

**TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 256
STATE REPRESENTATIVE AL OTT
MAY 8, 1997**

ASSEMBLY HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HEARING

THANK YOU CHAIRMAN BRANDEMUEHL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Assembly Bill 256 specifies that the statewide program of tractor operation safety training and certification is only provided to persons who are at least 12 years of age.

The tractor operation safety training and certification program was put into effect as a result of 1993 Assembly Bill 821 authored by the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety. The committee did not set a minimum age for enrolling in the course which is generally taught by county extension agents, vocational agriculture instructors and volunteers who often include farmers, implement dealers and health professionals who donate their time and equipment for training.

In 1996, the ages of youth that enrolled in a course in Wisconsin ranged from 6 to 15 years old. This wide range of ages led to several problems.

First, with no minimum age limit, class sizes were very large, often with a wide range in the students' ages. The large class size coupled with the differing levels of knowledge and understanding made it difficult for instructors to teach such complex issues as tractor and machinery functions and operation.

Second, with no minimum age limit, classes became full rather quickly. Extension offices often allowed more youth to enroll in the course than they had planned on to avoid large waiting lists. Unfortunately, many counties still had large waiting lists which often included young teenagers who needed the certification so that they could have a summer job on a farm.

Third, as is noted in the attached newspaper article titled "Calumet takes time to teach tractor safety," many younger students are not likely to pass the course because in order to receive certification a youth must be able to reach the foot pedals while seated properly on a tractor.

I have to admit that I started driving a tractor at a much younger age than 12. However, that was at a time when there were not as many cars on the road and there was not as many major highways as there is now. Regardless, I was too young to be driving a tractor on the road. I won't allow my 9 and 11 year old daughters to do it today.

When the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety passed 1993 AB 821, they in effect said that any person under the age of 16 must complete a safety course and receive certification to drive a tractor on a road. My bill, AB 256, takes the safety issue a step further by setting a minimum age of 12 to enroll in the certification course in effect saying anyone under the age of 12 cannot drive a tractor on the road.

I recently read in a newspaper article that the National Safety Council reported that farm and ranch related injuries cause 27,000 injuries and another 300 deaths to children. Please join me in supporting AB 256 so that these injury and death statistics are less likely to include Wisconsin children.

Page 2 CALVARY CRIER April 29, 1997

FDL COUNTY FARM SAFETY DAY CAMP

The National Safety Council reports that farm and ranch related accidents cause 27,000 injuries and another 300 deaths to children. Because of these statistics the First Annual Fond du Lac Farm Safety Day Camp was held on March 29, at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds. The goal of the camp was to raise the level of safety awareness by providing area children with a hands-on approach to safety education and prevention.

Calumet takes time to teach tractor safety

Kids as young as 10 take class

BY STEPHEN GROESSEL
of the Delta Publications, Inc. staff

For at least a couple of decades, the Calumet County Tractor Safety course has filled a void in the safe operation of tractors and other heavy duty equipment by young people engaged in farming.

Although the state of Wisconsin does not set down a minimum age requiring youths to be certified as tractor drivers, young people taking the Calumet County course this year are as young as 10.

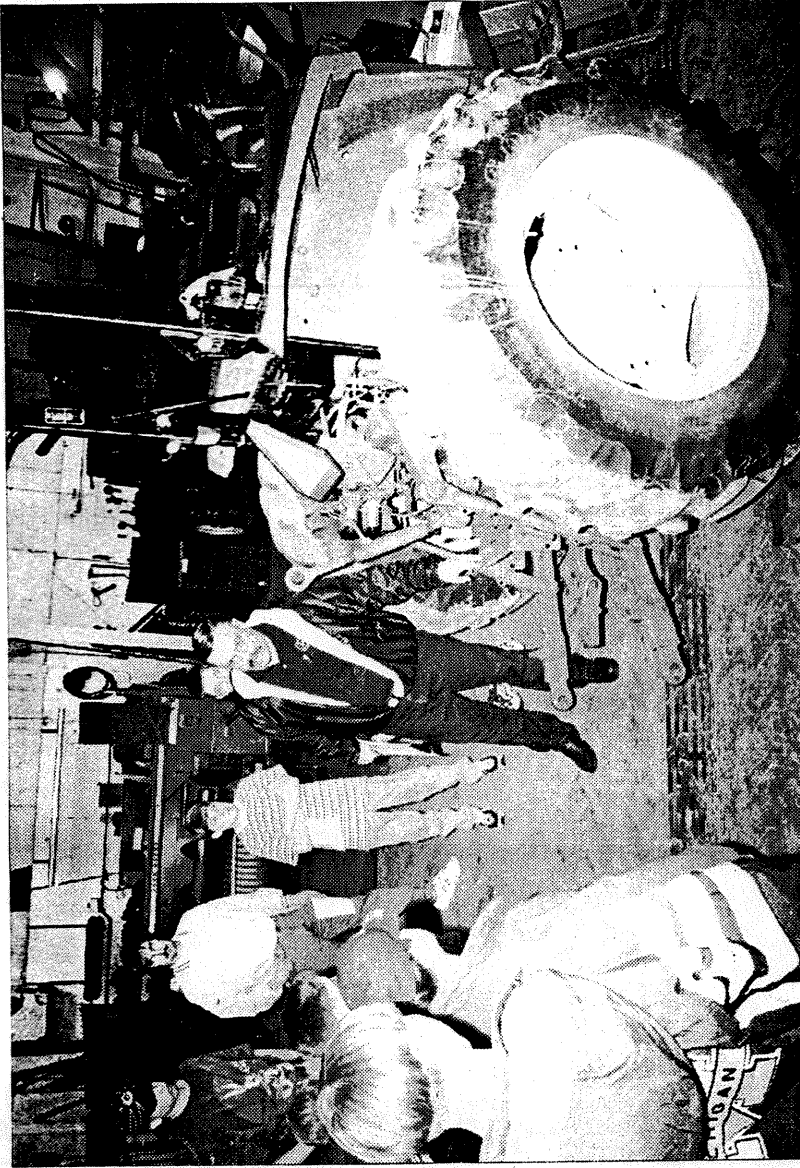
Calumet County 4-H and Youth Agent Tom Reinemann, who serves as coordinator for the tractor safety program, said passing the written and driving tests is more a matter of size and maturity. The two 10-year-olds taking the course this spring will not be certified because when seated on the tractor reaching the foot pedals is a problem for them, Reinemann said.

