Tips for "Tractor Overturn Stories"

Content

Farmers and farm family members told these stories. Each story describes a tractor overturn event. Most of these events resulted in the serious injury or death of the person who was driving the tractor. The stories tell how these events occurred, the injuries sustained, and the consequences of the injuries for the individual and for that person's family. The stories are presented as told by these individuals.

Objectives

The purpose of this activity is to:

- Raise awareness about the sudden and unexpected ways in which tractor overturns occur during normal chores that have been performed many times before without incident

- Personalize tractor overturns, their injury consequences, and their impact on farm family members' lives and well being

- Reflect on the personal relevance of the stories to one's own farming and tractor-driving activity in terms of overturn risks and their consequences

- Empower farmers and farm family members with attitudes and knowledge about the effectiveness of ROPS and seat belts for preventing injury and death during tractor overturns

Intended Audience

- Young and adult farm men and women

- Family members who make decisions about farm finances and operation

- Farm families members who are concerned about the welfare of their friends and loved ones

- 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

- Read this introduction and look through the stories.

- Decide with which groups particular stories might be most suitable.

- Use samples of the stories in any of these ways.

    ⇒ As a discussion activity and/or a presentation at a local farm community meeting. One effective technique is to give a different story to each of several small groups of people at a meeting. Ask the members of each group to read their story. After each group has finished, have them tell their story to the whole group. Then encourage the group to discuss the stories and similar events that they know about. Ask, "In what ways can you prevent similar injury events to your family members?"

⇒ 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 an activity or a display that can be conducted by FFA students, 4-H teens, and vocational agriculture students as a community service project, where some of the stories would be selected and featured in

◊ presentations to various groups in the community

◊ as items in a newsletter or similar publication

◊ printed in large type and used as part of a display

Materials Needed

- Multiple copies of the stories, with each story on a separate page so that each small group of three to five people can have their own story to examine and discuss

- An overhead projector transparency of each of the shorter stories printed in large type

- An overhead projector transparency of selected portions of the longer stories printed in large type

Discussion Questions and Teaching Points

Use these and similar questions as discussion topics after people have read and responded to one or more of the stories.

1. What relevance do these stories have for you and your family? For other people in this community?

2. If the tractors described in the stories had been equipped with ROPS and seat belts, and if the operators had worn the seat belts, how would the stories have been different?

3. Do you or members of your family drive tractors without ROPS and seat belts? If so, in what ways are you at risk of an overturn injury and in what ways might such an event affect your lives?

4. What can you do to prevent your family from encountering catastrophic injuries and deaths from tractor overturns?

5. 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.