



*A list of best practices for loss prevention to help United Mutual agent partners and members identify the most common issues associated with safety on farms.*

Offered through

## General Farm Safety

## Best Practices



- ☐ Reduce your chance of a road accident by using prominently displayed Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) symbols. Equip your machinery with rear view mirrors, so you can see behind and around your wide vehicle or the machine in tow, and operable hazard lights and flashers, so that you are visible to other drivers.



- ☐ Consider having your tractor equipped with a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS). Smaller tractors are more at risk, but larger units are not immune from this hazard either. Be mindful of the terrain you're driving on.

- ☐ Supplement ROPS safety with the use of a seat belt.
- ☐ Before performing any machinery maintenance, always lock-out all power/energy sources (electric, hydraulic, mechanical).
- ☐ Ensure all who plan to operate machinery or vehicles are properly trained.



- ☐ When loading and transporting equipment, be sure you are on stable, level ground — the slightest degree of slope or incline can lead to a tip-over. Remove the ignition keys, set the parking brake, engage flashers and chock the front and rear axles to help prevent a roll away.

- ☐ Before loading a trailer be sure you have connected it properly to the truck by checking the fifth wheel or goose neck latch and connecting all safety chains. Breakaway cables should be connected to the truck and trailer so in the event of accidental separation, it will disconnect and lock the brakes.

- ☐ Roofs of grain bins and other farm structures should be inspected annually for wear and damage followed by appropriate maintenance and repairs by a qualified contractor. Pay careful attention to trusses, truss bracing, and nail plates.

- ☐ A snow removal plan is needed for target areas where snow and ice tends to accumulate to help prevent roof and building collapse from excess snow and ice buildup.



- ☐ Ensure adequate electrical service is in place. Have a licensed electrician install and inspect the system as improvements and rewiring are made.

- ☐ Flammable liquids require proper storage and fuel tanks should be located 50 feet away from structures (if possible).

- ☐ Place working fire extinguishers in shop areas, other farm structures, and on mobile equipment.

- ☐ Ensure UL listed equipment is used and local fire codes are observed for the installation and maintenance of fuel burning devices.

