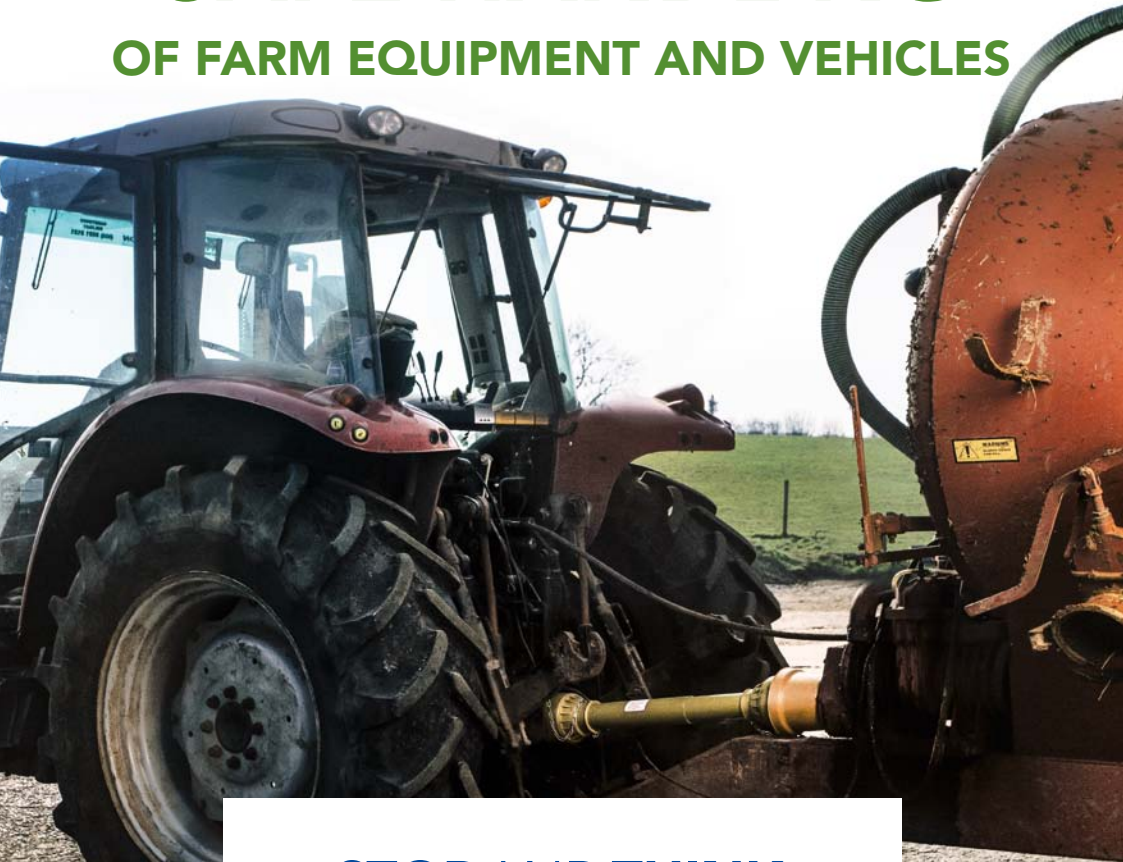


# EQUIPMENT

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# SAFE HANDLING

## OF FARM EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES



**STOP AND THINK**

**SAFE**

**SLURRY ANIMALS FALLS EQUIPMENT**



**EQUIPMENT**

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# EQUIPMENT

## Safe Handling of Equipment on Farms

Modern tractors, telehandlers and other equipment have given farmers the ability to work more quickly and efficiently.

But this machinery brings new dangers.

Farm equipment is involved in more than 1 in 3 farm-related deaths. These machines are also involved in many accidents which result in life-changing injuries such as the loss of a limb.



# Before working with farm equipment and vehicles take a moment to Stop and Think!

**MANY ACCIDENTS OCCUR WHEN SOMEONE GETS CAUGHT IN A PTO SHAFT, IS STRUCK BY OR LOSES CONTROL OF A VEHICLE.**





## THINK

about safety at all times. Always take care when mounting or dismounting the vehicle. Only start the vehicle with a key when in the driving seat. Check brakes, especially parking brakes, are working properly and keep them maintained.

## THINK

about the Safe Stop procedure and always follow it. Complete 4 simple steps – apply the hand brake, put the controls in neutral, turn off the engine and remove the key.

## THINK

about all round visibility. Drivers should be able to see around their vehicles to drive and manoeuvre safely. For a tractor this normally means having the side mirrors in place. Achieving all round visibility with telehandlers will depend on the design - is the boom front or side mounted?

Your telehandler may require side mirrors and sometimes a fish eye mirror or camera at the back.

## THINK

about added hazards. Other equipment that can be attached to a tractor, may bring additional dangers.

## REMEMBER

to think about others who may be hurt – family, employees, visitors. Make sure equipment users are trained and competent. Never put an inexperienced person or a child at risk with farm equipment and vehicles.