Certification to operate a tractor is required by young people who drive a tractor on the property of a farmer friend, relative or neighbor. Although such certification is not mandatory for youths when driving a tractor on their parent's farm, if the tractor is driven on the highway, certification is required.

Reinemann said it is anticipated that the state will set down a minimum age. Age 12 has been bantered about, he said.

The average age of the youths enrolled in this year's Calumet County course is 13.

The eight-week safety course includes a driving test conducted on the final day in the parking lot of the Calumet County Courthouse. Classes are set up at different sites throughout Calumet County. Hands-on learning takes place at the facilities of area equipment dealers and farms. For instance, on March 4, the young people gathered in the service area of the Riesterer and Schnell dealership, Chilton. There, volunteer instructors Gene Radder, St. Nazianz, Eric Hagenow



GENE RADDER of St. Nazianz explained some of the hazards of operating a tractor during one of the recent sessions of the Calumet County Tractor Safety Course held at different sites in the county. *Stephen Groessel photo*

and Patrick Bender, Kiel, helped the young people get acquainted with the operation of tractors and skidders and their service and maintenance requirements.

Randy Scheidt, sales and service manager for Riesterer and Schnell, said dealers see value in serving as hosts for the safety course. "Operating equipment in the farm industry is very hazardous. We are concerned about our customers. We do not simply sell a product but train our customers in the proper and safe operation of that product," Scheidt said.

Besides hands-on learning, videos are shown to the young people. On one class night, a patrolman speaks about safety

on the open road. The course also provides a close-up look at equipment and potential accident situations on farms. On two of the course nights, the students complete workbooks and take written exams at allocated space in the Calumet County Courthouse.

Besides Riesterer and Schnell, dealers and farms who are hosting the young people in this year's course are Gruetis, Inc., Potter; Schneider Farms, Inc., Hilbert; D&D Equipment, Inc., Chilton, and Chuck Feider Farms, New Holstein.

This year's class consists of 41 young people. The past ten years, classes have averaged between 30-35 students. Participants in the course which runs from Feb. 25 to April 12 spend 24 hours

in instruction time. A fee of \$15 is charged which includes a textbook entitled: "Safe Operation of Agricultural Equipment."

Reinemann said this summer a week-long course on tractor safety is offered through the Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. Youths interested in this alternate course may phone the Extension Office (849-2361) for specific information.

Write testimony

Call Cheryl re:

trans hearing


2-9336

AB256 - 225 NW

May 8th

9 am

(Mark Porschwitz)
#testifying

~~Do not forget to call~~ 

~~ask Cheryl to witness~~
~~have each / copy~~

~~ask about T. Chairman that~~
~~has problem w/ Andrews~~

~~Roger A. Bretzman~~
~~Leila, UT~~

Nearly half of recent ATV deaths involve teens or kids

By JODIE DeJONGE
Associated Press

Seventy-nine people were killed riding all-terrain vehicles Wisconsin in the last decade, nearly half of them children and teenagers often riding illegally, Associated Press review found.

A dozen victims were younger than 12, even though state law generally bars them from riding the powerful machines. Most died when their ATVs rolled over or crashed into other vehicles. Many were passengers, even though ATVs are designed for only one rider—the driver. Some safety officials and

medical groups say the deadly accidents can be prevented through better education and by stricter licensing and regulation of ATV drivers.

"You've got a 60- or 70-pound child on a 400-pound machine. They're way too large, way too powerful for the person operating them," said John Plenke, a

state conservation warden who oversees ATV safety. "Parents should realize these aren't toys. They should not buy one for their kids without fully realizing what the machines can do."

Wisconsin has some ATV regulations, but there are also broad exceptions. No license is needed. Helmets are required only for

riders 17 and younger, with numerous exceptions for children who are hunting, fishing, farming or riding them on land controlled by their families.

"It's been that way for many, many years. We don't regulate what people do on their own

Please see **STUDY** page 7

Study/Teens, kids make up nearly half of ATV fatalities

From page 1

land," Plenke said.

