

Farm Equipment Safety on the Road

According to the National Safety Council, roadway collisions involving farm vehicles on US roads total more than 15,000 per year.

How to stay visible and safe during road travel with farm equipment:

- Use reflective strips to show the size of farm equipment. Mark the extremities of the equipment.
- Use flashers and turn signals to indicate your location and intentions.
- SMV (Slow Moving Vehicle) Emblem: All implements of husbandry designed to operate at 25 mph or less must display the SMV at all times on highways. It should be in the center of the rear of the machine, 2 to 6 feet above the ground.
- The SMV emblem needs to be kept clean and should be replaced when faded. Replace an SMV emblem that becomes dirty, broken or faded; it is ineffective and illegal. New SMV emblems can be reflective up to 1,200 feet.
- In New York, each piece of agricultural equipment, whether self-propelled or used in combination, shall separately display a SMV emblem.
- Check your SMV emblem, marking tape and lights before road travel. Make sure all lights are in working order.
- Consider an escort vehicle if moving large equipment on the road. Always follow NYS law pertaining to moving large equipment, an escort vehicle may be legally required.
- **Stay in your lane with your agricultural equipment. If you pull over to let other vehicles pass you, only do that when you can safely pull all of your equipment off the roadway. Never wave them on or signal them to pass you, you could be held liable if they get into a crash while passing you.**

Confined Space Safety

A confined space is any area that has limited openings for entry and exit, unfavorable natural ventilation and is not designed for continuous worker occupancy. These areas can include silos, grain bins, manure pits, manure spreader tanks, bulk milk tanks, well shafts, chemical storage tanks and controlled atmosphere storage rooms.

To prevent these types of tragedies from occurring, always follow these guidelines:

- Train all workers and family members in the hazards of confined spaces so that everyone is aware of how dangerous these areas can be. Post warning signs at all confined spaces.
- If someone collapses in a confined space, call 911 immediately and ventilate the area. NEVER enter a confined space area to attempt a rescue without proper respiratory protection, positive pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus-note special training is required to use and maintain this equipment (Note: training is required to operate and maintain this equipment).
- Always assume toxic or oxygen deficient atmospheres are present. Use an oxygen meter and continuously test while in the confined space.
- Before entry, ventilate the area with explosion proof, continuously powered equipment
- Standby attendants need to be in visual contact with the worker and if necessary, be prepared to lift the person to safety with a mechanical lifting device (winch, hoist, or pulley)
- Anyone who enters the confined space needs to wear a safety harness with a lifeline that is attached to the lifting device.
- Eliminate the need for entry by providing access to all serviceable parts (shear pins, cleanouts, etc.) from the outside.
- With manure pits, cover all openings to pits with substantial grates to provide some ventilation and to prevent falls or entries to the pit. Stainless steel or fiberglass covers will resist corrosion from hydrogen sulfide. Remember, if it becomes necessary for anyone to enter the pit, continuous powered ventilation must be used.

Farm Emergency Plan

Having a clearly established emergency plan and reviewing it with all employees can help make first response faster and less confusing in a fire, injury, sudden illness or other emergency situation. If everyone knows what to do and where to go, it will be easier to account for all workers and ensure their safety.

Emergency Plan Tips:

- ◆ At a minimum, your emergency plan should include: evacuation procedures, worker responsibility for ensuring the safety of others, a communication plan and who to contact, and a safe meeting area.
- ◆ Post important phone numbers and directions to the

farm near every phone or provide employees with this information to add to their smartphone.

- ◆ Have emergency supplies readily available: first aid kits, fire extinguishers, personal protective equipment.
- ◆ Ensure workers know the location of emergency supplies, machinery shut-off switches, emergency exits, fuel and pesticide storage area.
- ◆ If possible, train your staff in basic first aid and CPR.
- ◆ Work with your local fire department and other first responders to provide information about your farm. How quickly the fire department can get to your “field in the back forty” may be the difference between life and death.

Beat the Heat!

As summer heats up, it is very easy to become dehydrated. Dehydrated workers can become disoriented, weak or dizzy, and may suffer a heat-related illness.

Tips to Beat the Heat:

- Drink lots of water.
- Wear the right clothing—light-colored, cotton or moisture wicking clothing. A wide-brimmed hat and UV blocking sunglasses.
- Take breaks in the shade.
- Work smarter not harder—schedule heavier tasks for the morning or evening when it’s cooler.