**STOP AND THINK**

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## Preventing loss of vehicle control

The driver must be trained and know how to operate the vehicle safely. Before use, always check that the brakes are working and that they are interlocked. If the implement being trailed has hydraulic or pneumatic brakes, make sure they are connected.

Check the surface that will be driven on and drive appropriately for the conditions.

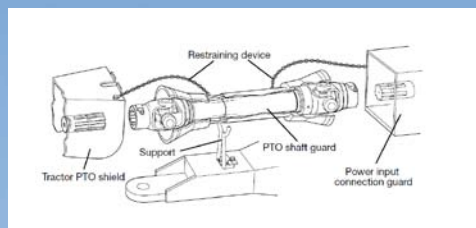
If a driver loses control of a vehicle, a Roll-Over Protective System (ROPS) will reduce the harm done.

Make sure all your vehicles have the ROPS system in place. This means that all vehicles should have a safety cab, or at the very least an approved roll bar. Seat belts must always be worn if they are fitted. If there is no safety cab and only a roll bar then ensure that seatbelts are retro-fitted.

## Guarding PTO shafts

Power Take Off shafts are the power source for many machines that are attached to and powered by tractors. The shaft can rotate at speeds up to 1000 rpm.

A PTO shaft must always be correctly guarded as shown in this diagram.



Ensure you use shaft guards made to a recognised standard such as BS EN ISO 5674.

Broken, damaged or badly fitting PTO guards are as dangerous as an unguarded PTO shaft, as a faulty guard can give a false sense of security. Repair or replacement is vital and could save lives.

Never wear loose clothes when operating machines powered by PTOs.

## Care around hydraulics

Many machines and attachments for tractors are powered by hydraulics. Oil is pumped from the tractor to the equipment through pipes at very high pressures over 2500 psi.

Always check pipes for leaks before using hydraulic equipment. Repair or replace damaged pipes or couplings

before use. Never place a finger near any leak in a hydraulic hosepipe, and seek medical attention if any oil is forced under the skin.

## Managing other hazards

There are many other dangers associated with farm equipment, so it is vital to be aware of the risks and take steps to prevent accidents.

When clearing blockages in a machine attached to a tractor, be sure both tractor and machine have been fully stopped and there is no power going to the machine.

Before carrying out any repairs to equipment, check that you have the correct equipment for the job, such as a trolley jack, correct props, etc. Consider employing a competent mechanic to carry out the repairs.

Be aware of the height of any overhead power lines near where you are working and avoid tipping trailers near them.

Pulling heavy machinery such as slurry tankers and large trailers will make stopping the tractor more difficult. Always connect the hydraulic or pneumatic brakes if fitted.



## Case studies

### Tractor Handbrake Incident

34 year old farm worker was crushed to death under the wheels of a tractor with a faulty handbrake. The man got out of the tractor on slightly sloping ground to open a gate. He should have switched off the engine and put on the handbrake when he got out of the tractor, but instead, he left the tractor in neutral and did not apply the handbrake because it was not working. The vehicle was in a poor condition and there were problems starting the engine.

### PTO Shaft Incident

A farmer died as a result of injuries sustained when he became entangled in the unguarded PTO shaft of a tractor and slurry tanker. The tanker was not filling properly, so the farmer was working at the front of the pump on the tanker when he became caught up by the shaft. This accident could have been avoided by making sure that the PTO guard and the "O – guard" on the front of the pump were in place and in good condition as well as switching off the tractor before carrying out repairs or adjustments to the pump.

**STOP AND THINK**

**SAFE**

SLURRY ANIMALS FALLS EQUIPMENT

# EQUIPMENT

## The 'Stop and Think' Checklist

### ALWAYS

- ✓ Keep all guards in place on tractors and equipment, especially PTO guards.
- ✓ Ensure you have good all-round visibility on tractors and telehandlers.
- ✓ Make sure equipment is stopped fully before clearing blockages.
- ✓ Operate tractors with enclosed safety cabs or roll bars.
- ✓ Take care when mounting or dismounting tractors or telehandlers.
- ✓ Keep the brakes on all your machines properly maintained, especially the parking brakes.
- ✓ Start your tractor from the driver's seat.
- ✓ Make sure that your tractor's starter system works properly.
- ✓ When pulling heavy machinery equipped with hydraulic or pneumatic brakes, make sure the brakes are connected to the tractor and working.

### NEVER

- Attempt to repair machinery if you do not have the correct tools and equipment and are not competent to do so.
- Run a tractor down a slope to start it.
- Work near overhead power lines when tipping trailers or using high reach machinery.
- Check hydraulic pipes for leaks by running your finger along them while they are connected and under pressure.

### Remember

Farmers and farm workers use tractors and other equipment every day. These machines are powerful, and if not operated safely, can lead to disabling injuries or death. Many of the steps essential to keeping you safe only require a few moments thought.

Remember too - operators and drivers should know how to operate and look after these machines safely. Equipment that is not maintained properly can cause accidents. Guards need to be kept in good condition and used properly. It could save your life.

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