

Tony's Ride ¹

This is a story about a seven-year-old boy who rides on a tractor with his dad.

Instructions

Get together with two or three of your friends. Then read the story and answer the questions that appear in the story.

Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Please don't write in the problem booklet. That way the problem booklet can be used again.

After you have selected your answers to a question, discuss your choices with your friends. Then continue reading the story while answering and discussing the questions.

Work a page at a time. Answer all the questions. Please don't jump ahead, but you can look back anytime you want to.

When you finish the story, ask for a copy of the answer key. Compare your answers to those in the answer key. Discuss the story and answers with your friends and the instructor. When you have finished complete the questionnaire attached to this booklet. Give the booklet and the completed questionnaire to the instructor. Your answers will be used to improve the exercise. Thanks!

¹ Developed September 1997 and February 1998 by Henry P. Cole, Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention, Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Kentucky. Revised in February 1998. Illustrations by Rita Wilkie. The work was supported by CDC/NIOSH Cooperative Agreements U06/CCU412900-01, -02, and -03. The views expressed in this document are those of the author and not necessarily those of CDC/NIOSH or the US Government.

Tony and His Family

Tony is seven years old. He lives with his younger brother, Joey, age five, and his parents, Bill and Mary Thompson. The Thompsons own a 125-acre farm. They raise corn, alfalfa, and hay and graze 30 beef cattle on 80 acres of hilly pasture.

Both Bill and Mary work full-time off the farm, he at the highway department, and she as a secretary at an insurance agency. All four family members do farm chores.

Catching Up on the Weekend

It is 8:00 A.M. on a Saturday morning in early August. Mary and Joey have gone to town to run errands, go grocery shopping, and get some children's books from the library.

Bill is getting ready to mow some weeds that have grown in one of their pastures. Tony wanted to stay home and help his daddy. Mary told Tony and Dad to be careful.

Turn the page and begin.

Work a page at a time.

Don't jump ahead, but you can look back anytime you want.

Question A

Look at Figure 1 on the next page. What do you think is going on here?
(Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 1. Bill is baby sitting Tony while Mary and Joey go to town.
- A D 2. Bill is teaching Tony how to do this job.
- A D 3. Tony is happy because he got to ride with his daddy.
- A D 4. Bill has fond memories of riding tractors with his dad and granddad.
- A D 5. Bill has never heard about a child second rider falling off a tractor and being hurt or killed.
- A D 6. Tony has probably ridden on the tractor with his daddy many times before.
- A D 7. Bill thinks he can be careful and keep Tony safe.
- A D 8. Bill and Tony don't realize how dangerous it is for Tony to ride along.
- A D 9. Bill and Tony are having some quality time together.
- A D 10. Bill doesn't care much about Tony's safety.