Of the 40 adults who died, nearly three-quarters were drinking and 60% were drunk, according to the AP computer-assisted analysis of reports filed by investigating wardens, law enforcement officers and county coroners.

Nationwide, 2,795 ATV riders died between 1982 and June 1996, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. More than a one-third of the victims were younger than 16.

Wisconsin, with 99 deaths in that same period, ranked 11th out of the 50 states in ATV deaths per capita, and seventh in deaths overall.

Wisconsin's high accident toll is partly due to the state's rural nature, said Murray Katcher, a professor of pediatrics and family medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

"It's the presence of farms. Children are employed on farms.

1 killed as towboat sinks

Associated Press

St. Louis — A towboat sank on the Mississippi River on Saturday, killing the pilot. The 70-foot towboat, named the Mary Burke, went down shortly after 1 p.m. on the Illinois side of the river near downtown St. Louis.

They're asked to do chores at an early age," said Katcher, who advocates ATV licensing and a 16-year-old minimum.

Some medical groups are also calling for tighter controls for drivers of the three- and four-wheel machines that, at their most powerful, weigh more than 600 pounds and can reach speeds of 50 mph.

The state Department of Natural Resources believes no additional regulations are needed.

"They're useful and fun machines to operate, but common sense is necessary," Plenke said. "If people abide by our current regulations, attend safety classes no matter what their age and, above all, use common sense, your accident rate should go down."

The AP review also found:

■ Although ATVs are designed for only a driver, 20 of the last decade's 79 victims were passengers, including a 7-year-old Janesville boy who was one of three children on an ATV driven by a 14-year-old boy.

■ Twenty-one children and teenagers died on public roads or rights-of-way, which are generally off-limits to ATV operators. They most often collided with other vehicles.

■ Not wearing a helmet was common. More than half of the child and teenage victims (22 out of 39) had no helmet. Of those 22, only six were exempt. Only four victims over 18 were wearing helmets.

■ Sixty percent of the victims over age 18 were legally drunk,

Facts about ATV deaths

Some details from the Associated Press' analysis of all-terrain vehicle fatalities from 1986 to 1995.

- 79 people died, including 12 children younger than 12, 27 teenagers and 40 men and women age 20 and older.
- The youngest victim was 4; the oldest was 82.
- Six victims were female: four girls and two women.
- Most of the deaths, 53%, resulted from collisions, and 28% involved rollovers.
- About 35% of the accidents were attributed to operator fault and to operator fault combined with other causes such as speed and inexperience.
- Excessive speed was cited in 30% of the accidents and excessive alcohol was called a factor in 25%.
- Alcohol was a factor in 70% of accidents involving victims age 18 or older; 60% were legally drunk.
- 12 victims — or 15% — wore helmets.

and alcohol was a factor in the deaths of eight teenagers too young to drink legally.

■ Five people died after breaking through ice and five others fell off the machines.

In Wisconsin, children younger than 12 can drive ATVs if accompanied by a parent or for agricultural purposes while supervised by an adult. Drivers between 12 and 16 must have a DNR safety certificate, unless the ATV is used on a farm or on family land.

Co-sponsorship Memo

To: All Legislators	Olsen Gronemus	<u>Rep.</u> Rep Hanson	<u>Sen.</u> Grob Schmidt
From: State Representative Al Ott	Plouff	Rep R. Young	Panzer
Date: March 6, 1997	Goetsch	Rep Ryba	
Re: LRB 2598/1 relating to tractor and machinery operation safety training and certification	OWENS Skandrud Harsdorf Brandemuhl	Rep M. Lehman Freese Kreibich	

As many of you may recall, legislation was passed in 1994 as a result of work by the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety. Included in the legislation was a provision prohibiting any person from allowing a child under 16 years of age to operate a farm tractor (or other self-propelled implement of husbandry) on a highway after May 1, 1996, unless the child had successfully completed an approved tractor and machinery operation safety course.

I introduced legislation last session which delayed the deadline from May 1, 1996 until July 1, 1997. I did this after receiving several calls from constituents who were unable to enroll their child in a local course because the courses were full.

After talking to several county extension agents (who are in charge of most of the courses) and the UW-Extension office, I learned that an overwhelming number of children were enrolling in the course and that several counties accepted more children than they had planned to and they still had waiting lists. One of the reasons for the large number of children enrolling is because there is no minimum age limit for taking the course. The ages of youth that enrolled in a course last year ranged from 6 to 15. Such wide ranges of ages makes it very difficult for instructors teaching something as complex as tractor and machinery functions and operations.

Based on these and other evaluations of the Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification Program, I am introducing LRB 2598/1. This bill establishes a minimum age of 12 in order to enroll in a tractor operation safety course.

For further information, please see the LRB analysis below. If you would like to be a co-sponsor of LRB 2598/1, please call my office at 6-5831 by Wednesday, March 26, 1997.

(MORE)

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, no person may permit a child under the age of 16 years to operate a farm tractor on a highway, except to cross the highway, unless the child has been certified as successfully completing a tractor operation safety training course that satisfies specified requirements. Current law requires the Agricultural Safety and Health Center in the University of Wisconsin-Extension to perform instructor training and coordination necessary to provide a statewide program of tractor operation safety training to minors and certification of minors successfully completing the training. This bill specifies that the statewide program of tractor operation safety training and certification is only provided to persons who are at least 12 years of age.

