

It is important to be safety conscious when dealing with any job that requires the use of machinery. Statistics show that the majority of machinery-related accidents occur as a result of human negligence. Operating farm machinery is serious business and should be treated as such. To avoid any type of machinery-related injury, strict safety practices must be employed.

## **General safety suggestions include:**

- Read and follow the manufacturers' instructions for operation.
- Don't remove or modify safety features.
- Ensure that everyone working on the farm is thoroughly familiar with operation procedures and safety requirements for any machinery they use.
- If needed, replace and fit guards to cover the moving parts of machinery – for example, a PTO guard.
- Make sure that tractors are correctly ballasted or weighted for particular jobs.
- Never jump off a machine; climb down instead. We always recommend that a 3-point contact be maintained when entering or exiting from a tractor, truck, or trailer unit.
- Never carry passengers unless the machine is designed to do so.
- Fit falling object protection structures (FOPS) on front-end loaders.
- Keep a well-stocked, up to date first aid kit in an accessible area.
- Always wear appropriate protective and visible clothing.
- Supervising inexperienced workers at all times.
- Make sure your workers are thoroughly trained in equipment operation and safety.
- Keep all equipment in good repair.
- Warn workers of potential hazards and insist they undertake training and use equipment safely.
- Only allow a worker to perform a task when you are confident, they can handle it.
- Keep visitors and children well away from operating machinery and warn them of potential hazards.
- Use a seat belt if operating Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) equipped machinery. The belt is to hold you within the safety zone of your ROPS frame or ROPS enclosure if an accident occurs.
- Always shut down machinery when fueling, only fuel from a properly grounded and bonded fueling apparatus, and only use an approved container.
- Use a checklist weekly (or more often if recommended by the manufacturer) to check condition of machinery before operating. A preventative maintenance program should be established and followed.