

**Canadian
Agricultural
Safety Week
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FACT SHEET #3

THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

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Machine Rollovers

Farming is a cherished way of life for over 346,000 Canadians from coast to coast. It is also a profession with one of the highest risks of on-the-job injury and death. Each year, on average, 115 people are killed and another 1,500 are seriously injured by farm-related accidents in Canada and countless minor injuries are never even reported.

Working with tractors and other self-propelled equipment remains the leading cause of death and injury. Studies by the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program (CAISP) indicate that tractor rollovers cause one in five work-related farm fatalities. While rollovers are the number one farm-related killer, its low injury rating indicates that few people survive a rollover incident.

Most backwards rollovers are caused by towing heavy loads, such as disabled vehicles, or by pulling implements, stumps or logs using a tow chain attached to a tractor. Most sideways rollovers are a result of driving too close to a ditch. This often occurs along roads as the operator is trying to allow traffic to pass. Unfortunately, these incidents are often a result of operator carelessness or distraction.

Rollover fatalities are preventable. These deaths continue to occur despite the fact that rollover protective structures (ROPS) are commercially available as retrofits for virtually every tractor manufactured. CAISP studies indicate that senior farmers are more likely to use older tractors that don't have ROPS or seatbelts. The cost of retrofitting an older tractor can pose a difficult decision because the cost of installation can exceed the machine's actual value. However, not having ROPS can cost you your life. Check with your local implement dealer for more information about retrofitting ROPS.

"Safety is something that should never be compromised," said Marcel Hacault, Executive Director of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). "Accidents can happen in an instant, but regrets can last forever."

CASA, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Farm Credit Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada urge farmers to equip their tractors with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) and wear a seatbelt.

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