Co-sponsorship Memo

To: All Legislators

From: State Representative Al Ott

Date: March 6, 1997

Re: LRB 2598/1 relating to tractor and machinery operation safety training and certification

As many of you may recall, legislation was passed in 1994 as a result of work by the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety. Included in the legislation was a provision prohibiting any person from allowing a child under 16 years of age to operate a farm tractor (or other self-propelled implement of husbandry) on a highway after May 1, 1996, unless the child had successfully completed an approved tractor and machinery operation safety course.

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(MORE)

any road
receiving public
funds

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Agriculture/Agri-Business

January 10, 1997

Representative Al Ott
Wisconsin State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison WI 53708

Dear Representative Ott:

I would like to share with you the enclosed Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification executive summary and program review. Please note that we have certified over 2,500 youth during the past year. This was made possible by the funding provided by the State Legislature in Wisconsin Act 455.

I have been visiting with Mark Purschwitz, agricultural safety and health specialist, and Cheryl Skjolaas, youth agricultural safety outreach specialist. We are very much aware of the concern relative to establishing a lower age limit for students in the program. We would like to visit with you concerning the course of action that needs to be taken. The program review provides information relative to the age breakdown of this past year's efforts.

We have scheduled February 12 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. to meet with you in your office. We look forward to visiting with you about the successes we've had and the direction this program should take.

Sincerely,

Thomas Parslow
Assistant State Program Leader

↓
Session day -
Kim can meet
w/ them -
any thoughts
from Al?

Enc.

cc: Cheryl Skjolaas
Mark Purschwitz
Mark Lederer

AR

Minimum age - thinks 12 is reasonable

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Environment & Utilities
Government Operations
Natural Resources
Rural Affairs

Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

March 29, 1996

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
115 East, State Capitol
Hand-Delivered

Attn: Connie Hagen, Policy Director

Dear Governor Thompson:

The State Legislature recently passed Assembly Bill 993 relating to penalties for the operation of agricultural machinery upon a highway by uncertified youthful operators. The bill was unanimously passed by the Assembly Committee on Highways and Transportation and passed on a voice vote by the full Assembly. It also passed unanimously in the Senate Transportation, Agriculture and Local Affairs Committee and was concurred in by the Senate. I am writing to respectfully request that you sign AB 993 into law as soon as possible as it is time-sensitive.

As you may recall, 1993 Assembly Bill 821 was signed into law in April of 1994 as a result of work by the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety. Part of the legislation stated that beginning on May 1, 1996 no person may allow a child under 16 years of age to operate a farm tractor (or other self-propelled implement of husbandry) on a highway unless the child has successfully completed an approved tractor and machinery operation safety course. My bill, 1995 AB 993, delays the deadline for completion of the course until July 1, 1997.

I was recently contacted by several of my constituents who were unable to enroll their children in any local tractor and machinery operation safety course because the courses are full and there are waiting lists. In most counties these courses are offered by the county extension agency or by a vocational agriculture instructor in conjunction with the extension agency. Due to the reliance on volunteers (implement dealers, mechanics, health personnel) to instruct the course, most counties only offer the course once a year. Also, high school vocational agriculture instructors likely offer the class in the summer - after the school year and subsequently after the current May 1, 1996 deadline for completing the course.

In working with my local county extension office and the state UW-Extension, I found there are some concerns with the law from

county extension offices throughout the state. First, there was no minimum age requirement set for children who could take the course. Some counties have had children as young as seven or eight sign up for the course, thus eliminating spots for 12, 13 and 14-year-olds. Also, there is some concern regarding the length of training required. According to an interpretation by the UW-Extension Agency's legal counsel, Wisconsin's law requires students to go through 20 to 24 hours of training. Federal law requires 10 hours of training for tractor safety only and an additional 10 to 14 hours for other machinery and general farm safety training. Apparently this was not specified in state law and it is being interpreted as requiring 20 to 24 hours of training (10 hours for tractor safety, 10 hours for other machinery and 4 hours of general farm safety). Counties are finding this requirement to be overwhelming because they rely on many volunteers to teach this course and many people cannot commit to these hours.

I believe that the law passed by the legislative council committee is a very good idea, however, I may be working on some of the aforementioned concerns next session. In the mean time, I introduced AB 993 to delay the deadline for successfully completing the course until July 1, 1997. While I realize that there are probably several cases where parents and/or children waited until the last minute to sign up for the class, I believe the delay is necessary. These classes are overflowing with students due to many circumstances beyond their control. AB 993 is an opportunity for the state to take some burden off of the county extension agencies by allowing a one-time delay. The UW-Extension is completely in support of AB 993.