[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

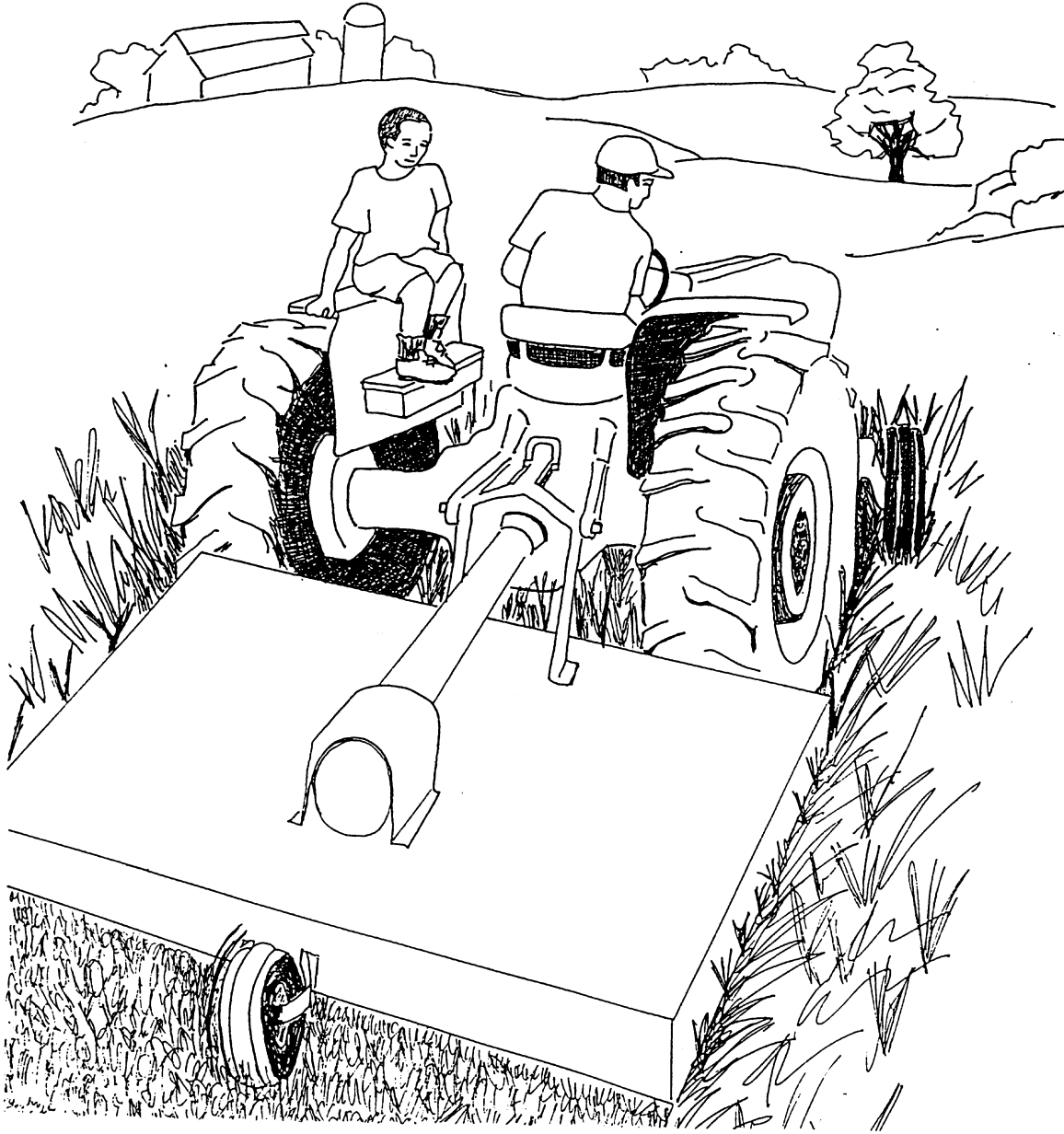


Figure 1: Tony rides along with his dad

Question B

Look at Figure 1 on the previous page and at Figure 2 on the next page. What are some things that could cause Tony to be hurt? (Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 11. Tony could fall off when he lets go to swat a fly that is biting his neck.
- A D 12. The tractor could hit a bump and throw Tony off.
- A D 13. Tony could get sleepy and slide off the fender.
- A D 14. A snake thrown up by the tractor tire could bite Tony.
- A D 15. Tony could be struck by a tree branch and knocked off.
- A D 16. Tony could get bad sunburn and be at increased risk of skin cancer years later.
- A D 17. Tony could get sick from breathing the dust kicked up by the bushhog.
- A D 18. Tony's hearing could be damaged from the noise.
- A D 19. Tony could be hit by a ricocheting rock thrown by the bushhog.
- A D 20. Tony could be distracted by watching a rabbit or groundhog, forget to hang on, and be bounced off.
- A D 21. If the tractor overturned, Tony could be crushed.

[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]



Figure 2: Tony continues his dangerous ride

Question C

Bill drives the tractor and bushhog near a tree. Tony leans ahead and forward to duck under a branch that Bill doesn't notice. The tractor hits a hole and bounces. Tony falls off the fender. See Figure 3 on the next page.

What can Bill do to keep Tony from getting hurt? (Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 22. Reach around and grab Tony's shorts or leg.
- A D 23. Jam on the tractor brakes.
- A D 24. Immediately disengage the PTO to the bushhog.
- A D 25. At this time, there is nothing his dad can do to protect Tony.

