating tractors on my farm,” Simmons said. “People tell you they know all about operating a tractor but you never know.

“Adding ROPS to a tractor gives protection two ways: it protects my employees in terms of their personal safety, and it protects me from a liability standpoint.”

Simmons encourages farmers to look at installing ROPS, and going ahead and fastening the seat belt when

operating a farm tractor. He says tractors manufactured in the 1970’s and later can be retrofitted easily, and at modest cost.

Older tractors can be fitted as well, he noted, but sometimes the expense factor is a little higher.

UK officials who have supervised the community partners program say that materials developed in the two pilot counties will be used in future years to expand the program to other counties and even other states.

They say that they plan to use the Internet to distribute the information, based on the success of the pilot efforts.

Glasgow, Ky., Daily Times, Pg. 19
Thursday, September 30, 1999

Practice safe farming all year: In 1998, 780 people died and 140,000 became permanently disabled after sustaining a farm injury in the United States

BY TAMMY HENSLEY
Times Staff Writer

Farm safety has become a common phrase in Barren County during the past three years.

The Community Partners for Healthy Farming project, developed by the University of Kentucky, decided to study agriculture in Barren and Fleming counties and promote the use of rollover protective structures, or ROPS, because of the high numbers of farm injuries and fatalities.

Several people in the community became involved in promoting ROPS on tractors because of their effectiveness in saving lives.

Since 1996, CPHF project organizers and members have enlisted the help of farm implement dealers, health care providers, local media and others to encourage farmers to install a ROPS on their tractors.

The drive, however, to keep our farmers safe gets an added boost during Farm Safety Week, which was Sept. 19 through 25.

But safety officials say communities shouldn't focus on safety during Farm Safety Week and ignore safety messages the other 358 days of the year.

"Actually August and September are two of the months when we see the

biggest increase in farm-related injuries and fatalities due to harvesting," said Vickie Brandt, farm safety and health coordinator with the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center at U.K. "That doesn't mean injuries and fatalities don't occur in January and February as well."

She said injuries and fatalities unfortunately happen all year, so farmers should take precautions every day they work on the farm.

"Farmers should be constantly aware of that fact," she said. "Just because the crops slow down doesn't mean they aren't at risk."

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous industries in the nation, and nearly all deaths in Kentucky agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry from 1994 to 1996 were farm-related.

In 1994, the Kentucky fatality rate for the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry was 3.1 times the national average, according to data collected by the CPHF project.

The fatality rate increased to 3.5 times the national average in 1995, but decreased to 2.8 times the national average by 1996.

Brandt said she hopes the number has decreased because of educational efforts, but she doesn't know that is true.

“We know that the number of fatalities to children has decreased over the past few years; however, the number of injuries has increased,” she said.

In local surveillance, researchers have seen a decrease in the number of injuries reported among all ages and an increase in the number of injuries among migrant workers, perhaps because of the increasing number of migrants in the area.

CPHF project statistics indicate one in nine Kentucky farmers 55 and older have overturned a tractor and survived. One third of those have had two overturns.

Another reason for the ROPS promotion is to save money.

Studies indicate medical costs from a tractor rollover can rise to \$140,000 or

more, while the cost to buy and install a ROPS is \$1,000 or less.

In 1996, there were 2,035 tractors in Barren County, and only 606 had ROPS.

Since the ROPS promotion began implement dealers in Barren County have sold 33 ROPS to farmers, Brandt said. The goal of the project was to increase ROPS usage by 25 percent, or up to 758 tractors.

Although the CPHF project has ended, U.K. officials encourage the community and organizers of the project to continue its farm safety efforts in Barren County.

Materials and information gathered during the three-year study will be distributed nationwide and in Canada. It will also be posted on a web site.

Fleming, Ky., The Fleming Farmer, Pg. 7
Thursday, April 17, 1997

The Importance of Tractor Rollover Protection Structures: Something Good is Happening

There is an important new public service project for Fleming county called "Community Partners for Healthy Farming" (CPHF).

This is a three (3) year community based prevention project to reduce tractor related injuries and fatalities in Fleming county. The goals of the community leaders are to

1) increase the number of tractors equipped with rollover protective structures (roll bars) and seat belts used

on farms;

2) to encourage retirement of non-ROPS-equipped tractors

or to restrict their use to jobs with a lower probability of

Farm

Safety...

Something to think about

roll over; and

3) to promote other safe tractor practices (e.g., no extra riders). This project is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and staffed by the University of Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center.

In Kentucky the occupational fatality rate for the Ag/Forestry/Fishing industry is three (3) times the national rate and these deaths are primarily agricultural. In 1994 there were 44 farm fatalities, in 1995 the number was 48; and as of Oct. 1996 it was 26. It is estimated that more than 5000 farm injuries occur annually in Kentucky. More than 1100 are related to tractors.

