

# Think twice before giving someone a ride on the tractor. One bump could have disastrous consequences for the passenger.

Each year many youth are killed when tractors run over them. In most cases, they were an extra rider while someone else was driving. The victims fall off when the tractor lurches, even if there's a closed cab.

A closed cab can give a false sense of security. The first thing people think to grab when they're off balance is the door handle. In the process kids have opened the door and tumbled out.

Although tractors manufactured since 1976 have a rollover protective structure (ROPS), it provides a safe space for the driver only. It will not protect an extra rider. And it only protects the operator if they're wearing their seat belt.

Passengers on tractors can interfere with safe operation of the machinery by distracting the operator, blocking access to controls, or obstructing the operator's vision.

What can you do?

- ▶ Make a permanent policy to never allow riders on farm equipment
- ▶ Tractors are designed for work, not transportation. Use standard vehicles when work is not required
- ▶ Instruct youth old enough to operate tractors not to take passengers

If there's only one seat, there should only be one person on it. The NO RIDER rule should be a policy on all farm equipment including lawn mowers, ATVs, pickup beds, and combines.



Instructional seats, when used with a seatbelt, provide a way for youth to learn safe ways to operate a tractor.