



### TALK LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize your talk to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

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### WORK ACTIVITY

Front-end tractor loaders and other attachments are used to transport bales, rocks and other objects, move debris and snow on yards and lanes, and are essential on our farm. However, there are safety considerations when it comes to using these attachments.

### BACKGROUND

Front-end tractor attachments change the tractor's centre of gravity. The higher the load is lifted, the more unstable the tractor becomes and this can result in the tractor tipping over onto its side. Mounted tractor attachments make the tractor longer and this changes the amount of room needed when maneuvering.

### Key Points

**WE HAVE INTEGRATED SAFETY STANDARD OPERATING PRACTICES FOR OPERATING ALL EQUIPMENT INCLUDING TRACTORS WITH FRONT-END LOADERS ON OUR FARM.** If you don't remember them, review them—you can find them:

#### THE BUCKET SHOULD BE KEPT AS LOW AS POSSIBLE WHEN TURNING AND TRANSPORTING

It is important that you make sure you have enough clearance when driving that the bucket doesn't touch or catch on the ground but carrying loads higher than needed can cause centre of gravity of the tractor to shift. If the tractor becomes unstable due to the gravity shift this can cause the tractor to tip or roll.

#### MAKE SURE ALL ATTACHMENTS ARE SECURE

Front-end loader attachments can become unattached if they are not properly secured. Clear any debris

from the coupling system and make sure that all locking mechanisms are engaged. Visually inspect the coupling system to verify that the attachment is secure, all locks are fully engaged and the centre of the attachment matches up to the coupler. Quick attach systems are quick, but they are not foolproof!

#### NEVER WALK OR WORK UNDER A RAISED LOADER

The loaders are attachments, and even though we make sure that they are properly attached, at times, mechanical or hydraulic issues can cause the loader to drop. Make sure that no one walks or works under the loader at any time.

#### A FRONT-END LOADER CHANGES THE CLEARANCE

A front-end attachment changes the amount of room the tractor needs to turn corners, maneuver through the yard and to park. Adjust for this and make sure you have enough clearance when operating a tractor with a front-end attachment.

## CAUTION

An elevated loader changes the center of gravity of the tractor and can cause the tractor to tip under conditions that would normally be safe. Also, tractor loaders often operate in confined areas that make short turns unavoidable. Both of these factors make loader-equipped tractors susceptible to rollovers.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

In case of incident or injury, call 911 or your local emergency services, then me or your supervisor.

## MORE RESOURCES

*Please refer to your manual or contact your manufacturer for more details regarding the safety of your machine.*

*Safe Implement Hitching, available at <http://casa-acsa.ca/content/safe-implement-hitching-guidesafe-connection-agriculturaltractors-implements>.*

## FRONT-END LOADERS AREN'T PEOPLE TRANSPORTERS

Front-end loaders can haul many things, but never people. A sudden stop, lurch or bump can cause the rider to lose their footing and fall off.

## FRONT-END LOADERS AREN'T REPLACEMENTS FOR POST-DRIVERS OR OTHER TOOLS

Even though front-end loaders are handy, please make sure you are using the proper tool for the job. Here are some additional safety tips for working with front-end tractor loaders:

1. Loader controls should only be operated from the operator's platform when the operator has a clear sight of what is around the machinery or is being guided by a spotter.

2. Never exceed the lifting capacity of the loader.
3. When handling large bales, make sure the bale is speared through the centre. Never lift the bale by sliding the fork under the bale as it might fall off.

What are some other safety tips for avoiding injuries when working with front-end tractor loaders?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

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Operation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



CanadaFarmSafe  
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This Producer Tool was developed by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). Conducting regular Toolbox Talks, or safety meetings, with farm workers is one component of establishing a comprehensive farm safety plan as outlined in the Canada FarmSafe Plan, CASA's business-risk management tool for health and safety on the farm. To download the core Canada FarmSafe Plan, visit [casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan](http://casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan), or contact CASA to learn more at 1-877-452-2272.

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