Everyone realizes the danger involved in working with agricultural equipment. But it bears keeping in mind the ease with which we fail to take the necessary precautions after a long day or while our minds wander while we are performing a routine maintenance on a piece of equipment, or moving equipment over public highways. Here are safety tips that cover three of the most important areas of farm safety: 1) PTO safety 2) tractor and equipment safety and 3) road travel safety.

**PTO Safety**
1. Keep all PTO shielding in-place.
2. Repair or replace damaged shielding.
3. NEVER step over a PTO driveline.
4. Wear close fitting clothing and keep loose hair under a cap or tied back.
5. Disengage PTO before dismounting from tractor.
7. Inspect the PTO regularly and provide proper maintenance to keep it operating smoothly.

**Tractor and Equipment Safety**
1. If not equipped, retrofit ROPS (Rollover Protective Structure) onto tractors.
2. Use seatbelts with ROPS.
3. Do not allow "extra riders", especially children.
4. Shut down equipment, turn off engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting.
5. Make sure everyone who operates a tractor or other equipment has received training and is physically able to operate equipment safely.
6. Read operator's manual and pay attention to warning decals.
7. Use caution when operating a tractor on any slope.
8. Remain alert and focused on the tasks at hand, especially when performing maintenance and repairs.
9. Hitch only to the drawbar and hitch points recommended by tractor manufacturers.

**Road Travel Safety**
1. Use Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem.
2. Use retro-reflective tape on the sides and back of farm vehicles on the highway.
3. ALWAYS wear your seat belt when traveling on the highway.
4. Use caution when turning left, some motorists may try to pass on the left side when you slow down.
5. Utilize pilot vehicles on the highway.
6. Be aware of road conditions, especially curves, hills, crossroads, and bridges.

There are also some general safety tips that should be followed to respond to accidents when they do occur:
1. Keep a first aid kit and fire extinguisher accessible at all locations.
2. Make sure all emergency numbers are posted near phones and that everyone knows where phones are located.
3. It is a very good idea to get trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
4. Develop an emergency response plan.

If you are interested in looking for more safety information, please look to the following Internet sites:
- [http://www.ncfh.org/](http://www.ncfh.org/) - This is the National Center for Farmworker Health
- [http://www.nsc.org/issues/agrisafe.htm](http://www.nsc.org/issues/agrisafe.htm) - National Safety Council site for Agricultural Safety
- [http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm](http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm) - National Institute for Farm Safety
- [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/agriculture/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/agriculture/) - A site that contains national, and state statistics on agriculturally related accidents