[After you have looked at Figure 3 on the next page,
and marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

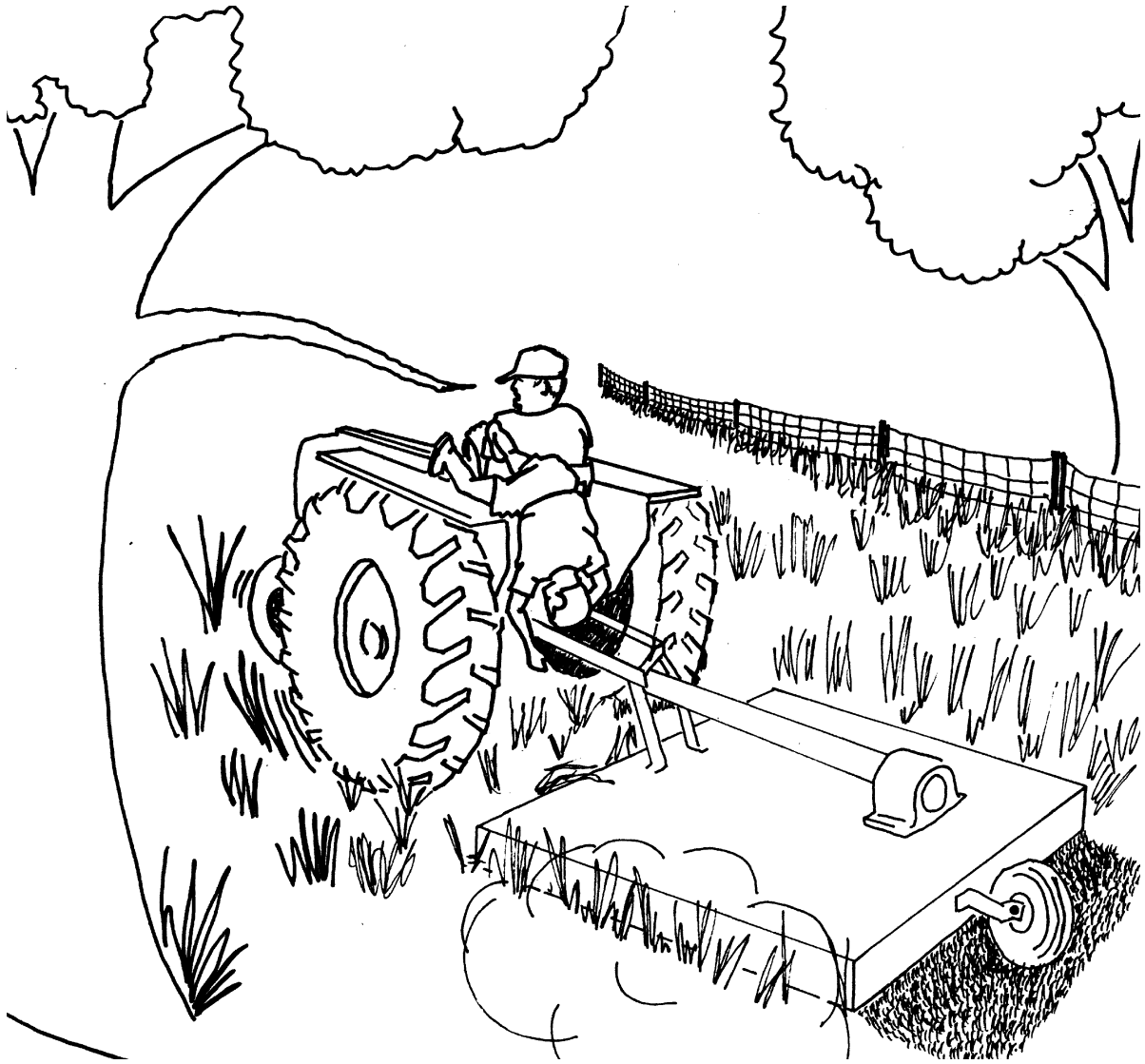


Figure 3: Tony falls off the tractor fender.