Know The Signs

Heat Exhaustion

Heat Stroke

Excessive Sweating

Cold, Pale, Clammy Skin

Fast, Weak Pulse

Nausea or Vomiting

Dizziness or Fainting

Muscle Cramps

Headache

Possibly Unconscious

High Internal Temperature Above 103°F

Rapid, Strong Pulse

Nausea or Vomiting

No Sweating

Hot, Dry Skin

What To Do

What To Do

1. Move to a cooler location.

2. Lie down and loosen your clothing.

3. Apply cool, wet cloths to as much of your body as possible.

4. Sip water.

5. If you have vomited and it continues, seek medical attention immediately.

1. CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

2. Move the person to a cooler environment.

3. Reduce the person's body temperature with cool cloths or even a bath.

4. Do NOT give fluids.

Source: [cdc.gov/extremesheat/warning.html](https://cdc.gov/extremesheat/warning.html)  
[nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/during.shtml](https://nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/during.shtml)

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Thank you to our friends at the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health for the information in this newsletter. For additional safety information please visit [www.nycamh.org](http://www.nycamh.org)

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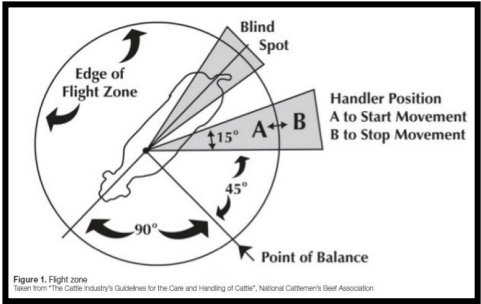


Franklin County  
Farm Bureau News

### Livestock— Work Smarter and Safer, Not Harder

A basic understanding of cattle or other livestock behavior will create a safer environment for both farmers and livestock. Always work smarter and safer, not harder!

1. Never approach a cow directly from behind—talk softly and touch her gently as you approach.
2. Proper lighting in cattle facilities is imperative—because of poor eyesight, cows will balk at shadows.
3. Move cattle from darker areas toward lighted areas.
4. Understand a cow's flight zone and use their response to you to move them where you want them to go.
5. Cows are more comfortable and more easily moved when they are in a group rather than alone.
6. Facilities should be properly designed and maintained for safe animal handling.
7. Cows need good footing so keep walking areas as free of ice and mud as possible.



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### Farm Equipment Safety (cont'd):

PTO's are dangerous and require a functional cover. If you get caught in a PTO shaft spinning at operating speed, you will spin around the shaft 7 to 12 times before you even have time to react. PTO covers should not spin with the PTO—if they do, they are not working! NYCAMH ([www.nycamh.org](http://www.nycamh.org)) sells very inexpensive universal PTO covers.

When starting a tractor, always be seated in the operator's seat. Never start a tractor from the ground.

# Franklin County Farm Bureau News

June 2021 ~ Dairy Month



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

### President's Report



Greetings Franklin County Farm Bureau members!

Since our last newsletter, much has happened. We welcomed many new faces to the board of directors at our annual meeting. We participated in NYFB's virtual State Annual Meeting and lobby day. In light of the pandemic, our board met throughout the fall and winter virtually, but have thankfully returned to in-person, socially-distanced board meetings earlier this year.

In May, we made the decision as a board to join the Eastern New York regional office. This change should help us with our communication efforts, and we are excited to engage with our members more frequently. Also in May, we were pleased to award our Franklin County Farm Bureau 2021 Post-Secondary Scholarship to Amy Gokey and Adyson Miller. In addition, we congratulate Adyson Miller as the New York Farm Bureau District 7 Promotion and Education Post-Secondary Scholarship winner. Congratulations to both of you and we are sure you will make us proud at school! The issue of farm safety was discussed at recent board meetings, so we decided to dedicate the rest of this newsletter to give you all a brief overview of some important farm safety topics. We plan to hold a farm safety day in August to cover some of these topics in person and will have more details soon. Please follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

*Sincerely,*

*Kirby Selkirk, President*



Pictured l-r: Adyson Miller, Kirby Selkirk and Amy Gokey

### Farm Equipment Safety

As the saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." In the instance of farm equipment safety, it could literally save your life. Do not become complacent, follow safe operating practices every time.

#### Top farm equipment safety tips:

Perform a quick inspection of farm equipment before using to look for obvious damage, a clean SMV emblem, a working seatbelt (that you should use!), an operational fire extinguisher and working lights.

Ensure your tractor is equipped with a rollover protection structure (ROPS) and that it is used correctly. With a ROPS protected tractor, you have a 70% chance of survival in a tractor rollover even without a seatbelt and a 99+% chance of survival with a seatbelt. Funds are available to retrofit your tractor with a ROPS.

When repairing equipment, always follow proper safety guidelines and wear protective equipment. Make sure equipment is solidly blocked-up and is on a proper jack or repair stands. Do not trust hydraulics to hold!

*(Cont'd on the back)*

### Membership Features

#### NYFB's LEGAL REFERRAL SERVICE

The program is designed to provide **assistance to members who have legal questions** or concerns and are looking for attorneys, who specialize in the area of law that matches the members needs.

- **Two hours of free consultation** over the course of one year for member who retain an attorney.
- Attorneys offer NYFB members a **15% discount on fees**
- No cost for the referral program. Members are responsible for the attorney fees, disbursements, and any other costs they incur beyond the two hours of consultation.

For More Information call the NYFB Legal Department at 1-800-342-4143

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