Once again, I respectfully request that you sign AB 993 as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Frank Connie

Sincerely,

Al Ott

Alvin R. Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

ARO:kjm

- Extension Agents
- 16-19y Instructors
- some volunteer instructors

questions in
~~packet~~
 packet
 Daily Record of Events

17

291st Day • 75 Left • Week 42

Thursday
 October 1996

Commitments • Journal Entry • Thoughts & Ideas • Agendas • Conversations

currently -
 course almost
 done 8, 9, 10
 4/10 driving
 combine down
 highway

① Age - Minors 12 is a reasonable minimum age
 * for taking course (12 in calendar year?)
 or June 1st following class
 ? to operate a tractor or self-propelled piece
 of equipment on public roads

2 DOT
 2 Farm organizations
 2 Insurance companies
 - federal law - 14 before can operate
 certain machinery off of own farm +
 must have farm safety certificate
 can get fed.
 cert. when turn 14 - w/ state
 course completed

② # of hours required for course

- 24 hrs based on federal law - justification for
 only having to get 1 certificate vs. state and
 federal

(People probably getting used to)

12-16 cannot operate
 a snowmobile w/out certificate
 12 to buy a
 license → Hunter Safety
 No age for course
snowmobile - no person under
 age 12 can operate w/out guardian

③ Class size

- 6 - 15 (range of children being taught in one
 class) - difficult

2-12-97

Get draft

- send draft to Extension

- Ag Comm members - get as sponsor

Cheryl
 Skjoldas

D I L L
REQUEST FORM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
Legal Section Telephone: 266-3561
5th Floor, 100 N. Hamilton Street

Use of this form is optional. It is often better to talk directly with the LRB attorney who will draft the bill.

Use this form only for **BILL** drafts. Attach more pages if necessary.

Legislator, agency or other body requesting this draft: Rep. Al Ott

Date: 2/18/97 Person submitting request (name, phone number): Kim Maulham 266-5831

Persons to contact for questions about this draft (names, phone numbers): Rep. Ott or Kim at 266-5831

Describe the problem, including any helpful examples. *No minimum age for taking tractor + machinery operation safety course under 36.25 (32)*

How do you want to solve the problem?

Add a minimum age of 12 for taking the course

Please attach a copy of any correspondence or other material that may help us.

If you know of any statute sections that might be affected, list them or provide a marked-up (not retyped) copy. 36.25 (32)

You may attach a marked-up (not retyped) copy of any LRB draft, or provide its number (e.g., 1995 LRB-2345/1 or 1993 AB-67): _____

Requests are confidential unless stated otherwise.

- May we tell others that we are working on this for you? Yes No
- If yes: Anyone who asks? Yes No Any legislator? Yes No Only the following persons: _____

Do you consider this request urgent? Yes No If yes, please indicate why: _____

Should we give this request priority over any other pending request of this legislator, agency or body? Yes No If yes, sign your name here: _____

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Environment & Utilities
Government Operations
Natural Resources
Rural Affairs

Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

April 3, 1996

Mr. Tom Reinemann
Mr. Matt Glewen
Calumet County Extension Office
Courthouse, 206 Court Street
Chilton, WI 53014

Dear Tom and Matt,

As you know, I introduced 1995 Assembly Bill 993 earlier this year in response to county extension agencies across the state which were overwhelmed with children wishing to enroll in tractor and machinery operation safety courses. Governor Thompson signed AB 993 into law today and it will take effect in about 11 or 12 working days.

AB 993 delays the date on which penalties first apply for any person who allows a child under 16 years of age to operate a farm tractor (or other self-propelled implement of husbandry) on a highway if the child hasn't successfully completed an approved tractor and machinery operation safety course until July 1, 1997. The current date is May 1, 1996.

This is a one-time delay until July 1, 1997. I introduced AB 993 to delay the date after talking with your office and also the UW-Extension office. It is my understanding that there are some concerns regarding the number of hours required for the course and also that there is no minimum age for children who can take the course. I may be working on some of these issues next session and I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on them after your course is completed this spring. In the meantime however, I felt a delay was necessary because many of the reasons you were overwhelmed with registrants are because the law is vague and this is something beyond your control. I hope this one-time delay helps to alleviate some of the pressure you faced with the May 1 deadline approaching.

I have notified the individuals who contacted me about the delay. I stressed that it is a one-time only delay and encouraged them to enroll their child(ren) in the next available course early. I would appreciate it if you could help me get the word out that this delay is only until July 1, 1997 and after that persons who violate the law will be subject to fines.

I hope the passage of AB 993 is helpful to you. I look forward to hearing from you regarding other aspects of the farm safety course and law. Until then, please feel free to contact me regarding this or any other legislative matter.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

ARO:kjm



Cooperative Extension • University of Wisconsin-Extension

432 North Lake Street, Room 633, Madison, WI 53706 (608) 263-7320 FAX 262-9166

Agriculture/Agri-Business

April 1, 1996

The Honorable Alvin R. Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Ott:

Thank you very much for your assistance in addressing our concerns and our problems with the tractor safety education course being offered by the Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

We have shared with you a number of problems encountered as we have initiated the tractor and equipment operating safety curriculum across the state. Your efforts to delay the mandatory date of implementation from May 1, 1996 until July 1, 1997 will be very helpful to Wisconsin farmers and to the many volunteers involved in teaching the courses in the counties around the state.

We have shared with you some concerns and difficulties experienced with the lack of a minimum age criteria on the legislation. At your convenience, Mark Purschwitz, Cheryl Skjolaas and I are available to discuss these problems for consideration in the future. We look forward to this opportunity to discuss options and alternatives in light of the experiences of implementing the program this first year.

