



CONTACT:

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Teens Working on the Farm

The most common cause of agricultural-related deaths in Nebraska is overturned tractors and ATVs. We need to change that!

Through Nebraska Extension, Members of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health in the UNMC College of Public Health will provide a tractor safety course this summer in 12 towns across Nebraska. The course provides extensive training on tractor and all-terrain vehicles safety with a variety of hands-on activities. Instilling an attitude of ‘safety first’ and respect for agricultural equipment are primary goals of the course.

Teens 14 or 15 years of age who work on farms are encouraged to register for the Nebraska Extension Tractor Safety & Hazardous Occupations Course.

Federal law prohibits children under 16 years of age from using certain equipment on a farm unless their parents or legal guardians own the farm. However, certification received through the course grants an exemption to the law allowing 14- and 15-year-olds to drive a tractor and to do field work with certain mechanized equipment.

Cost of the course is \$60 and includes educational materials and instruction, supplies and lunch.

The first day of class will cover the required elements of the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program, hands-on participation, concluding with a written test, which students must pass to attend the second day of training.

The second day of training will include a driving test and equipment operation and ATV safety lessons. Students must demonstrate competence in hitching and unhitching equipment and driving a tractor and trailer through a standardized course. Instructors will offer an ATV simulator experience in some locations about safe behavior and laws for ATVs and utility task vehicles (UTVs).

Instructors for the course are members of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health: Aaron Yoder, Ph.D., Ellen Duysen; UNMC graduate students Dan Kent, and Jill Oatman; and Nebraska Extension Educators Troy Ingram, Randy Saner and John Thomas.

Classes begin at 8 a.m. End times vary depending on the number of participants.

Dates, training site locations, and coordinator phone numbers are below:

- May 20 & 21 – Geneva, Fairgrounds (402) 759-3712
- May 22 & 23 – Nelson, Fairgrounds (402) 225-2092
- May 28 & 29 – Grand Island, Extension Office, (308) 385-5088
- May 30 & 31 – Kearney, Extension Office, (308) 236-1235
- June 4 (first day is online) – Gordon, Fairgrounds, (308) 327-2312

June 5 (first day is online) – McCook, Fairgrounds (308) 345-3390

June 6 & 7 – Ainsworth, Evangelical Free, (402) 387-2213

June 11 & 12 – O’Neill, Plains Equipment, (402) 336-2760

June 13 & 14 – North Platte, West Central Research and Extension Center, (308) 532-2683

June 18 & 19 – Gering, Legacy Museum (308) 632-1480

June 20 & 21 – Wayne, Fairgrounds (402) 375-3310

July 1 & 2 – Weeping Water, Fairgrounds, (402) 267-2205

For more information, or to register, contact the appropriate Extension office above. The registration form is located at kearney.unl.edu.