

## **Tips for “Pause for Thought: Should You Install A ROPS Yourself? Lessons Learned”**

### **Content**

This is a story about an older part-time farmer and his two part-time farmer sons when they installed a ROPS and seat belt on a tractor.

### **Objectives**

The purpose of this activity is to:

- Raise awareness about what is involved in installing a ROPS and seat belt on a farm tractor, the equipment required, and the typical problems encountered
- Share an interesting story with other farmers who may be contemplating installing a ROPS on their tractors
- Weigh the advantages and disadvantages of having an equipment dealer install a ROPS on a tractor versus the farmer doing it himself or herself
- Identify and think about ways to overcome common barriers to getting ROPS installed on tractors

### **Intended Audience**

- Young and adult farm men and women
- Family members involved in planning to have ROPS and seat belts installed on their tractors
- Farm equipment dealers, extension agents, and others who advise farmers concerning farm equipment and maintenance

### **How to Use These Materials**

- Read this Tip sheet and skim through the story.
- Decide with which groups and individuals the story might be useful.
- Use the story in any of these ways.
- As a discussion activity and/or a presentation at a local farm community meeting
- As the basis for a discussion with a single farm family member or with a few family members or farmers in one-on-one meetings
- As a story included in a newspaper or a newsletter or some similar publication (You may want to edit and shorten the story using only the portions you think may be most useful.)

**Materials Needed**

- Multiple copies of the story or portions of the story

**Discussion Questions and Teaching Points**

Use these and/or similar questions as discussion topics after people have read and responded to the story or parts of the story.

1. What relevance does this story have for you and your family? For other people in this community?
2. What tradeoffs were involved for the Cole family when they delayed having a dealer put a ROPS on the tractor so that they could install the ROPS themselves?
3. What barriers and problems prevent farmers from having equipment dealers retrofit their tractors with ROPS rather than trying to do so themselves?
4. What tempts farmers to construct their own ROPS and what are the problems and risks in doing so?
5. When a farmer purchases a used tractor from a tractor dealer, and when that tractor has no ROPS and seat belt, what are some good strategies for getting a ROPS and seat belt installed on the tractor?
6. What barriers may prevent you (or other farmers) from getting ROPS and seat belts on tractors? In what ways might you (or they) overcome these barriers?

**Ideas, Notes, and Comments**

Write down your ideas and plans for using this activity.