

Sustainable agriculture for the future

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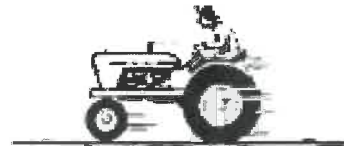
# Farming safely with Tractors

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**D**ue to the importance of the safety on farms, the following safe operating codes must be refreshed frequently as safety awareness for tractor operators.

## No speeding

Tractors are not designed for high speeds or quick manoeuvres. Driving fast is often a factor in many accidents. Always reduce your speed to keep safe, especially when turning.



## Crossing slopes

When driving along a slope, a hidden hole or obstacle can make tractor overturn, especially at higher speed. Drive slowly and look out for obstacles.



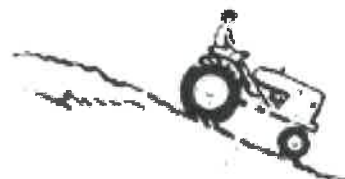
## Up slopes

Backward upsets can easily occur when driving uphill, especially when pulling a load. Add weights to the front end, or if very steep, reverse up.



## Downhill

Traveling downhill, there is more weight on the front wheels and hence the angle of overturning frontwards. Always descend where the slope is less steep or follow a contoured route.



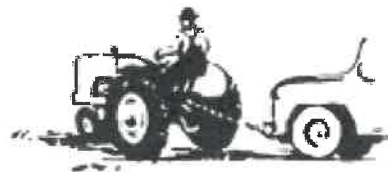
## Loads on front

A front-end loader fitted to a tractor with a narrow front wheelbase can make it very unstable. Use the loader with special care. Add weights to the rear wheels, e.g., filling up tyres with water.



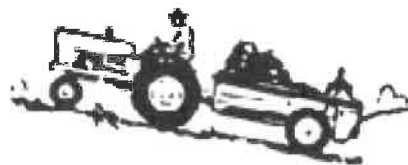
### Avoiding high hitch

The heavier the load is hitched onto the tractor the more easily will the tractor overturn backward when pull is applied at the rear. When pulling a load, hitch to the drawbar only, and keep it low.



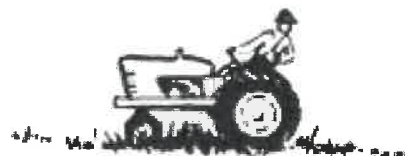
### Loads on drawbar

Loads on the drawbar tend to cause the front end of the tractor to lift due to load transfer. Steering and control then become difficult especially on uphill, and the driver could easily lose control. Add front-end weights.



### Hidden obstacles

A tractor has lots of bounce, and hitting a hidden obstacle, even on level ground, can throw the driver or overturn the tractor. Slow down on the rough ground or where visibility is limited.



### Ditches

A tractor with rear wheels in a ditch is liable to overturn backwards if power is applied. Avoid crossing deep ditches or steep banks.



### Mud

When stuck in mud, try to reverse out. If go forward while the wheels stick, the tractor may overturn backwards. If you cannot reverse out, get help from others.



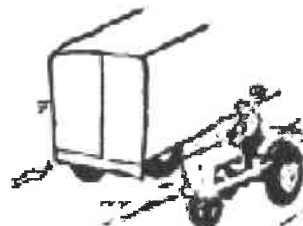
### Misuse

Many deaths result from running errands, herding cattle, or playing the fool with tractors. The tractor must be used only for the job it was designed to do.



### Traffic

High-speed cars and slow-moving tractors can present a dangerous situation. Check the tractors thoroughly for roadworthiness before use and, if possible, avoid heavy traffic.



### No riders

Falling from a tractor when moving can be fatal. Never permit anyone to ride unless a seat is specifically designed for an additional person.

### Rollover Protection System (ROPS)

Remember, a tractor fitted with a ROPS and a sturdy cab can save the life of the driver.

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A complete manual on Agricultural Safety Codes is available at the ARC-NRE Agricultural Engineering campus. Contact: [stoltze@arc.agric.za](mailto:stoltze@arc.agric.za)

