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Ag Safety and Health Springtime Preparations.....	1-2
AgrAbility National Training Workshop.....	2
Farm Emergency and First Aid Kits.....	3
AT Spotlight	3
FSA Programs.....	4

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AG SAFETY AND HEALTH SPRINGTIME PREPARATIONS

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Spring is one of the busiest times of the year on a farm. Sometimes things are so busy that safety is not given the priority necessary to keep everyone safe.

Below are some ways to help improve safety and decrease the risk of injury at your farm operation.

Youth Workers

Are you planning to hire youth to work at your farm operation? If so, are you aware of the U.S. Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture (Ag HO)? Since 1969, the U.S. Department of Labor has declared many agricultural tasks to be hazardous to youth younger than 16. With certain exemptions, employment of youth under 16 for tasks that require operation of a tractor and machinery is illegal unless the youth are certified. By successfully completing a certification program, 14 and 15 year old youth may legally operate farm tractors and powered machinery for hire which they otherwise would not be allowed to operate under the U.S. Department of Labor's AgHO. More information about certification through the National Safe Tractor and machinery Operation Program .

Train Your Workers

Before you start your busy spring, take time to provide your workers with training on all aspects of the farm operation. Some suggested training topics to cover include location of first aid kits and emergency contact information, safety protocols around equipment (e.g., turn off the tractor before doing any maintenance, etc.), proper clothing for specific jobs (e.g., no flip flops, no loose fitting clothing around PTO, etc.) and daily pre-operational checks for tractors and equipment. Consider organizing a safe tractor operation workshop for your workers. If you need an outline for a workshop for your employees, our guide to teaching safe tractor operation will help you with the process.

Lighting and Marking for Travel on Public Roads

Special precautions need to be taken when moving tractors and equipment on public roadways. Most agricultural equipment travels at less than 25 mph while other motor vehicles travel at much greater speeds and they underestimate the amount of braking time needed to avoid a collision. Most states require a slow moving emblem (SMV) on the back of all tractors, towed implements and self-propelled implements. Guidelines and recommendations were developed for lighting and marking of farm equipment that travel on public roadways.

Pre-Operational Checks

Winter and early spring is the perfect time to doing maintenance on your equipment, but there are several things that you should do on a daily basis prior to using your tractor. By doing a pre-operational check on your tractor, you may prevent costly repairs, down time for repairs and frustrations.

PTO Guarding

The Power Take-Off (PTO) shaft transfers mechanical power from the tractor to an implement. This transfer of power is efficient but also presents a potential entanglement hazard that could result in serious injury or death. Preventative steps in reducing a PTO entanglement incident include the following:

- Keep all components of PTO systems shielded and guarded.
- Regularly test driveline guards by spinning them to make sure that they are not stuck to the shaft.
- Disengage the PTO and shut off the tractor before dismounting to clean, repair, service, or adjust machinery.
- Always walk around tractors and machinery instead of stepping over a rotating shaft.
- Always use the driveline recommended for your machine. Never switch drivelines among different machines.
- Position the tractor's drawbar properly for each machine used to help prevent driveline stress and separation on uneven terrain and during tight turns.
- Reduce PTO shaft abuse by observing the following: avoid tight turns that pinch rotating shafts between the tractor and machine; keep excessive telescoping to a minimum; engage power to the shaft gradually; and avoid over tightening of slip clutches on PTO-driven machines.
- Be sure PTO driveline is securely locked onto the tractor PTO stub shaft.
- Keep universal joints in phase. (If unfamiliar with this term, check the operator manual or talk with a farm implement dealer.)

It is important to reduce the risk of injury and death on the farm because agricultural owners, operators, and workers are so vital to our communities. Have a safe and successful spring season at your farm operation!

AGRABILITY NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP RETURNS IN 2022!

March 13-17, 2022

Like many events, the AgrAbility National Training Workshop (NTW) was adversely affected by the pandemic. The 2020 NTW had to be canceled less than two weeks before it was scheduled to start. Conditions in 2021 also kept the in-person NTW from happening; however many of the sessions originally scheduled for that even were presented virtually.

In 2022, the NTW is scheduled to convene again in-person on March 14-17 at the Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison, WI. As always, the NTW promises to provide many highly-informative break-out sessions, interesting off-site tours and valuable networking opportunities. The scheduled keynote speaker is Davon Goodwin, an AgrAbility Army Veteran, AgrAbility client, agriculture entrepreneur and national speaker.

Our staff looks forward to seeing all of those who have registered. If you didn't have time to register you can review the presentations at the conference once they are all posted online. <http://www.agrability.org/agrability-national-training-workshop>



2022 AgrAbility of Wisconsin Annual Summit

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Registration: <http://bit.ly/2SVMX5B>
Organic Valley
Cashton, WI



Assistive Technology Spotlight: Agri-Speed Hitch

The Agri-speed hitch is the invention of Barry and Ron Bergman. It was born out of necessity. Barry farmed and relied on his father to haul the loads of corn and soybeans. As time passed the job of hooking and unhooking the wagons went from a time consuming chore to a very difficult task.

The Agri-speed hitch features:

- Simple Drawbar Mount
- Easy To Operate At All Hours
- PTO Compatible
- Fast
- Reliable
- Increases Efficiency
- Turns Sharp
- Compatible with Choppers
- Build Like A Tank
- Works Well in Tandem with a Bale Spear

Farm Emergency and First Aid Kit

Alyssa Dick, Program Specialist, IA State University

Being prepared for medical emergencies and knowing the basics of first response can help minimize the extent of injuries. Preparation includes having the right materials available. A farm emergency/first aid kit should contain everything needed to handle a medical crisis where you work. Keep in mind the following tips as you put together your farm emergency/first aid kit.

- **Have more than one kit.** Consider developing several kits specific to the hazards and potential injury. A first aid kit may look different in the barn compared to one on the tractor.
- **Pack items for individual needs.** Make sure your emergency kit contains personal medical information and supplies for those with special medical conditions. Such as someone allergic to bee venom needs appropriate items included. Name and phone number of family doctors for everyone should be included.
- **Always include emergency numbers.** A card should tell you how to contact an ambulance, hospital, or fire

department, and have written directions about how to get to the farmstead, field, or work area.

- **Check kit every 3 month.** Inspect for expired supplies. Replace items that are dusty and make sure supplies fit the season.
- **Pack a Red Cross manual or first aid chart.** This information is invaluable during a crisis when it's difficult to think clearly. First aid charts and Red Cross manuals list necessary steps to care for victims of various events, such as drowning, shock, fractures, or burns, and how to avoid additional injury.
- **Label all kits.** Store in a large nylon travel or sports bag with a visible label.





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Search "AgrAbilityWI" and follow us for fun facts, resources, and updates!

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Farm Service Agency Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers to promote, build and sustain family farms for a thriving agricultural economy.

Farm ownership, operating, and emergency loans are available under the Direct Loan Program. Farm ownership, operating, and conservation loans are available under the Guaranteed Loan Program. FSA offers two types of guarantees under the Land Contract Guarantee Program.

The goal of FSA's farm loan programs is to help farmers and ranchers obtain commercial credit.

To learn more about FSA and their programs reach out to anyone on our team.



Are you interested in
learning more about
FSA loan programs?

We can help.