One (1) in nine (9) Kentucky farmers age 55 or older have turned a tractor and

lived. One-third of these survivors have had two (2) roll overs. Many of these persons were injured, some with minor injuries, some severe and some permanently disabled. A study at the University of Kentucky found medical costs can be \$140,000+. Roll over injury fatalities and serious injuries often result in loss of the farm.

All major tractor manufacturers and all local equipment dealers are offering ROPS (roll bars) and installation on a cost only basis.

This cost will range somewhere between \$400.00 and \$600.00 depending on make or model of tractor. It is not recommended you build your own roll bars, but you may order a kit at cost and install it yourself.

Your local service groups, all media, equipment dealers, educators, farm organizations, health care providers, FSA office, financial services and farm youth just to name a few are assisting in this project.

If you need a reason to spend the extra money on a roll bar think of it as a one time life insurance cost for you, your family and anyone who is driving your tractor. The cost is minimal compared to a severe rollover injury.

For more information on how to get a Roll Over Protection Structure (ROPS) on your tractor call your local equipment dealer or Joan Muehlbauer (your coordinator).

Fleming, KY., The Fleming Shopper, Pg. 7
Wednesday, July 23, 1997

Prevent Farm Accidents

One in nine Kentucky farmers age 55 or older have overturned a tractor and lived. Many were injured, some severely, and some permanently disabled. And these were the lucky ones. In the last 10 years more than 200 KY farmers died in tractor rollovers. A rollover protective structure or ROPS and seat belt can't stop you from rolling a tractor, but it can stop you from being injured, disabled, or killed.

The Fleming Farmer, Pg. 7
Thursday, September 18, 1997

Tractor Companies Unite To Promote ROPS and Seat Belts on Older Machines

In an unprecedented joint effort, North America's five leading tractor companies are working together to encourage tractor owners to have their older machines equipped with rollover protective structures. As an incentive to owners, AGCO Corporation, Case Corporation, Deere & Company, Kubota Tractor Corporation, and New Holland North America, Incorporated are making it possible to purchase ROPS and seat belts at the companies' cost.

This joint effort is aimed at reducing the two leading causes of death and injury to tractor operators. Statistics compiled by the National Safety Council show 55 percent of all tractor related deaths in 1995 were associated with rollovers and 26 percent involved people who were run over by tractors. Approximately one-half of the people run over were operators who were thrown from tractors.

A recent study of 76 tractor rollover fatalities by Iowa State University and the University of Iowa Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) showed all 76 victims were operating tractors without ROPS and seat belts.

"If a tractor rolls over and it doesn't have a ROPS, there's a 75 percent chance of dying," says I-CASH Director, Dr. Kelley Donham. "If you put a ROPS and seat belt on the tractor, and wear the seat belt, you have a 95 percent or greater chance of walking away from the situation."

Donham stresses that wearing a seat belt is important, because it ensures the

operator remains in the protection zone of the ROPS.

ROPS and seat belts were adopted as standard equipment by all major tractor manufacturers in 1985. However, according to a 1994 survey by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, more than 2.9 million, or 62 percent, of the estimated 4.7 million tractors in use on farms were not equipped with ROPS and seat belts.

To encourage owners to have ROPS and seat belts installed on their older tractors, and to reduce the effect that price may have on the decision, AGCO, Case, John Deere, Kubota, and New Holland are offering kits at cost to their dealers and asking them to sell these kits without mark-up. For tractor owners concerned about low overhead clearance, such as barn doors, folding ROPS kits are also available for some tractors. Depending on the tractor model, most ROPS kits cost less than \$600 (US), plus freight and installation. Kits are available for most tractors manufactured in the mid/late 1960's up to 1985 (when ROPS and seat belts became standard).

In addition to the price incentive, the companies plan to place co-sponsored announcements in various farm media including company-produced communications, to promote ROPS and seat belts on older tractors. At the same time, each company will continue its individual educational and promotional programs to encourage owners to have their older tractor tractors equipped with ROPS and seat belts.

Tractor owners should contact their local dealers for more information and to set up an appointment to have ROPS and seat belts installed on their older tractors. In Fleming County, dealers cooperating with the ROPS program are: Stephen's Machinery Sales, Fleming Tractor Equipment, Inc., Greenhill Equipment, Inc., Young Farm Machinery, Brewer

Tractor Sales, Rose Farm Supply, and Corbin Equipment Sales.

The National Safety Council encourages all farmers and ranchers to take the first step and put an emphasis on safety during National Farm Safety and Health Week and throughout the year. It will take a team effort to prevent tractor rollover deaths and other farm and ranch injuries.
