Facts about Kentucky Farm Tractor Overturn Deaths and Their Prevention

A series of posters for public display

A Public Service Project for Kentucky's Farm Communities

January 2000

Contact your local equipment dealer today to install a ROPS and seat belt on your tractor!

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Contact your local equipment dealer today to install a ROPS and seat belt on your tractor!

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During 1994-99, 76 Kentucky farmers died in tractor overturns. Another 32 died when they fell off moving tractors.



How many would have survived with a ROPS and seat belt? All 108. Don't become another grim statistic. Get a ROPS and buckle up!

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ROPS and seat belts can save many lives! *

\Rightarrow	Tractor overturns	76
\Rightarrow	Thrown from tractor and run over	25
\Rightarrow	Thrown from tractor but <u>not</u> run over	7
\Rightarrow	Highway motor vehicle & tractor collisions**	2
\Rightarrow	Total deaths	110
\Rightarrow	Potential lives saved by ROPS & seat belts	108

* KY Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) data 1994-99.

** Two of these collisions involved large trucks traveling at high speed. A ROPS and seat belt would probably not have prevented the death of the tractor operator.

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Project goals

- To increase the number of ROPS and seat belts on farm tractors
- To encourage retirement of older tractors without ROPS or restrict them to jobs with less chance of overturns
- To promote other safe tractor practices (e.g., no extra riders, use of slow moving vehicle [SMV] signs, etc.)

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ROPS - RollOver **Protective Structure**

During an overturn a ROPS and seat belt hold the operator in a "frame of safety."



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Demonstrating how a ROPS works



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How a ROPS and seat belt work



A fastened seat belt holds the operator on the tractor seat.



During an overturn the operator stays within the ROPS "frame of safety."

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Living dangerously (no ROPS, no seat belt)



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An overturn without a ROPS



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Overturns without ROPS are deadly





Without a ROPS and seat belt the operator is unprotected during an overturn.

During a recent six-year period, 76 Kentucky farmers died when their tractors overturned. ROPS and seat belts could have saved all 76.

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Partially protected (ROPS but no seat belt)



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Why fasten the seat belt?



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Effectiveness of ROPS & seat belts

Together ROPS and fastened seat belts are 98% effective in preventing injury and death during tractor overturns.



A ROPS alone greatly reduces the risk of being killed during an overturn compared to a tractor without a ROPS. Add a fastened seat belt and the operator is usually **not** injured in an overturn.



In this case, the ROPS saved his life. A buckled seat belt would have saved his legs, huge medical bills, and a permanent disability.

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Kentucky farmers at risk-1994

- In 1994, the KY fatality rate in Ag/Forestry/Fishing was 3.1 times the national rate.
- In KY, nearly all of these deaths were farming related.



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Kentucky farmers at risk-1995

- In 1995, the KY fatality rate in Ag/Forestry/Fishing was 3.5 times the national rate.
- In KY, nearly all of these deaths were farming related.



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Kentucky farmers at risk-1996

- In 1996, the KY fatality rate in Ag/Forestry/Fishing was 2.8 times the national rate.
- In KY, nearly all of these deaths were farming related.



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Tractor-related farm deaths



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Kentucky's annual farm injuries



Kentucky has more than 5,000 farm injuries per year.

More than 1,100 involve farm tractors

Farm tractor-related injuries

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Age and ROPS status of KY tractors

% Tractors



Based upon examination of 282 tractors from a random sample of 149 farms with principal operators age 55 years or older Taken as a whole, the bars represent all of Kentucky's working farm tractors. Each bar is the percent of tractors manufactured in a given fiveyear period.

The dark portions of the four bars represent the 29% of tractors equipped with ROPS. When these tractors overturn, the driver is seldom injured.

The light gray portions of all the bars represent the 71% of tractors without ROPS. When these tractors overturn the driver is often seriously injured or killed.

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Lifetime chance of an overturn

- 1 in 9 Kentucky farmers age 55 or older have overturned a tractor and lived
- 1/3 of these survivors have had two or more overturns
- Many of these persons were injured
 - some received minor injuries
 - some received severe injuries
 - some were permanently disabled
- If you don't have a ROPS on your tractor you are at risk of injury or death

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Are ROPS cost effective?

- A study at UK found medical costs from a severe overturn injury can be \$140,000 +
- Tractor overturn fatalities and serious injuries often result in loss of the farm
- A ROPS is a onetime cost < \$1,000</p>



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If this happened to your son ...



Wouldn't you want him on a a ROPS-equipped tractor?

Wouldn't you hope he was wearing the seat belt?

If you or someone in your family rolls a tractor without a ROPS it can turn your life upside down.

Set a good example! Protect your loved ones and yourself. Get a ROPS and buckle up!

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