




# Tractor Safety and You

Tractors and the attached machinery are by far the largest cause of deaths on Irish Farms.



You are invited to read this and then rate your own safety.



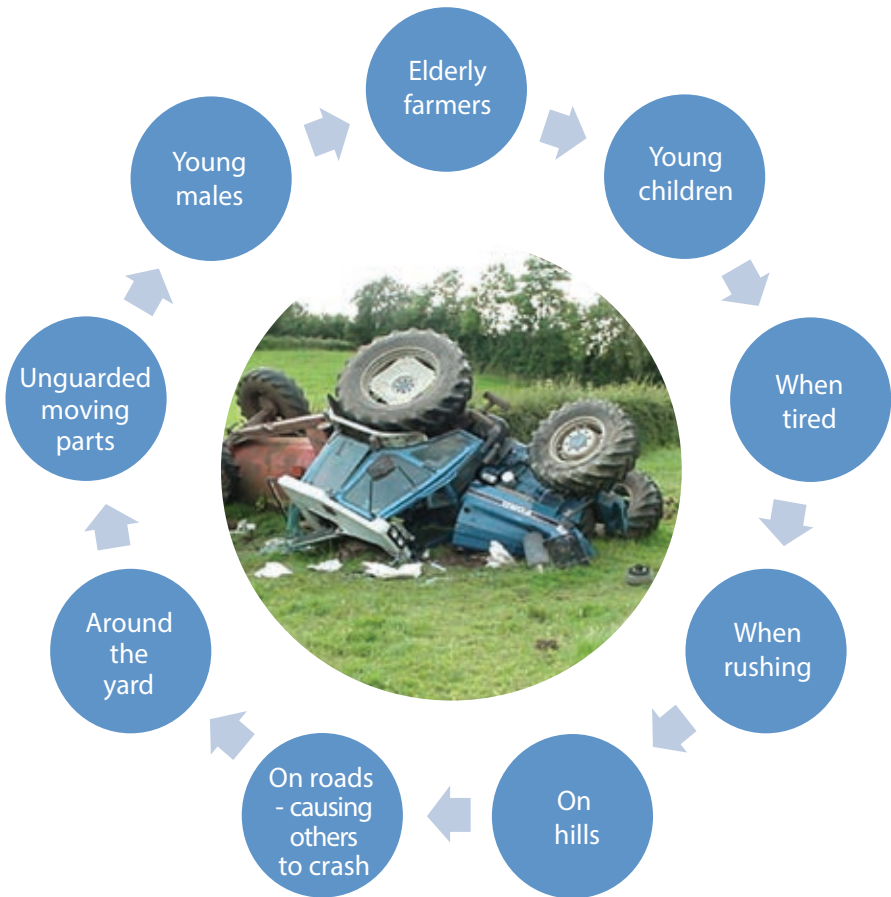
**Our Vision:**  
Healthy, safe and  
productive lives  
and enterprises

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# Most at Risk



## Recognise the risk situations – **then do something about it:**

- **Elderly farmers** – Keep tractor maintained with adequate rollover protection – limit hours worked – know your limitations
- **Young children** – shouldn't be there – keep them away from tractors
- **Young males** – work under supervision - ensure training and machine familiarity and suitability
- **When tired** – the only cure for fatigue is rest – organise more drivers - take adequate rest breaks
- **Unguarded moving parts/power drives** – cover them fully
- **Around the yard** – slow down – no children – care with hitching/unhitching and reversing, use the “Safe Stop”, use axle stands, prop hydraulics before getting under raised loads
- **On hills** – slow right down – experienced drivers only – maximise traction and controlled braking – avoid wet slippery surfaces – stop if feel insecure
- **On roads** – don't speed – let traffic through – be highly visible – keep well to the left – mark wide loads – secure loads
- **When rushing** – plan your work, allow enough time, don't take chances or short cuts