Sincerely yours,

Richard J. Vatthauer
Assistant Dean/Program Leader

RJV:vc

cc: Dean Ayse Somersan
Carl O'Connor
Mark Lederer
Mark Purschwitz

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Environment & Utilities
Government Operations
Natural Resources
Rural Affairs

Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

April 3, 1996

Mr. Joe Brantmeier
Sherwood, WI 54169

Dear Mr. Brantmeier:

I'm pleased to let you know that Governor Thompson signed Assembly Bill 993 into law today. AB 993 delays the date on which penalties first apply for any person who allows a child under 16 years of age to operate a farm tractor (or other self-propelled implement of husbandry) on a highway if the child hasn't successfully completed an approved tractor and machinery operation safety course. AB 993 takes effect on the day after it is officially published which will be in about 11 or 12 working days.

This is a one-time delay until July 1, 1997. After this date, any person who allows a child under 16 who has not successfully completed the course to drive a tractor on a highway is subject to a \$20 fine for a first violation or not more than \$50 for a 2nd or subsequent offense. AB 993 should help to alleviate some of the pressure county extension agencies are currently facing because they cannot accommodate all of the children who wish to enroll in these courses at this time.

However, as I said before, this is a one-time only delay. I have my doubts as to whether or not the State Legislature would be willing to pass a bill again next year which delays the deadline again. By delaying the date until July 1, 1997, most children should be able to enroll in a class either this summer or next spring or summer depending on when classes are offered. I strongly encourage you to enroll your child(ren) early.

I hope this information and the passage of AB 993 is helpful in your situation. Please feel free to contact me again regarding this or any other legislative matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Al Ott'.

Alvin R. Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

ARO:kjm



Calumet County Extension Office
Courthouse, 206 Court Street
Chilton, WI 53014-1198

Handwritten signature: Gill - ARW

Phone (414) 849-1450
Brillion: 756-2637 ext. 229
Appleton/Sherwood: 989-2700

February 16, 1996

Dear Parents of Tractor Safety Education Participants:

Please take some time to read over this letter immediately and give it some serious thought.

As most of you are aware, there is a new state law that will take effect on May 1, 1996, that states:

After April 30, 1996, no person may direct or permit a child under the age of 16 years to operate a farm tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry on the highway unless the child has been certified as successfully completing a tractor and machinery operation safety training course that is equivalent to the requirements other than age, specified under 29 CFR part 570.70 to 570.72.

I'm sure that most of you feel that this need can be met by sending your child or children to our comprehensive Tractor Safety Education Program. I wish we felt as confident.

After conducting the first of eight scheduled Tractor Safety Education classes, we personally feel that there are at least eight to ten youth who will probably be unable to meet the written or driver requirements needed in order to pass the course.

Please read over the written exam and driving exam requirements very carefully and assess your child's physical and mental readiness.

WRITTEN EXAM

A standardized written exam will be used with all programs. Written exam questions will be based on the *Safe Operation of Agricultural Equipment Student Manual*. The written exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Youth must receive a score of 70% or better in order to pass the written exam for successful completion. This exam may be taken by the youth once per certification program.

(over)

DRIVING EXAM

Qualifications

Youth must be able to sit properly in the operator's seat with seat belt fastened and be able to:

1. Fully depress the clutch and brakes.
2. Operate the hand controls without assistance.

Equipment Recommendations

A utility type (30-60 hp) tractor is recommended. The tractor needs to be equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) and a functional seat belt.

A two-wheel implement or trailer is required. If the implement has a PTO shaft, the shaft should be partially removed or safely secured to the implement to avoid damage to the PTO shaft.

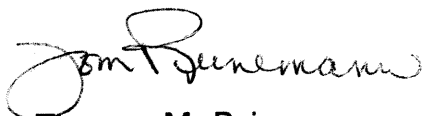
Youth must also successfully negotiate a serpentine-shaped driving exam layout pulling a two-wheeled implement.

We feel confident that we have an excellent program and that most of the youth can meet the requirements, but if your child is unable to read and successfully earn an exam score of 70% or better, or unable to sit properly in the operator's seat and fully depress the clutch and brakes, we will be unable to certify him or her. Therefore, it would be necessary for him or her to repeat the class at another time.

Course refunds can be arranged and classroom hours from the first class can be banked for another year or so should you decide your child may not be ready to successfully complete the course.

If you would like to speak to either of us, please call us on Monday.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Reinemann
4-H & Youth Agent
UWEX - Calumet County

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Glewen
Agriculture Agent
UWEX - Calumet County

TMR:cl

cc: Calumet County Ag & Extension Education Committee Members
Alvin Ott Jr.