Question D

Think about this story about Bill and Tony. What are some things that Bill and Mary could have done to keep Tony from being hurt? (Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 26. Let Tony ride on the tractor fender for only short distances on flat, open land where there was no danger of him falling off and getting hurt.
- A D 27. Waited until he was older and stronger, say about 12, before letting Tony ride on the tractor fender.
- A D 28. Have Tony ride in his dad's lap where Bill could have watched and held the boy as the tractor traveled along.
- A D 29. Never have permitted Tony or any other second riders on the tractor.

[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

Question E

Sometimes young children get into the habit of riding on tractors. Then they beg for rides on tractors. In what ways does this habit lead to other risks of injury for children and others in their families?

(Circle A or D on your answer sheet to indicate if you agree or disagree.)

- A D 30. Children can be injured while climbing and playing on parked tractors.
- A D 31. When children climb and play on parked tractors, they can injure other persons.
- A D 32. When children ride on tractors with an adult, the child can injure other people.
- A D 33. When the operator starts the tractor and backs or pulls equipment from barns or sheds, children may run to the tractor to get a ride, not be seen or heard, and be run over.

[After you have marked your answer sheet, please continue with the story.]

What Happened to Tony?

This exercise doesn't tell what happened to Tony. However, the two stories that follow are about similar events. Both are true. The first story, about an Oklahoma farmer and his eight-year-old son, was published in the September 1990 issue of Progressive Farmer. The second story is included in Dr. Carol Lehtola's doctoral dissertation and was told to her in 1991.

Boy, 8, dies in tractor accident²

"O.K. kids. This is the last round I'll let you ride." Those words were to change forever the life of an Oklahoma farmer.

The farmer further relates what happened to his eight-year-old son. "...the fender my boy sat on broke off. As he lunged forward, he reached out his little hand. I yelled his name as I reached for him and his fingers slipped through mine.

"He went face down in the field, the fender went underneath the tractor wheel, and then the big wheel ran over him -- up the legs, up the back, and over the top of his little head.

"Then the rotary mower went over him. If you've seen anyone who's stepped on a land mine, well, there's more left of that person than of anyone who has fallen in the path of a mower.

"...I tried to pick up my son, and he was just all over the place.

"It's been over a year, and the hurting is still there. I haven't had eight straight hours of sleep since then. The life that was once fun to live doesn't hold much for me now. It is like my heart has been cut out of my chest.

"The loss of a child is about the worst thing that can happen to a person. Remember my story the next time a child begs for 'just one ride' on farm machinery."

Boy, 7, in coma after being run over by a tractor³

He [the seven-year-old] had seated himself on the fender of his daddy's tractor when he went to mow hay. This was a common, every-day thing as his daddy, too, had grown up on the fender of a tractor. As farmers you know it is difficult to determine the terrain and rough places when they are hidden by waving hay at dusk. The tractor hit a bump, [the boy] fell off and was thrown in front of the tractor wheel which rolled up onto his head. He remains in a coma today, never having regained consciousness.

² Reprinted with permission from the September 1990 issue of *Progressive Farmer*.

³ Reprinted with permission from Dr. Carol Lehtola's doctoral dissertation (1992), Analysis of Tractor Related Accidents in Iowa, 1988-1990, University of Iowa.

Question F

Think about the events described in the Tony's Ride exercise and in the two stories on the previous page. Then discuss the following questions.

1. How risky do you think it is to have second riders on tractors, especially child second riders?
2. What are the costs and consequences when a child second rider is seriously injured or killed? What happens to the family?
3. What can be done to break the habit of having second riders on tractors? (Think about both the children's and the adults' habits.)
4. Who can and should do something about preventing second-rider injuries and deaths to farm children? Are you that person?
5. What can you do to prevent second-rider injuries and fatalities?

End of the Story

Ask for a copy of the answer key. Read and discuss the answers and other information on the answer sheet. Compare your answers to those in the key and discuss any differences.

Be sure to look at the three additional news stories on page 4 of the answer key.

When you have finished, please complete the questionnaire attached to your answer sheet. Then give your completed answer sheet and questionnaire to the person who is conducting this session.

Thanks!