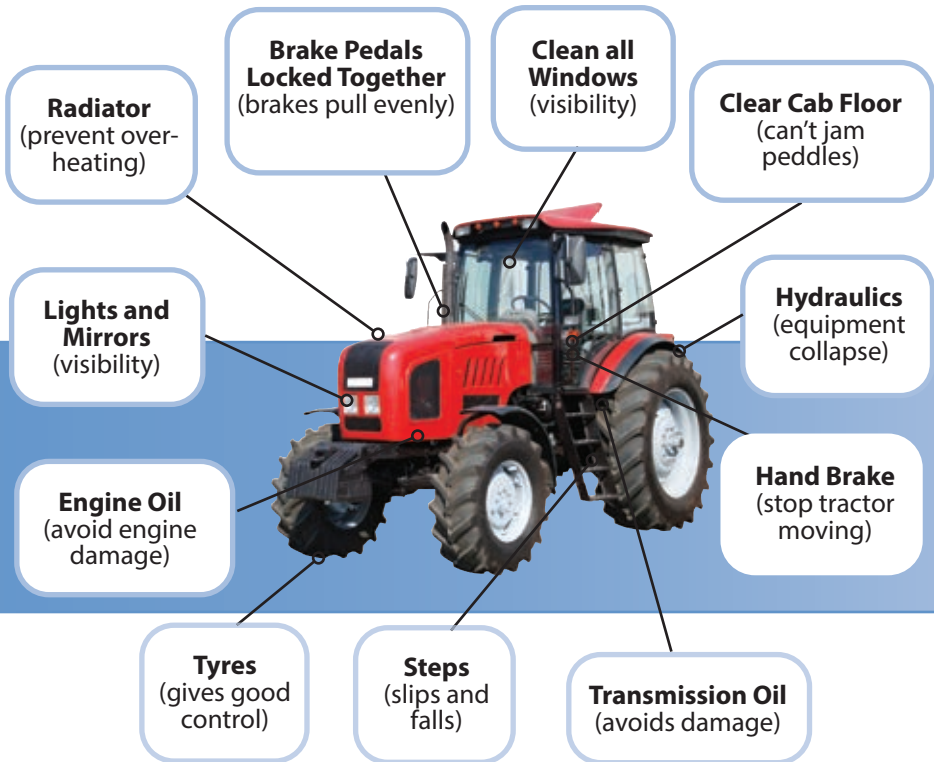
# The Consequences

Accidents involving tractors and machinery result in far more deaths and severe injuries than other farm accidents – crushed, entrapped, entangled, deep cuts, amputation, paraplegia, death. You have no chance against the weight and power of the tractor or machine. Take action to prevent accidents with tractors and machinery.



## Five Minute Check

Before you start work always check these items:



Only now should you start work – but slow down and work safely

# Safe Tractor Operations

Competent Drivers Always Follow 'Safe Systems of Work'



**Safe Tractor and Machinery Work – Is In Your Hands**



# The “Safe Stop”

“Safe Stop” will eliminate most yard accidents. You or your family won’t get crushed, entrapped or entangled if you follow these six simple steps.

Bring it to a  
Stop at a  
Safe Place

Apply the  
Handbrake

Disengage

Lower  
Implements

Engine Off

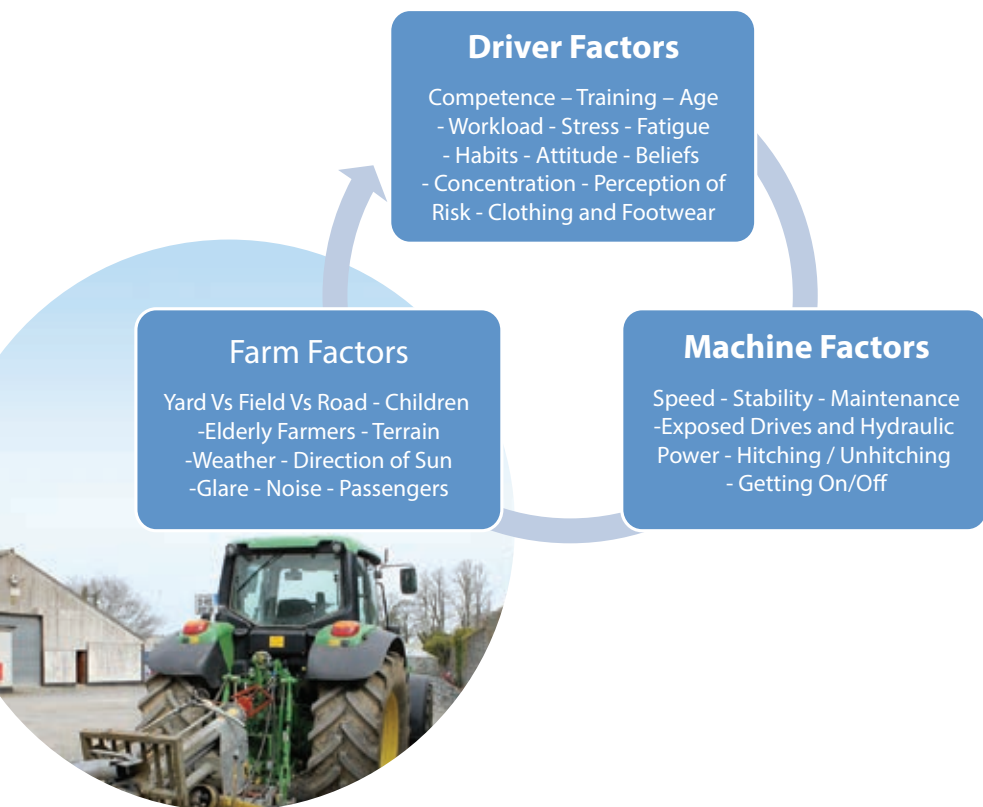
Remove Key  
- Only Now  
Dismount





# Tractor Safety – How Do You Rate Yourself?

Many factors contribute to nearly every tractor or machinery accident. There is rarely a single cause.