103240 Hwy 57
New Holstein
53061

~~Comp~~ ~~Call~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~made~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~owner~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~property~~
Call to 849-9730

~~Comp~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~made~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~owner~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~property~~
Mike Koeller

Call - 55

pan + Dick ~~Call~~ Luke
989-1794
54110
What is ~~the~~ ~~name~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~company~~ ~~that~~ ~~owns~~ ~~the~~ ~~property~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~address~~ ~~above~~ ~~?~~
Rick - 12

54110 Date: 7/12 Time

From Joe Brantmeier Taken By Joe Brantmeier
 Phone 414-989-3276
 Comment For Your Inf. Prepare Reply Return
 Route Approve/Sign Take Action File

- him + brother have sons 14 + 12 -

take to Tom Reinemann - county

has 35 over what they were

already going to take for farm

Safety course (approved to start tomorrow night)

- no minimum age requirement - 8 + 9 yr olds signed up - too young to pass written test, taking up space

bill - 24 hrs of classroom

No. of Copies: Typing Photocopy Copy Center Other

Date Need Time Need Rough Final Single Double Original Document Revised Document

favors bill, but what to do - City won't have 2 classes - on their own



Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Environment & Utilities
Government Operations
Natural Resources
Rural Affairs

Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

March 29, 1996

Mr. Mike Koehler
N3240 Hwy 57
New Holstein, WI 53061

Dear Mr. Koehler:

I'm writing to update you on the bill that I introduced to delay the deadline for completion of a farm and machinery safety course by children under 16 in order to operate farm machinery on a highway. The bill number is Assembly Bill (AB) 993.

AB 993 has been passed by both houses of the State Legislature and now awaits Governor Thompson's signature. The Governor must sign the bill before it becomes law and subsequently before the deadline for completing the course is delayed until July 1, 1997. I have no reason to believe that the Governor will not sign AB 993.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention. I will let you know if and when the bill is signed into law. Until then, please feel free to contact me regarding this or any other legislative matter.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

ARO:kjm

cc: Calumet County Extension Office

URGENT...URGENT...URGENT

March 26, 1996

Senator Joe Andrea
Senate Committee on Transportation, Agriculture and Local Affairs
Room 420, 119 MLK Jr. Blvd.
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MAIL

Dear Senator Andrea:

I am writing to you as a member of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Agriculture and Local Affairs in anticipation that Assembly Bill 993 will be referred to this committee. The bill was unanimously passed by the Assembly Committee on Highways and Transportation and passed on a voice vote by the full Assembly.

As you may recall, 1993 Assembly Bill 821 was signed into law in April of 1994 as a result of work by the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety. Part of the legislation stated that beginning on May 1, 1996 no person may allow a child under 16 years of age to operate a farm tractor (or other self-propelled implement of husbandry) on a highway unless the child has successfully completed an approved tractor and machinery operation safety course. 1995 AB 993 delays the deadline for completion of the course until July 1, 1997.

I was recently contacted by several of my constituents who were unable to enroll their children in any local tractor and machinery operation safety course because the courses are full and there are waiting lists. In most counties these courses are offered by the county extension agency or by a vocational agriculture instructor in conjunction with the extension agency. Due to the reliance on volunteers (implement dealers, mechanics, health personnel) to instruct the course, most counties only offer the course once a year. Also, high school vocational agriculture instructors likely offer the class in the summer-after the school year and subsequently after the May 1, 1996 deadline for completing the course.

In working with my local county extension office and the state UW-Extension office, I found there are some concerns with the law from county extension offices throughout the state. First, there was no minimum age requirement set for children who could take the course. Some counties have had children as young as seven or eight

sign up for the course, thus eliminating spots for 12, 13 and 14-year-olds. Also, there is some concern regarding the length of training required. According to an interpretation by the UW-Extension Agency's legal counsel, Wisconsin's law requires students to go through 20 to 24 hours of training. Federal law requires 10 hours of training for tractor safety only and an additional 10 to 14 hours for other machinery and general farm safety training. Apparently this was not specified in state law and it is being interpreted as requiring 20 to 24 hours of training (10 hours for tractor safety, 10 hours for other machinery and 4 hours of general farm safety). Counties are finding this requirement to be overwhelming because they rely on many volunteers to teach this course and many people cannot commit to these hours.

I believe that the law passed by the committee is a very good idea. However, I have drafted AB 993 to delay the deadline for successfully completing the course until July 1, 1997. While I realize that there are probably several cases where parents and/or children waited until the last minute to sign up for the class, I believe the delay is necessary. As I mentioned before, several counties have been overwhelmed with registrants and due to limited instructors and classroom space they have had to limit the number of students in the course. Also, younger children are being enrolled in the class thus eliminating spots for teenagers. These younger children may be too young to be in the class because successful completion of the class requires such things as passage of a written exam and being able to fully depress the clutch and brakes and operate the hand controls without assistance while sitting properly in the operator's seat with the seat belt fastened.

I may be working on some other aspects of the law (such as a minimum age requirement) next session, however, I would like to get AB 993 passed yet this session. The bill only delays the deadline for successfully completing the course and does nothing else regarding the farm safety law. AB 993 is supported by the UW-Extension.

I respectfully request your favorable vote on AB 993. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

ARO:kjm

**** AMENDED ****

ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The committee on Highways & Transportation will hold a public hearing in room 225 Northwest of the Capitol, on the following at the time specified below:

Wednesday, March 13, 1996 at 8:30 am

Assembly Bill 993

AN ACT relating to penalties for the operation of agricultural machinery upon a highway by uncertified youthful operators. Introduced by Representatives Ott, Brandemuehl, Otte and Harsdorf.

An EXECUTIVE SESSION may be held on AB 106, AB 421, AB 485, AB 641, AB 660, AB 802, AB 803, AB 848, AB 927 and AB 993.