# Rate Yourself as a Driver

Your rating?

Do I fully understand the use of every control?

Yes

No

Do I always start the tractor in the drivers seat?

Yes

No

Do I know the correct way to operate every machine I use?

Yes

No

Do I drive smoothly – not jerky?

Yes

No

Do I understand the “Safe Stop” system and use it?

Yes

No

Do I scan ahead for hazards such as holes or people?

Yes

No

Do I always wear safety boots and close fitting clothing?

Yes

No

Do I stop and rest when I feel tired?

Yes

No

Do I limit my driving to 13 hours or less in any 24 hour period?

Yes

No

# Rate Yourself as a Driver

Your rating?

Do I always concentrate fully on my driving?

Yes

No

Do I stop to take calls or texts?

Yes

No

Do I ensure the radio/CD/MP3 don't distract me?

Yes

No

Do I slow down enough on corners to avoid an overturning?

Yes

No

Do I check my load is stable and secure before going on the road?

Yes

No

Do I reverse with extra care when elderly or children are about?

Yes

No

Do I stop if young children appear?

Yes

No

Do I only allow children over 7 years of age in the cab?

Yes

No

# Rate Yourself as a Driver

## Your rating?

Do I only allow children aged over 14 years of age with training to drive on my farm?

Yes

No

Do I make sure not to stand where I could get crushed between a tractor and machinery?

Yes

No

Do I not drive when there is no roll-over protection?

Yes

No

Do I always drive at a safe speed?

Yes

No

Do I always carry a mobile phone?

Yes

No

# Rate your Awareness of Farm Factors

Your rating?

Do I know the driving hazards in my yard?

Yes

No

Do I know the driving hazards in my fields?

Yes

No

Is there safe access/egress to my Farm?

Yes

No

Am I aware of all steep slopes?

Yes

No

Am I aware of all bumpy surfaces?

Yes

No

Am I aware of all deep ditches?

Yes

No

Am I aware of all old stumps concealed in long grass?

Yes

No

Am I aware of all narrow lanes?

Yes

No

Am I aware of all busy roads to be crossed?

Yes

No

Am I aware of all extremely slippery surfaces?

Yes

No

## Rate your Awareness of Farm Factors

Your rating?

Am I aware of all areas where I cannot drive safely at night?

Yes

No

Can I drive safely in snow or ice?

Yes

No

Can I drive safely toward a low setting sun?

Yes

No

Can I drive safely where the machinery noise is very loud?

Yes

No

Can I drive safely with a passenger(s) in the cab?

Yes

No





# Rate these Machine Factors in Tractor Safety

Your rating?

Do I do the 5 minute check every day?

Yes

No

Do I fully maintain the tractor?

Yes

No

Do I know the weight of my trailer in relation to legal axle limits?

Yes

No

Do I recognise a leaking hydraulic hose as a significant fault?

Yes

No

Do I recognise touching a faulty hydraulic hose as a danger?

Yes

No

Do I keep machine guards in place and in good condition?

Yes

No

Do I always ensure the PTO cover is chained at each end?

Yes

No

Do I use "Quick Hitch" fittings for most machinery?

Yes

No

Do I examine the hitch fitting regularly for wear?

Yes

No



# Rate these Machine Factors in Tractor Safety

Your rating?

Do I check that attached machinery is securely hitched before use?

Yes

No

Do I check that the brakes are in full working order including the hand brake?

Yes

No

Do I have the foot brakes linked together?

Yes

No

Do I check tyre pressures, treads and sidewalls?

Yes

No

Do I have a safety belt on each tractor?

Yes

No

Do I avoid walking under a raised "Front End Loader"?

Yes

No

Do I check that the trailed implements are well lit on roads at night?

Yes

No

Do I use the correct tractor for each job?

Yes

No

Do I have a "Hands Free" kit installed in each tractor?

Yes

No

# Your Rating Results

The driver and machine factors should have **YES** answers. If most of your scores are **YES**, then well done. Now think about your **NO** answers. There is no right or wrong score here.

- Tractor and machinery accidents may have multiple causes but there is usually one key factor – **that’s YOU!**

You make the critical decisions. Most tractor accidents come back to a decision by the driver – **that’s YOU!**

- Attitude, **YOUR ATTITUDE** is the Key Factor in Tractor Safety
- Understand the risks to you and to others – then **DO SOMETHING TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THE CHANCE** of an accident

## Further Information and Guidance:

Visit our website at [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie), telephone our contact centre on **0818 289 389** or email [contactus@hsa.ie](mailto:contactus@hsa.ie)

Use BeSMART, our free online risk assessment tool at [www.besmart.ie](http://www.besmart.ie)

Check out our range of free online courses at [www.hslearning.ie](http://www.hslearning.ie)

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