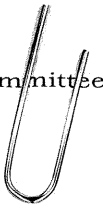


David Brandemuehl, Committee Chair

~~Mark Puschwitz~~
~~02/28/96~~

Mark Puschwitz
OW-Extension

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Environment & Utilities
Government Operations
Natural Resources
Rural Affairs

Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

April 21, 1997

State Representative David Brandemuehl, Chair
Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee
Room 317 North, State Capitol

Dear Chairman Brandemuehl:

It is my understanding that Assembly Bill 256 relating to tractor and machinery operation safety training and certification has been referred to the Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee. As the author of AB 256, I am writing to respectfully request that you schedule a public hearing on the bill.

Assembly Bill 256 specifies that the statewide program of tractor operation safety training and certification is only provided to persons who are at least 12 years of age. There is currently no minimum age limit to enroll in the course which is administered by county extension agents and the UW-Extension office.

The ages of youth that enrolled in a course in Wisconsin last year ranged from 6 to 15. This wide range of ages in some of the courses made it difficult for instructors to teach something as complex as tractor and machinery functions and operations. Also, many 12, 13, 14 and 15 year-olds were unable to enroll in a course last year because they were full, while young children were able to take the course because they happened to enroll early and there is no minimum age limit. This posed a significant problem last year because the law stated that no child under the age of 16 was allowed to operate a farm tractor on a highway after May 1, 1996 unless the child had successfully completed the safety course. With the May 1, 1996 deadline approaching, a large number of teenagers were enrolling in courses across the state so that they could take a summer job on a farm. Many were turned away because courses were full.

As is noted in the attached newspaper article, young children are not likely to pass the course because in order to receive certification a youth must be able to reach the foot pedals while seated properly on the tractor. For this reason and those that I have mentioned above, I introduced Assembly Bill 256 to limit the Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification Program to youth at least 12 years of age.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

STATE OF WISCONSIN

To _____

Date 12/1 Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Cami

of WI Pork Producers

Phone 723-7551

Telephoned		Please Call	
Called to See You		Rush	
Returned Your Call		Will Call Again	

Message 813256

- only have to take this class once
- under 12 and already took the class - how does this affect you



Party Receiving Call

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Environment & Utilities
Government Operations
Natural Resources
Rural Affairs

Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

**TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 256
STATE REPRESENTATIVE AL OTT
MAY 8, 1997**

ASSEMBLY HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HEARING

THANK YOU CHAIRMAN BRANDEMUEHL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Assembly Bill 256 specifies that the statewide program of tractor operation safety training and certification is only provided to persons who are at least 12 years of age.

The tractor operation safety training and certification program was put into effect as a result of 1993 Assembly Bill 821 authored by the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety. The committee did not set a minimum age for enrolling in the course which is generally taught by county extension agents, vocational agriculture instructors and volunteers who often include farmers, implement dealers and health professionals who donate their time and equipment for training.

In 1996, the ages of youth that enrolled in a course in Wisconsin ranged from 6 to 15 years old. This wide range of ages led to several problems.

First, with no minimum age limit, class sizes were very large, often with a wide range in the students' ages. The large class size coupled with the differing levels of knowledge and understanding made it difficult for instructors to teach such complex issues as tractor and machinery functions and operation.

Second, with no minimum age limit, classes became full rather quickly. Extension offices often allowed more youth to enroll in the course than they had planned on to avoid large waiting lists. Unfortunately, many counties still had large waiting lists which often included young teenagers who needed the certification so that they could have a summer job on a farm.

Third, as is noted in the attached newspaper article titled "Calumet takes time to teach tractor safety," many younger students are not likely to pass the course because in order to receive certification a youth must be able to reach the foot pedals while seated properly on a tractor.

I have to admit that I started driving a tractor at a much younger age than 12. However, that was at a time when there were not as many cars on the road and there was not as many major highways as there is now.

Regardless, I was too young to be driving a tractor on the road. I won't allow my 9 and 11 year old daughters to do it today.

When the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety passed 1993 AB 821, they in effect said that any person under the age of 16 must complete a safety course and receive certification to drive a tractor on a road. My bill, AB 256, takes the safety issue a step further by setting a minimum age of 12 to enroll in the certification course in effect saying anyone under the age of 12 cannot drive a tractor on the road.

I recently read in a newspaper article that the National Safety Council reported that farm and ranch related injuries cause 27,000 injuries and another 300 deaths to children. Please join me in supporting AB 256 so that these injury and death statistics are less likely to include Wisconsin children.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

To 21

Date 11/10 Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Mark ~~Purshwitz~~
Purshwitz

of _____

Phone 2-1180

Telephoned		Please Call	
Called to See You		Rush	
Returned Your Call		Will Call Again	

Message - AB256 - Counties
are going to start classes
early next year
- call Plache let her know



Grobschmidt + DeWee
Party Receiving Call

- I called Plache yesterday talked
to clerk -> told him I'd call tomorrow

Cheryl A. Skjolaas
Youth Agricultural Safety Specialist
Wisconsin Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

Agricultural Engineering Dept.
460 Henry Mall
Madison, WI 53706

Phone (608) 262-9336
Fax (608) 262-1228
skjolaas@wisc.edu
facstaff.wisc.edu



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
MADISON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES