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State's tractor safety bill signed into law

MADISON — On April 27, Gov. Tommy Thompson signed into law Assembly Bill 256, which specifies that the statewide program of tractor operation safety training and certification only be provided to children who are at least 12 years old.

The bill's author, state Rep. Al Ott, R-Forest Junction, noted that the tractor operation safety training and certification program was passed into law in 1993 as a result of a study done by a Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety. The law requires that any child who drives a tractor on a public roadway or on another farm pass the training and certification course.

However, Rep. Ott said the law never specified a minimum age for enrolling in the course. This led to some problems in

administering the program, he said.

In 1996, the ages of children that enrolled in the required course ranged from 6 to 15. This wide range of ages led to large class sizes and long waiting lists in a number of counties.

Rep. Ott said instructors found it difficult to teach students with such varying levels of knowledge and physical ability to operate farm machinery.

"Unfortunately, over the past couple years many kids who needed the certification for summer jobs were not able to take the class because of the long waiting lists," Rep. Ott said. "I am hopeful that this change in the law will help alleviate some of the overcrowding counties have experienced and make the certification classes more effective for students."

Tractor safety courses

The Country Today will publish notices of tractor safety classes as they are received. This is a partial listing of course offerings.

Barron County — Classes meet June 15 to 17. Register at the county Extension Office, (715) 635-6250.

Chippewa County — Classes are held throughout the county; \$15 fee; register with high school agriculture departments or the county Extension office, (715) 723-7950.

Bloomer High School, agriculture room, June 4 and 5, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and June 6 and 8, 8 a.m. to noon.

before May 22 at the county Extension office, (715) 839-4712.

Pillmore County, Minn. — Classes meet June 8-11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Lanesboro, Minn. Registration is due by May 22 at the county Extension office, (507) 765-3896.

Houston County, Minn. — Classes meet June 2-5 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Caledonia High School. There is a \$5 fee. To register, call (507) 724-5807.

Monroe County — Classes meet June 4, 5 and 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sparta High School. There is a \$10 fee. To



Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

**TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 256
STATE REPRESENTATIVE AL OTT
December 9, 1997**

Senate Committee on Labor, Transportation and Financial Institutions

THANK YOU CHAIRPERSON PLACHE 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. 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 future certification courses.

The National Safety Council recently 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.

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 skidsters 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 Gruetts, Inc., Pouter; 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.

March 17, 1998

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
State of Wisconsin
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Governor Thompson:

I am writing to respectfully request that you sign into law AB 256 at your earliest convenience. The bill specifies that the statewide program of tractor operation and 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 AB 821, which was authored by the Legislative Council Special Committee on Farm Safety. However, 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 qualified volunteers.

Since the program has been in effect, the ages of youth that have enrolled have ranged from 6 to 15 years old. This wide range of ages has led to several problems.

First, with no minimum age limit, class sizes were very large, often with a wide range in students' ages. The large class sizes, 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 courses than originally planned to avoid long waiting lists. Unfortunately, many counties still have long waiting lists which often include young teenagers who need the certification for summer farm jobs.

AB 256 has wide support passing both the Assembly and Senate Committees to which it was referred unanimously and both legislative houses on voice votes. The bill is also supported by the UW-Extension Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

From a public policy perspective, I believe it is appropriate to have a minimum age for tractor certification. It will help to make the classes more effective ensuring students obtain the necessary knowledge to operate tractors and other machinery safely.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions regarding AB 256, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee



Member:
Environment & Utilities
Government Operations
Natural Resources
Rural Affairs

Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

October 29, 1997

State Senator Kimberly Plache, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Labor, Transportation and Financial Institutions
305 North Hamilton
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Plache:

I am writing to respectfully request that you schedule a public hearing for AB 256, which was recently referred to your Committee.

The bill remedies a problem with Farm Safety legislation passed in 1993. Currently, any person under the age of 16 must complete a safety course and receive certification to drive a tractor on a road. AB 256 specifies that the statewide program only be provided to persons who are at least 12 years of age. 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.

AB 256 has received bipartisan support, passing the Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee 15-0 and the Assembly on a voice vote.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions regarding the bill, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

-The bill passed the Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee unanimously and the full Assembly on a voice vote.

-Wisconsin's certification courses comply with the federal rules, so you don't have to take the class twice to comply with both state and federal law.

Moore, Kevin

From: Anderson, John
Sent: Friday, March 06, 1998 4:58 PM
To: 'Mnuk, Katie'; Janssen, Andy; Bablitch, Kelly; Kettner, Jackie; 'Cook, Sharon'; Fraley, Brian; Rep.Kedzie; Radloff, Gary; Rep.Ott; Krause, Sheri; Larson, David; Gumley, Janine
Subject: Labor, Trans and Fin Inst Ballot on several items

The exec on a number of items is complete. Here are the results:

The appointments of Jim Rutkowski and Judy Rogers, 6-0 to recommend confirmation.

SB 397, Law Revision Committee, relating to the personnel commission. 6-0 to recommend passage.

SB 432, Moore/Notestein. fair hearing process under W-2. 4-2 on amendment and 4-2 to recommend passage as amended. (Zien and Farrow voted no)

SB 447, Law Revision Committee, relating to obsolete terminology. 6-0 to recommend passage.

SB 474, Plache/Vrakas, U I technical bill. 6-0 to recommend passage.

AB 669, Kedzie/Welch. repealing the rejection of federal preemption over state interest rate provisions. 6-0 to recommend concurrence.

AB 256, Ott/Roessler, tractor and machinery safety courses. 6-0 to recommend concurrence.

AJR 106, Brandemuehl/Zien. re: federal transportation spending. 6-0 to recommend concurrence.

Hubbard, Gregory

From: Markham, Kim
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 1997 11:31 AM
To: 'Cheryl Skjolaas'
Cc: Hubbard, Gregory
Subject: RE: AB 256 and Conference

Hi Cheryl!

I checked with Representative Brandmuehl's office regarding an executive session (committee vote) on AB 256 and found out that they are planning to hold it on August 28th. I don't have the details yet, however, we can get them to you later. You don't have to send anyone for the vote if you don't want to - the committee will likely hear other bills then hold the executive session after the hearing. We can let you know what happens with the vote or you can come and watch - it's up to you.

I am leaving Al's office as of tomorrow, August 15th. Greg Hubbard will be taking my place. I will be updating him on AB 256, so if you need anything from our office please feel free to call or e-mail Greg (greg.hubbard@legis.state.wi.us). He will be letting you know further information regarding the executive session on AB 256.

I will also have Greg get back to you about the conference. I haven't had a chance to talk to Al about it yet.

It's been nice working with you and maybe our paths will cross again yet. I am going to DATCP, so not too far!

Kim

From: Cheryl Skjolaas(SMTP:skjolaas@facstaff.wisc.edu)
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 1997 10:56 AM
To: Markham, Kim
Subject: AB 256 and Conference

Kim,

No, doubt you've had a busy summer. As I read the newspapers I'm often glad to be in this little corner of the world, hope all is going well.

I just wanted to see where things are at with AB 256. People have asked and my standard reply is that probably not much happens when everyone is on the budget stuff. I looked on Badger and saw that the last action was the hearing so knew I didn't miss anything. Any idea on time line for this? If not, no problem but thought I'd check.

On another note-

I have been working with a group of volunteers to plan a train-the trainer conference for tractor and machinery certification instructors and other community leaders (adult and youth) who work with safety education programs. The "Keeping Rural Kids Safe" conference will be held Saturday, October 18, 1997 at Northwest Technical College in Wausau. The planning committee would like to invite Representative Ott to provide a "Why are We Here" welcome to the conference participants. The welcome is scheduled for 9:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. It could include some of the background through WI Act 455, importance of training youth in tractor operation, etc.

If you could check with Rep. Ott on the this, it would be greatly appreciated. I know this e-mail route may seem a bit informal for such a request. However, I realize all that is going on there and know how much I am on the road. We'd play a great game of phone tag.

Thanks for your cooperation! Cheryl
Cheryl A. Skjolaas
Youth Agricultural Safety Specialist
Wisconsin Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
460 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706
Phone 608-262-9336; FAX 608-262-1228
Skjolaas@facstaff.wisc.edu

Senate

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Committee on Labor, Transportation and Financial
Institutions

The committee will hold a public hearing on the following items at the time specified below:

Tuesday, December 9, 1997
1:00 P.M.
Hearing Room 1
Lower Level
119 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, Wisconsin

ADVANCE NOTICE

Senate Bill 139

Relating to: enacting traffic regulation ordinances that conform with rules of the department of transportation.

By Senators Drzewiecki, Huelsman, Cowles, Farrow, Schultz and Rosenzweig; cosponsored by Representatives Brandemuehl, Musser, Goetsch, Dobyns, Ainsworth, Albers, Hanson, La Fave, Urban, Seratti, Grothman and Gunderson.

Senate Bill 220

Relating to: operating an unregistered vehicle, temporary operation plates and creating presumption that certain motor vehicles located on a highway are unregistered or improperly registered vehicles.

By Senator Adelman; cosponsored by Representative Rutkowski.

Senate Bill 226 *Reg in support - 12-9-97*

Relating to: the payment of wages and commissions owed to employees and commission salespersons whose employment ends, the termination or alteration of sales representative agreements and providing penalties.

By Senators Grobschmidt, Huelsman, Shibilski, Farrow and Roessler; cosponsored by Representatives Urban, Hoven, Vrakas, Turner, Duff, Powers, M. Lehman, R. Young, Johnsrud, Musser, Cullen, Schneider, Goetsch, Porter, Black, L. Young, Ott, Albers, Notestein, F. Lasee, Kaufert, Springer, Plale, Hahn, Baldwin and Riley.

(more)

Senate Bill 255

Relating to: federal waivers under the food stamp program.

By Senators George, Wirch, Wineke, Jauch, Plache, Decker and Rosenzweig; cosponsored by Representatives Notestein, Riley, La Fave, Boyle, R. Young, L. Young, Kreuser and Williams.

Senate Bill 336

Relating to: authorizing the department of workforce development to promulgate a rule permitting an employer to pay certain employees an opportunity wage, but requiring that rule to prohibit an employer from hiring an employee at the opportunity wage if that hiring would displace a regular employee and granting rule-making authority.

By Senators Plache, Grobschmidt, Burke, Breske and Moen; cosponsored by Representatives Vander Loop, Riley, Carpenter, R. Young, Dobyms, Bock, Springer, Hasenohrl, Ryba, La Fave, Kreuser, Robson, Plouff, Krug, Boyle, Gronemus, Murat, Coggs and L. Young.

Assembly Bill 256

Relating to: tractor and machinery operation safety training and certification.

By Representatives Ott, Ainsworth, Ladwig, Hanson, R. Young, Ryba, M. Lehman, Freese, Kreibich, Olsen, Gronemus, Plouff, Goetsch, Owens, Skindrud, Harsdorf and Brandemuehl; cosponsored by Senators Buettner, Grobschmidt and Panzer.

Assembly Bill 379

Relating to: reinstating a bank trust fund provision created by 1995 Wisconsin Act 273 that was unintentionally repealed by 1995 Wisconsin Act 336 (Revisor's Correction Bill).

Law Revision Committee.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** may be held on any of the bills above or any other matter pending before the committee

Kim Plache

Senator Kimberly Plache
Chair



Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

**TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 256
STATE REPRESENTATIVE AL OTT
December 9, 1997**

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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.

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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. 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.

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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.

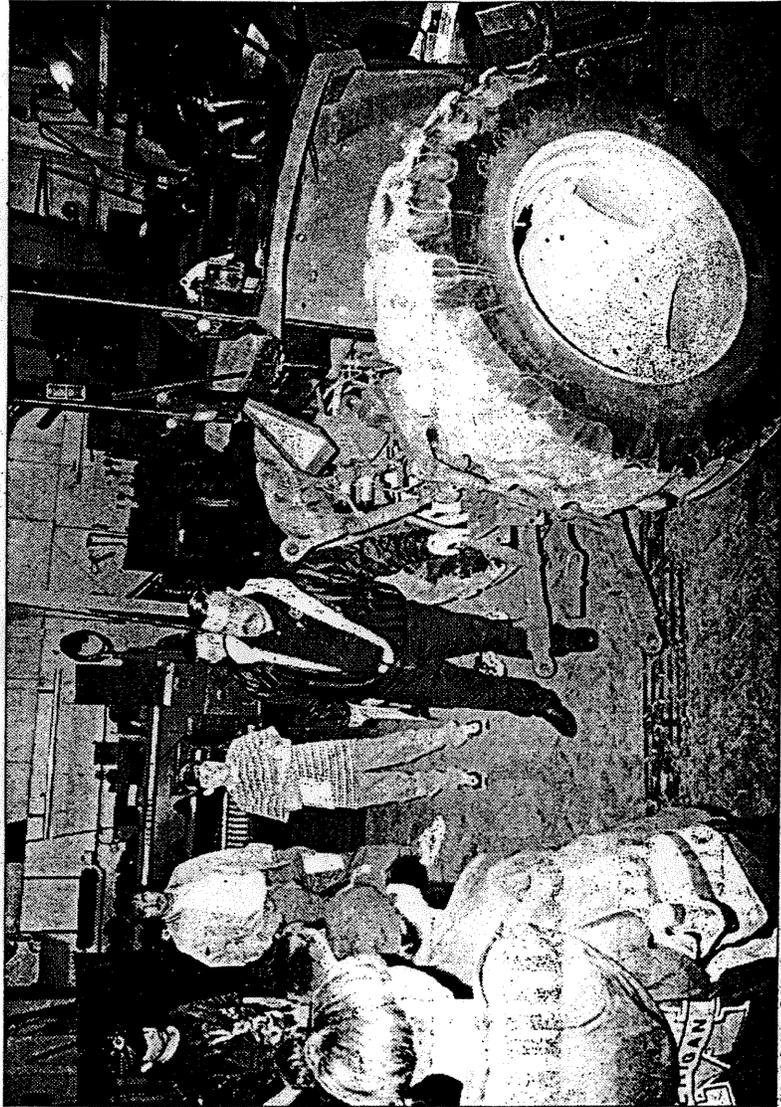
Calumet County 4-H and Youth Agent Tom Reinemann, who serves as coordinator for the tractor safety program, said passing the written and driving tests is more a matter of size and maturity. The two 10-year-olds taking the course this spring will not be certified because when seated on the tractor reaching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

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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

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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.

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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.

Testimony on AB256

My name is Mark Purschwitz. I am an associate professor in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at UW-Madison and the UW-Extension agricultural safety and health specialist. I am here for informational purposes, but I believe this is a good and necessary bill for three reasons:

1. The first reason is a question: Should young children be operating farm equipment on public roads? Agricultural safety specialists, including myself, generally feel age 13 or 14 is the proper age to begin tractor operation, based on child development research and the skills and judgement needed. Federal labor law declares tractor and machinery operation to be hazardous for youths under age 16. Only youths of at least age 14 who have passed this training course can receive federal certification to operate a tractor on a farm other than that operated by their parents or guardian, such as being employed by a neighbor.
2. The second reason is that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to properly educate a wide range of ages in a class, especially younger children. There is a large variation between a 9 year old and a 14 year old. Because this training meets federal requirements, and because of the very nature of tractor operation, the curriculum materials are designed for older youth. This bill would narrow the age range to something much more workable, yet still accommodate 93 percent of the students who have been enrolled in the past.
3. The third reason is that an instructor survey shows that 66 percent of instructors recommend a lower age limit for the classes. Of those recommending a lower age limit, 69 percent recommended age 12, and 16.7 percent recommended age 13 or 14. Common reasons given by instructors included size and maturity of students, ability to read and comprehend the material, cognitive and motor skills, and maturity.

Because there has never been a lower age limit for operating farm machinery on public roads, I feel an age limit of 12 is a reasonable compromise. This is consistent with other programs like gun safety and snowmobile safety, which have a lower age limit of 12. And families can still permit children under the age of 12 to operate farm equipment on their farm property, since the law does not pertain to that.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mark A. Purschwitz, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin-Madison
phone (608) 262-1180
December 9, 1997

Assembly

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Committee on Highways and Transportation

The committee will hold a public hearing on the following items at the time specified below:

Thursday, August 28, 1997
9:30 AM
225 NW
State Capitol

Assembly Bill 325

Relating to: operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant or drugs or both.

By Representatives Foti, M. Lehman, Urban, Carpenter, Schafer, Kreibich, Ott, Staskunas, Bock, Powers, Ladwig, Kaufert, Gunderson, Otte, Hanson, Notestein, La Fave, Vrakas, Olsen, Kelso, Wasserman, Morris-Tatum and Robson; cosponsored by Senators Farrow, Rosenzweig, Huelsman and Weeden.

Assembly Bill 365

Relating to: raising the age of those persons who may not drive or operate an all-terrain vehicle, motor vehicle or snowmobile with any alcohol in their blood to the legal drinking age.

By Representatives Foti, Schafer, Black, Bock, Brandemuehl, Cullen, Dobyns, Goetsch, Harsdorf, Jeskewitz, Kedzie, Ladwig, La Fave, F. Lasee, Lazich, M. Lehman, Notestein, Ott, Otte, Plouff, Powers, Staskunas, Underheim, Urban, Vrakas, Walker and Ward; cosponsored by Senators Burke, Farrow, Cowles, Grobschmidt, Huelsman, Rosenzweig and Weeden.

Assembly Bill 450

Relating to: creating an operator's license endorsement that authorizes the operation of certain specially designed vehicles.

By Representatives Gunderson, Powers, Dobyns, Staskunas, Brandemuehl, J. Lehman, Goetsch, Turner, Duff, Plouff and Skindrud.

An executive session may be held at this time on AB 78, AB 256, AB 285 and SB 146 (companion bill to AB 251).



Representative David Brandemuehl
Chair

1996 Wisconsin farm fatalities down by one compared to 1995

MADISON

Thirty-five farm-related fatalities occurred in Wisconsin in 1996, compared with 36 in 1995, 31 in 1994, 40 in 1993 and 50 in 1992.

"Wisconsin averaged 38.4 such fatalities per year over the past five years," says Mark Purschwitz, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension agricultural safety and health specialist.

"Farm-related fatalities are defined as unintentional deaths resulting from injury or environmental factors involving farm work or hazards of the farm work site," explains Purschwitz.

"Typically, the largest number of victims comes from the 65 years and older age group, and we still had a sizeable number in that category," Purschwitz commented. "We had a large increase in the 45-65 category, compared with last year. Many of these people were in their late 50s and 60s. Older farmers definitely are at risk, despite typically having many years of experience," he adds.

"Tractors and machinery are still the big killers on Wisconsin farms," Purschwitz adds. Out of 35 deaths in 1996, 23 involved tractors and other machines."

Farm tractors were involved in 12 of the 35 fatalities in 1996, compared with 16 in 1995, 11 in 1994, 15 in 1993 and 16 in 1992.

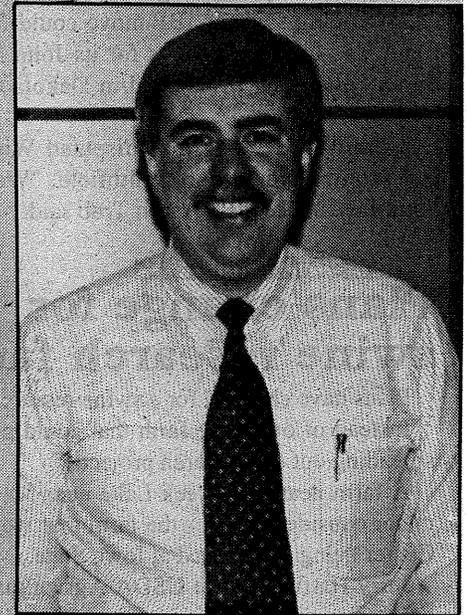
Tractor rollovers were involved in six deaths, while six people were run over by a tractor.

Other farm machines were involved in 11 of the 35 fatalities. Entanglements accounted for seven fatalities. One person was run over by a skid-steer loader and three died after being pinned under equipment.

Two people died from suffocation in feed bins. Three animal fatalities involved a bull attack, a child being butted in the chest by a heifer and a cattle trampling.

Two people died as a result of tree felling and one person died while operating an all-terrain vehicle for work purposes and hitting his head on a tree limb.

People 65 and older accounted for eight of the victims; adults age 45-64 accounted for 14; age 25-44 accounted for



MARK PURSCHWITZ
Safety Specialist
UW-Madison

four; age 15-24 accounted for three; age 5-14 accounted for four; and age 0-4 accounted for two.

Thirty-three victims were male and two were female.

Fatalities are most likely to occur in spring, summer and fall months, such as May, July, August and October when farmers are at their busiest, explains Purschwitz.

Twenty-six counties were the sites of fatalities in 1996, many of which did not have a fatality in 1995, Purschwitz adds.

Purschwitz believes the number of fatalities can be reduced through farm safety hazard control and training programs by UW-Extension, vocational agriculture teachers, hospitals, clinics, public health nurses and other organizations.

According to the National Safety Council, agriculture is one of the three most hazardous industries in the United States. The other two are mining and construction.

WSF 7-3-97

New Law in Effect: No Kids Under 16 Driving Tractors on Roads Without Passing Safety Course

By Jane Fyksen
Regional Editor

It became law this week that no child under age 16 can legally drive farm equipment on a town road, county road or state highway without completing tractor safety certification. Parents run the risk of being fined - not to mention opening themselves up to increased liability - should their uncertified youngster be involved in a farm equipment/motor vehicle accident.

While this kids-on-tractors off-roads law just took effect July 1, there's already a bill in the Legislature that would prohibit children under age 12 from operating farm machinery on roadways at all. Actually, the legislation puts a lower age limit on eligibility for tractor safety courses typically held during winter and early spring in rural communities.

It's proposed that no child under age 12 could enroll in one of those courses. Seeing as how kids under 16 can't be on the road with farm equipment without that certification, this bill would, in essence, keep kids under 12 at home.

Forwarding this lower-age cap is State Rep. Al Ott (R-Forest Junction). AB 256 has already had a hearing, but has thus far not been moved out of committee in the Assembly.

Cheryl Skjolaas, UW-Extension farm safety outreach specialist, says the proposed legislation addresses a concern volunteer instructors for the tractor safety courses have had. In a recent survey, the majority recommended that kids under age 12 should not take the course because they're just not ready mentally and physically to be on the roads on tractors. What's more, the instructors find it too difficult to gear the course to such a wide range of ages, notes Skjolaas.

The prohibition that went into effect earlier this week in Wisconsin was actually supposed to take effect May 1 last year, says Skjolaas. However, Ott forwarded legislation to delay the new law's start date until July 1 this year, so that more farm parents could get their kids enrolled in tractor safety this winter and spring.

Unfortunately, says Skjolaas, some of the children who were sent for training couldn't even reach the brake pedals on the tractors to take their driving tests. Instructors tried talking parents out of the idea of having these youngsters take the course. These volunteers were put in an uncomfortable situation. Ott's bill addresses that by putting a lower age limit of 12 on tractor certification.

Skjolaas says 7 percent of the kids who went through safety certification last year were under age 12.

"The instructors felt that a lot of kids younger than that weren't ready" to safely drive tractors - especially out in traffic, she notes.

What's more, volunteer instructors

were put in a sticky spot in terms of their own liability and signing certificates for younger kids. Some communities, she notes, had problems finding instructors because of this issue.

However, she stresses that just because the child has a certificate in hand that says he's taken the safety course doesn't mean that parents and farm employers are not directly responsible for tasks - and to adequately train him for those tasks.

Some 2,500 youngsters in Wisconsin took the training last year. Skjolaas says she isn't sure how many more completed training this spring. And she says she has no idea how many still need training.

"The problem now is that the courses are basically only offered once a year, from January into June," Skjolaas reports. "Some of them may just have to wait until next winter."

In the meantime, if they're under 16 and don't have a tractor safety certificate, they'd best stay off the road with equipment. Law enforcement officials can pull kids over and ask to see their tractor safety certificates. If they don't have one, the fine is \$20 for the first offense and \$50 for subsequent offenses.

Kids under 16 can drive tractors on their folks' farms without being certified. They can also still legally cross a road with equipment.

Skjolaas warns that farm parents had best be concerned about liability if an uncertified child on a tractor was to cause a motor vehicle accident. It's still very much a grey area as to how insurance companies will view that.

Because this new law was coming down the pike, the tractor driving courses were standardized, and in many cases, the requirements stiffened. They all now include 24 hours of classroom instruction. The kids must pass a written test as well as a driving test, towing a two-wheeled implement. The driving test includes a stop sign and intersection, and they must back up into a shed, too.

This new law, as well as the even stricter legislation now proposed, both relate to the issue of "age-appropriate" tasks for kids on farms.

"If parents decide to have children work at tasks on the farm this summer, they should make sure they provide training and supervision," says Skjolaas, stressing that they should also make sure the child is really up to what's being asked of him, both mentally and physically. "Parents should realize that children tire faster than adults, too."

Farm parents, she notes, must remember that each child matures at his own pace. A child who is physically ready to do a farm chore may not be emotionally ready.

"Research shows that most nine-and-10-year-olds have the strength and physical skills to drive tractors, but when a po-

tentially dangerous situation arises, few children younger than 14 have the cognitive ability to anticipate danger, quickly recognize what's happening and react," Skjolaas warns.

Research suggests waiting until the early teens - 13 at the earliest - before starting children on a tractor. Then make sure that shields and guards are in place on equipment kids are asked to operate. The shield "sitting in the shop doesn't do much after someone is injured," she states.

This safety expert offers the following development table that can help parents decide on age-appropriate tasks for their kids:

■ Under age three: Kids are curious and learn about their world by physically interacting with it. They'll drink anything at this age and are attracted by moving objects and noises. They fall easily. Risks include choking, drowning, poisoning, falling off objects, and being backed over by farm machinery. She suggests child care and physical barriers like fences.

■ Ages four to six: Kids continue learning primarily through touching and exploring, with little thought to danger. They have inconsistent use of logic and don't have sufficient knowledge or use of their bodies to avoid danger. They'll go too close to moving machinery. They still need constant supervision. Risks include livestock kicks or being crushed and getting caught in machinery. Discuss safety. Prohibit riding on machinery. Assign simple chores.

■ Ages seven to nine: Children begin to recognize common dangers - especially if they've had a close call. They still do not easily generalize from one situation to another and don't recognize danger fast enough to avoid getting hurt. They continue to act before they think. They start asking to be included in adult work, but because they don't know their physical and mental limits, their risk of injury is high.

■ Ages 10 to 12: Kids these ages can follow simple operating instructions. Many are big enough to do adult work but lack the mental skills to safely operate equipment. They often hound parents to do things they aren't ready to handle, and there's strong peer pressure, to show off or dare one another. They don't think anything can hurt them. This group needs consistent rules and specific education on avoiding farm hazards.

■ Ages 13 to 15: At this age, there's strong peer pressure and the need to impress. They believe they're immortal and may resist authority. Risks include roll-overs, PTO amputations, car accidents with farm equipment, suffocation in grain bins, and ATV accidents.

The experts advise enrolling them in tractor safety courses and still consider the individual child's size, age and maturity for each and every job.

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

Testimony

My name is Mark Purschwitz. I am a faculty member of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at UW-Madison with a 75 percent Extension, 25 percent research, appointment. I am an agricultural safety and health specialist and the director of the Wisconsin Center for Agricultural Safety and Health within UW-Extension. I am here for informational purposes.

I am testifying in favor of this bill, and believe it is good public policy, for three main reasons:

1. Should young children be out on the road at all? Agricultural safety specialists, including myself, generally feel age 13-14 is the proper age to begin tractor operation, based on child development research and the need for simultaneous motor skills. Federal labor law declares tractor and machinery operation to be hazardous for youths under age 16, and only youths of at least age 14 who have passed this training course can receive federal certification to operate a tractor on a farm other than that operated by their parents or guardian.

Given the fact that there has been no lower age limit for operating farm machinery on public roads, and even if this bill is made law, there still will be no lower age limit for tractor operation on parent's farms, an age limit of 12 is a reasonable compromise.

2. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to educationally accommodate a wide range of ages in a class, especially younger children. There is a large variation between a 9-10 year old and a 14-15 year old. Because this training meets federal requirements, and because of the very nature of tractor operation, the curriculum materials are designed for older youth. This bill would narrow the age range to something much more workable, yet disqualify only 6.9 percent of enrollees, based on last year's records. A lower age limit of 13 would disqualify 21.6 of enrollees, and a lower age limit of 14 would disqualify 49.2 percent of enrollees. (See chart).
3. An instructor survey indicates that two-thirds of instructors (66.2 percent) recommended a lower age limit for the classes. Of those recommending a lower age limit, 69 percent recommended age 12, and 16.7 percent recommended age 13 or 14. Common reasons given by instructors included size and maturity of students, ability to read and comprehend the material, cognitive and motor skills, and maturity. (See chart).

(cont.)

Additional reasons why I support this bill include:

1. The age limits of hunter and snowmobile safety courses offered by Wisconsin DNR have a lower age limit of 12. Tractor and machinery operation is more complex.
2. For many years, I believe dating back into the 1970's, the state of Nebraska has required youth to be at least age 13 to be permitted to operate farm machinery on public roads. To my knowledge, it has not been a major issue.
3. I suspect there are important insurance and liability issues raised by young children operating on public roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

May 8, 1997

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Wisconsin *Safe* Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification

Program Review



October, 1996

Executive Summary
Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification
Program Review

Number of counties offering programs	64
Number of programs held	85
Number of instructors involved	489
Number of youth certified	2,594
Class size	
Range	9-131
Mean	39.9
Median	35.9

Age Distribution of youth enrolled (pre-training survey numbers)

Years of Age	Percent	Frequency
6	0.0	1
8	0.1	3
9	0.3	6
10	1.2	28
11	5.1	119
12	14.9	348
13	27.6	644
14	34.9	814
15	15.8	368
Total	100.0	2,331

Recommendations on lower age limit

66.2% (84/127) recommended a lower age limit

Distribution of age limits recommended

Age	Percent	Frequency
9	1.2	1
10	8.3	7
11	4.8	4
12	69.0	58
13	10.7	9
14	6.0	5
Total	100.0	84

Comments related to these age recommendations can be found in the complete survey.

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Introduction

The Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification program has provided instruction to over 2,400 youth since January, 1996. The 24 hour program was offered in the following 64 counties: Adams, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Buffalo, Burnett, Calumet, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Iron, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Monroe, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Rusk, St. Croix, Sauk, Sawyer, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago and Wood. Some counties offered more than one program, or the agricultural education instructor at a high school offered a program through the school, for a total of 85 programs.

Numerous individuals have contributed their time and expertise to provide youth with this valuable safety training. A key factor in the success and ability to deliver this program is the commitment of the instructors.

Another essential element of the program is the support of the community. The local agricultural community has cooperated with tractors and machinery, meeting facilities, instructors and resource materials.

This summary incorporates the voices of the instructors and course coordinators along with information received from participants as part of the pre-training survey conducted as an ongoing evaluation of the program. The Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Program Review form was distributed to Cooperative Extension Agricultural and 4-H Youth Development agents and individuals who attended an Instructor's Workshop, many of which were agricultural education instructors. Extension agents also had the opportunity to direct the survey to key instructors with their program.

Through this process 127 review forms were returned completed. A survey form was not necessarily received from every program. Therefore, totals given are minimums and do not actually represent statewide totals.

Section I: Information Related to Individuals Providing Instruction and Completing Survey

Types of involvement with a tractor and machinery certification course

Response (respondent could select more than one response)	Percent	Frequency
<i>course coordinator</i> (coordinated course schedule, program resources, record keeping responsibilities, etc.)	41.3	78
<i>instructor who provided or assisted with 4 or more hours of instruction</i> (may also have been a course coordinator)	47.6	90
<i>instructor who provided or assisted with less than 4 hours of instruction</i>	5.8	11
<i>*other</i>	5.3	10
Total	100.0	189

- * coordinated program with Southwest Tech
- * assisted in planning course
- * promote program and help keep records

Did you attend an Instructor's Workshop during 1995-96?

Response	Percent	Frequency
Yes	69.3	88
No	27.6	35
No Response	3.1	4
Total	100.0	127

How many years have you been providing instruction for a tractor and machinery certification program?

Of those individuals completing the survey, 89% indicated that they were an instructor. The average years of instruction was nine. One instructor indicated providing 35 years of instruction. 29% indicated that this was their first year of instruction with the program.

Indicate your expertise related to tractor and machinery certification

Response	Percent	Frequency
Extension agricultural or 4-H Youth Development Agent	40.6	67
Agricultural Educator	28.5	47
Farmer	18.8	31
*Other	9.1	15
Implement dealers	3.0	5
Total	100.0	165

* includes 4-H leaders (3); ATV instructor; corporate product safety coordinator for farm implement manufacturer; crop consultant; manager of fertilizer and chemical retail operation; owned and operated heavy equipment and military experience; former FFA advisor and agricultural education instructor and 20 years of equipment operation.

Note: Of those indicating experience as an agricultural education instructor, 41 are currently active instructors and 6 indicated previous experience as an agricultural education instructor. For those individuals indicating farmer, 10 selected farmer only and 21 selected both farm and another choice.

Number of Instructors Per Program (Responses from course coordinators only)

Instructors	Percent of programs	Frequency
1	8.8	6
2	14.7	10
3	5.9	4
4	19.1	13
5	5.9	4
6	4.4	3
7	8.8	6
8	10.3	7
10	2.9	2
11	1.5	1
12	5.9	4
14	4.4	3
15	1.5	1
18	1.5	1
20	4.4	3
Total	100.0	68

Average = 7.2 instructors per program; Total = 489 instructors

Would you be interested in any training related to tractor and machinery safety?

Response	Percent	Frequency
No	44.1	56
Yes	37.8	48
No Response	18.1	23
Total	100.0	127

Comments:

- ◆ All areas.
- ◆ Demonstrations (how to set them up for class (students)).
- ◆ I guess we can never have too much. I do farm and own and operate daily.
- ◆ General info (always good to share ideas and updates)
- ◆ Perhaps a refresher on state laws when necessary.
- ◆ Lawn mower safety
- ◆ Forestry or Logging Safety
- ◆ Any that are available
- ◆ Utilization of virtual reality simulators
- ◆ Mechanics; Law Enforcement
- ◆ Electrical Safety, Fires, Rollover
- ◆ Anything to do with safety on the farm
- ◆ Training last year was adequate
- ◆ Ideas on approach to drivers to further impress and get across the importance of tractor & machinery safety.
- ◆ We all can use updates - no particular topic
- ◆ Anything to do with safety on lthe farm
- ◆ Overall program, I did not get the information on the instructor workshop until after it was over so the information I received was second hand.
- ◆ Tractor rollover
- ◆ PTO accidents
- ◆ If Vo Tech does not continue as provider

Would you be interested in any training related to teaching methods for working with youth?

Response	Percent	Frequency
No	57.5	73
Yes	23.6	30
No Response	18.9	24
Total	100.0	127

Comments:

- ◆ I have had a team attend the trainee course. But more training is also helpful.
- ◆ Any that are available.
- ◆ Identifying and dealing with LD students
- ◆ Content and delivery of program
- ◆ I'm comfortable - kids don't have the best attitude toward the program - just some thing they have to do.
- ◆ I feel comfortable without additional help.
- ◆ Mostly on examples of references, teaching materials available and time spent on each area.

Section II: Participant Information

Age of Participants

Years of Age	Percent	Frequency
6	0.0	1
8	0.1	3
9	0.3	6
10	1.2	28
11	5.1	119
12	14.9	348
13	27.6	644
14	34.9	814
15	15.8	368
Total	100.0	2,331

Note: Programs were requested to administer a pre-training survey to the youth prior to any training. The age range of participants completing the pre-training participant survey was 6-15 years of age. This doesn't include surveys without a completed age (44 surveys) or surveys indicating the respondent was 16 years of age or older (37 surveys). Also, not every student completed a survey form. The average age of the participants was 13 years. Seven percent of the participants were 11 years of age or under.

Course coordinators were asked:

What was the age of the youngest youth that attempted to enroll in your program?

Years of Age	Percent of Programs	Frequency
6	2.7	2
7	1.3	1
8	2.7	2
9	16.0	12
10	24.0	18
11	16.0	12
12	32.0	24
13	2.7	2
14	2.7	2
Total	100.1	75

What was the age of the youngest youth to actually enroll in your program?

Years of Age	Percent of Programs	Frequency
8	1.3	1
9	9.3	7
10	26.7	20
11	22.7	17
12	33.3	25
13	4.0	3
14	2.7	2
Total	100.0	76

What was the age of the youngest youth to successfully complete the course and receive certification?

Years of Age	Percent of Programs	Frequency
9	5.4	4
10	31.1	23
11	21.6	16
12	33.8	25
13	2.7	2
14	5.4	4
Total	100.0	84

Number of youth that successfully completed the course and received Wisconsin Certificates of Training for 1996.

Number of students	Percent of Programs	Frequency
9	3.1	2
10	1.5	1
11	1.5	1
12	3.1	2
13	1.5	1
14	3.1	2
15	3.1	2
16	1.5	1
18	4.6	3
19	1.5	1
20	10.8	7
21	1.5	1
25	3.1	2
28	4.6	3

con't

Number of Youth that successfully completed the course and received Wisconsin Certificates of Training for 1996, con't.

Number of students	Percent of Programs	Frequency
30	1.5	1
33	1.5	1
35	3.1	2
37	1.5	1
38	1.5	1
39	3.1	2
40	1.5	1
43	1.5	1
44	3.1	2
48	1.5	1
49	1.5	1
50	3.1	2
52	3.1	2
53	1.5	1
55	1.5	1
56	1.5	1
59	1.5	1
60	3.1	2
63	1.5	1
69	1.5	1
70	1.5	1
71	1.5	1
76	1.5	1
80	1.5	1
94	1.5	1
96	1.5	1
102	1.5	1
113	1.5	1
131	1.5	1
Total	100.0	65

Mean = 39.9 students per program; median = 35.9 students per program; total students reported = 2594

Note: The total students reported by course coordinators (2,594) differs from the number of participants who completed youth participant surveys (2,331).

Number of youth that did not successfully complete the course and did not receive Wisconsin Certificate of Training

Number not receiving certificates	Percent of Programs	Frequency
0	44.4	28
1	22.2	14
2	7.9	5
3	6.3	4
4	1.6	1
5	4.8	3
6	4.8	3
7	1.6	1
9	1.6	1
10	1.6	1
17*	1.6	1
20 **	1.6	1
Total	100.0	63

* Students with incomplete work; most will be certified later

** Program indicating 20 also indicated that 20 youth had successfully completed the course. The course coordinator responding had remove the survey identification number so it was not possible to contact that person for further information.

Note: Average = 2.6 students/ program not certified

Everyone completing the survey was asked:

In your opinion should there be a lower age limit for these courses?

Response	Percent	Frequency
Yes	66.2	84
No	29.1	37
No Response	4.7	6
Total	100.0	127

What age would you recommend for a lower age limit?

Age	Percent	Frequency
9	1.2	1
10	8.3	7
11	4.8	4
12	69.0	58
13	10.7	9
14	6.0	5
Total	100.0	84

Reasons for recommending this lower age limit

9 year of age

- ◆ Instructors don't have to say no to local parents, 9 is when farm kids start to learn a little driving

10 years of age

- ◆ It is difficult for anyone younger to grasp the material. In addition, children should really be 12 before being allowed to drive machinery on public roads.
- ◆ A lot of the farm kids we were training had already driven tractors starting about that age
- ◆ Comprehension of materials varies greatly from 8, 9, 10 to 16 year olds.
- ◆ Smaller children can not be belted in and still reach clutch.

11 years of age

- ◆ Physical development - able to control tractor; able to read and comprehend materials.
- ◆ Reading skills, physical size
- ◆ Our certification offered hands on driving and it's difficult to work with a larger age range than that of 12-15.

12 Years of Age

- ◆ Size and maturity of students (21)
- ◆ Ability to understand materials (8)
- ◆ Students under this age do not always have high enough reading and comprehension skills to complete the class and exam (6)
- ◆ Cognitive and motor skills (3)
- ◆ Students under this age are not always mature enough to drive on public roads (3)
- ◆ Class size (3)
- ◆ Four year certification then allows them to reach 16 and there is no need to go through course again to be recertified (2)
- ◆ Kids below age 12 are usually too young to operate equipment safely (2)
- ◆ Many youth are operating equipment at this lower age
- ◆ Below 12 the students are many times too small and have problems relating to content of materials
- ◆ So there is a minimum age
- ◆ Maturity, physical size and capability for handling tractors- generally acceptable
- ◆ Twelve seems to be the most common age that or when youth start to drive tractor. Size and maturity is a concern and is a parental decision.
- ◆ Safety starts with being both physically and mentally capable of handling the tractor and machinery. I question anyone under age 12 to be ready.
- ◆ Ability to effectively drive farm machinery
- ◆ Physical ability in addition to maturity for quick decision making and from an instructor standpoint -attention span for a 24 hour course.
- ◆ Maturity of students to make quick decisions when operating equipment and the fact that some of the younger students are not tall enough to properly operate controls for safe operation.

Reasons for recommending this lower age limit, con't.

12 years of age

- ◆ Attention span of younger students means many short sessions
- ◆ We had youth that we're very young - but do not have good grounds to not accept them.
- ◆ So there is some limit
- ◆ Easier to teach knowing lower age limit - gear course to appropriate age level.
- ◆ Some adults don't use common sense when encouraging or allowing youth to operate before ready.
- ◆ This still gives them four years to be on the highway prior to driving cars, trucks at age 16.
- ◆ 12 is consistent with DNR and other certification, ie. Hunter Education and Boat Safety
- ◆ We had several 12 year olds this year and they worked well.
- ◆ There are many good young drivers out there.

13 years of age

- ◆ Children don't have the time to react to situations that come up-especially in emergency situations. Many adults don't know how to react or they just can't react quick enough.
- ◆ We had a couple of 12 year olds in the program I just don't think they were old enough to be "certified" by me or anybody else. That they were old/mature enough to drive on road, operate large equipment, etc.
- ◆ Youngsters younger than 13 are too often too small physically to handle modern equipment. Also their experience level is such that they don't relate well to topics taught.
- ◆ Physical ability is more limited with younger operators. Offering this course to younger operators also sends the message that it is alright to operate at an early age.
- ◆ Physically unable to handle equipment.
- ◆ Younger children may not be capable of reaching controls (especially brakes) and, therefore, could be cause of a serious traffic accident.
- ◆ Youth younger than 13 should not be operating tractors on roads.
- ◆ Student "big enough" physically to operate machinery. Able to comprehend safety standards. Is a teenager.
- ◆ Many youth under the age of 12 are not physically mature enough to handle farm machinery, and by providing them the opportunity may encourage them to believe they can handle the equipment.

14 years of age

- ◆ Students need to be old enough to make quick accurate judgements
- ◆ Maturity level
- ◆ Physically can't reach pedals
- ◆ Age or size? Some 12 year olds can handle these larger units which some 14 yr olds can't.
- ◆ Responsibility. Maturity. Physical limits.

Section III: Hours of Instruction and Attendance

Regarding the hours of instruction for the course:

Response Indicators	Percent	Frequency
Stay at 24 hours	57.5	73
Decrease hours	35.4	45
No response	6.3	8
Increase hours	0.8	1
Total	100.0	127

Reasons for staying at 24 hours of instruction

- ◆ Time is sufficient (11)
- ◆ The amount of time is good to get a commitment from the students.
- ◆ This is a good number and gives us room in which to work with.
- ◆ Chance for kids without tractor at home to get in some driving time.
- ◆ We have used 24 hours for the past 4-5 years and it seems to work out well. We did go over the time this year because of all the students involved.
- ◆ With the course I have provided to the kids I feel that I had adequate time to cover the material. I also had time to provide extra material, etc. First aid, hospital visits and in-depth farm visits.
- ◆ It was long but probably needed that long so some of it sinks in.
- ◆ I have been teaching a 20 hour course prior to this year. I believe 20 was adequate, but we can use 24 hours if required.
- ◆ I was able to adequately deliver all the lessons required for certification in 24 hours with some extra time to be creative with demonstrations and other areas of farm safety for example ATV.
- ◆ Lets try to fix problems we may have before we expand.
- ◆ It is important the students realize the various dangers.
- ◆ It is a commitment that the youth have to make to receive their certification. I feel that if they are going to be driving either on the road or even just on the farm 24 hours of safety instruction is a small commitment to make.
- ◆ At least this much time is required to cover all the material and provide "hands-on" driving experience.
- ◆ If the course is offered over a 4-5 week period it emphasizes safety longer. 3 to 4 day crash course all at one-time has not been effective. (We have done the course both ways this spring).
- ◆ We had established user fee's via FVTC that will ensure reimbursement and therefore availability of quality instructors.
- ◆ There is a considerable time commitment but actual teaching time is far less than the 24 hours.
- ◆ Because the youth taking these courses are usually also working either on or off farms.
- ◆ Hands on opportunities take time.
- ◆ Difficult to cover this amount of subject matter in less than 24 hours. Possibly 20 hours.
- ◆ Difficult to get content covered during current hours.

- ◆ We had 7 instructors and have no problems with the 24 hours.
- ◆ Anymore hours would be a hardship on student and families. The course can be effectively covered in a 24-hour setting.
- ◆ I have heard some instructors who feel the hours are too long-I had no problems with class attention with 24 hours- this is not too long for a program as important and meaningful as tractor safety. I enjoy being a part of the program.
- ◆ Fits better into summer school schedule.

Recommendations for Decreasing Hours of Instruction

Hours	Percent	Frequency
21	2.2	1
20	35.6	16
18	17.7	8
18-21		1
18-20		2
16	15.6	7
16-20		4
15	11.1	5
15-20		1
15-18		1
14	2.2	1
14-16		1
12	15.6	7
12-18		1
12-15		1
Total	100.0	45

Reasons for Decreasing hours of instruction

21 hours

- ◆ Three 7 hour days would accomplish as much with less burnout.

20 hours

- ◆ Adequate time to cover materials (4)
- ◆ Some down time during the course
- ◆ Could never have too many but there are conflicts for time.
- ◆ More material of a varied nature or more ideas or sources for a more varied program all needed. Older students became bored, restless before the course ended.
- ◆ Most students have tractor driving experience.
- ◆ I will see the students (8th grade) 90 days the entire year. I would rather not take 32 of the days (45 minute classes) just for safety certification. (18.75 hours would equal 25 class periods or 5 weeks)
- ◆ It is also unrealistic to expect children to attend 24 hours of training without missing a session.

20 hours, con't.

- ◆ Shorter time period would allow for a quality program.
- ◆ We had concern about quality of instruction “add this just to meet the requirement”.
- ◆ We taught the course in 20 hours previously because that was the guideline for 4-H members. It allowed ample time.
- ◆ Not everyone is trained well or experienced in every area of safety. There was a lot of material gone over 2 to 3 times because they were killing time.
- ◆ Too long at present , number of hours here no relation to knowledge gain
- ◆ Excessive stuff time.
- ◆ In our program, we cover the basics plus other safety aspects plus the exam in just under 24 hours. Too long a session; you will lose students to other conflicts, commitments.

18 hours

- ◆ Too little material to stretch. We can cover in less time. (3)
- ◆ Kids said the course was too long and get bored.
- ◆ Program was too long. I'm not sure much additional learning took place in last 25% of program. That was 6 hours more of volunteer time $24-18=6$. People just don't have that many hours.
- ◆ I feel all topics can be addressed in the 18 hour time frame.
- ◆ We had a day where it rained and managed to get through more material than expected. Need to keep class moving - or they get bored-more action packed and busy than have lag time.
- ◆ Or give a canned program with option
- ◆ Difficult in scheduling! We did four 6 hours on Saturdays.
- ◆ Lots of hours for this age group when they are so involved in school

16 hours

- ◆ A very adequate job can be done in 16 hours (2)
- ◆ Lower hour requirements to encourage more students to take the course. Simply do not need 24 hours to cover all areas.
- ◆ Attention span of youth. Too many instructors needed. Duplication of materials
- ◆ The second time through we used some of the time as “filler”, items which were reviewing previously covered material.
- ◆ Overkill

15 hours

- ◆ It's just too difficult to find the time/teachers for the current course length.
- ◆ Keeping students interested. With 24 hours it is difficult to keep a students' attention. Our class ran 6 hours for students 14-16 years old, this is hard.
- ◆ Material can be covered adequately in 15-18 hours. Shorter hours offer us more time to offer make up sessions, also.
- ◆ It is extremely difficult to find qualified individuals to cover all the hours currently involved. Tractor and Machinery safety can be adequately taught in 15 hours. 24 hours results in covering more than tractor and machinery safety. That's not necessarily bad, but our objective should be tractor and machinery safety.

15 hours

- ◆ We often found we did not have enough material to fill our time, however, as this was the first time we had 24 hours we did not have any previous experience to gauge our instructions on. We will be better able to plan if it remains at 24 in the future.

14 hours

- ◆ We covered this same course - same book, same lessons, same video in 10 or 12 hours before... but with the 24 hour program, youth were machinery certified (a plus for some youth) If state deems machinery training, it is better that we do it (24 hours) than leave it to "chance".

12 hours

- ◆ Just was not enough info to have a 24 hour class (4)
- ◆ Students have a hard time "sitting still" for 4-6 hour Saturdays
- ◆ Difficult in setting up 24 hour class during school year. Hard for instructors to keep interest by students for 24 hours of class. Some chapters are short, which allows for time for other things.
- ◆ It is unreasonable and unnecessary to require this much of their time. Alternately it could be offered in the schools system during school hours.
- ◆ The material is all the same, yet the number of hours has more than doubled. The required amount of hours needs to be lowered, or the curriculum needs to reflect the 24 hours; ie. more teaching materials.
- ◆ Evening meetings - 3 hours long- 8 of them! (Some kids travel 45 minutes or more on a school night.
- ◆ I don't have the time!

Recommendations for Increasing Hours of Instruction

Hours	Percent	Frequency
30	100.0	1

Comments:

- ◆ Stay at 24 hours for tractor driving only. Need to increase hours so we can teach more machinery operation.

No response for Hours of Instruction

- ◆ This was my first year with the course. The length of time seemed about right to the class we had. I need more involvement before I would suggest a change.

Section IV: Attendance Policy

Do you think there should be an established statewide attendance policy?

Response	Percent	Frequency
Yes	66.2	84
No	17.3	22
No Response	16.5	21
Total	100.0	127

What was the attendance policy for your course in 1996?

- ◆ Students must attend all 24 hours of instruction - no make up (40)
- ◆ Students may miss one session (17)
- ◆ Students may miss one session - complete homework assignments (17)
- ◆ Students may miss one session - makeup with instructor (10)
- ◆ Students may miss one session - special makeup sessions offered (8)
- ◆ Could not miss more than 5 hours. Must have good excuse prior to missing (2)
- ◆ Students miss a session - need to attend another course (2)
- ◆ Students who miss more than 3 hours of the approximately 30 of the class time I use - do not pass.
- ◆ The official policy was you must know and commit to each class to even sign-up. Of course, after 3 classes there were 5 youths who had band concerts that were mandatory and counted towards their grades in band class. This entire course was being taught in a month. Or they could they could do a huge homework package that included interviews with accident survivors or EMTs who have responded to farm accident.
- ◆ Half-day absence was allowed if all material was made-up
- ◆ Must attend entire course to pass. If missed some- would have to makeup at another training site somewhere else.
- ◆ Left to individual instructors.

Other comments on hours of instruction or attendance

- ◆ It seems students don't study as they should. If they miss class, may miss whole point. Maybe require one or two page paper per chapter on classes missed.
- ◆ There should be a standard, otherwise youth could take courses at tech-schools, etc. that would not require the same schedule.

Section V: Instructional Materials

Types of instructional materials that instructors would like to have developed for the program

Topics Identified

- ◆ All (5)
- ◆ We did not have any problems finding instructional materials (4)

Format

Workbook, videos; overheads

Student Manual

- ◆ Manual needs to be updated (8)
- ◆ Main points of each chapter in manual
- ◆ Developed into modules for take-home (self-study)
- ◆ Slide series that corresponds to the various chapters in manual

Overheads; teaching outlines

Modules

Slide series

Tractor

- ◆ Parts of a Diesel Engine (w/ and w/o labels)
- ◆ Parts of Gasoline Engine (w/and w/o labels)
- ◆ Basic Engine Operation
- ◆ Transmissions and Hydraulics
- ◆ Hydraulic injuries
- ◆ Controls and Instruments
- ◆ Parts functions and controls of a tractor

Overhead

Overhead

Video

Video

Video

Slides; overheads

Video

Machinery

- ◆ Maintaining machinery (preventive maintenance) (2)
- ◆ Operation situations
- ◆ Machinery hazards
- ◆ PTO (2)
- ◆ PTO materials
- ◆ PTO
- ◆ Pictures of guards in place on elevators
- ◆ What's wrong with this picture (missing parts for safety on equipment, etc.)
- ◆ Guards missing on machine and replacement there of.
- ◆ Skid loader handling
- ◆ Skidster
- ◆ Owners Manual for equipment

Video

Video

Video

Video

Overheads

Virtual reality units

Slide

Slide

Video

Video

Written info

Sample copies; overheads

Types of instructional materials that instructors would like to have developed for the program, con't.

Driving tractors and machinery

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Wisconsin road laws for agricultural equipment (4) | Slides; video |
| ◆ Tractor and Machinery on the highway (2) | Video and 2-4 |
| ◆ Demonstrate how to properly drive the tractor; which way to turn the steering wheel for turns. | Overheads; video |
| ◆ Using baler | Video |
| ◆ Operating a hay baler | Video |
| ◆ Hitching | Video |
| ◆ Hook up and driving | Model set on tables; graphs |
| ◆ No Riders | Video |
| ◆ Driving tractor on public roadway showing potential hazards. ie. Towing heavy load and resulting "jack knifing" when brakes are applied | Video |
| ◆ Driving in road gear with brake pedals not locked together and tractor tipping over when one brake holds, etc. | Video |
| ◆ State Patrol discussing tractors on the road and procedures that occur when pulled over | Video |
| ◆ Road signs | Overheads |

Other topics

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ◆ Animal Safety | Video |
| ◆ Livestock Safety | More info |
| ◆ Fire safety - extinguisher use | Demo and videos |
| ◆ Fire prevention | Video/slides |
| ◆ Electrical and Fires | |
| ◆ Chemical Safety(simple for youth) | Gen. info |
| ◆ Silo and manure gas (2) | |
| ◆ Accidents (video similar to one developed for farm women) | Slides/Video |
| ◆ Rollovers | Model simulators; video |
| ◆ Basic farm safety and first aid | Slides; overheads |

Other Comments

- ◆ Update some of the videos. (3)
- ◆ Games or activities to liven up the program
- ◆ Materials for hands-on activities
- ◆ Units designed with student/instructor interaction
- ◆ We seem to have an excess already - mostly from John Deere. Maybe spend time updating the Iowa manual or getting Wisconsin numbers and graphs, charts in.
- ◆ There should be a standard way to teach this course so that others outside of Extension and vo-ag could teach it. There is no reason that it couldn't be put together the same way Private Pesticide Applicant training is done.
- ◆ Please make majority of material VHS format
- ◆ I used farm electrical safety and ATV materials besides all kinds of tractor and machinery videos

Other Comments, con't.

- ♦ Videotapes, kids really look and listen to them.
- ♦ Some topics boring. Same tapes getting old but still viable. With a little more advanced work and more props and displays to help make it more interesting.
- ♦ I think that the curriculum that was established was very comprehensive and covered all necessary topics.
- ♦ We have run the class for over 25 years - other than an update here or there in the book- everything works well; safety is still safety.

Section VI: Program Information (from course coordinators)

Did you allow participants to retake the written or driving exam?

Response	Percent of Programs	Frequency
No	51.4	38
Yes	48.6	36
Total	100.0	74

Note: Statement on allowing retakes was provided to counties after numerous programs were already completed; programs often work with youth until he/she passes. Request for retakes often related to learning disabilities on the written exam.

Number of participants retaking written exam in programs allowing retakes

Response	Percent of Programs	Frequency
1	62.5	15
2	12.5	3
3	8.3	2
4	8.3	2
5	4.2	1
7	4.2	1
Total	100.0	24

Number of participants retaking driving exam in programs allowing retakes

Response	Percent of Programs	Frequency
1	28.0	7
2	20.0	5
3	36.0	9
5	12.0	3
8	4.0	1
Total	100.0	25

How much was the participant registration fee for 1996?

Dollar Amount	Percent	Frequency
\$3.00	3.1	2
4.00	1.5	1
5.00	7.7	5
6.00	3.1	2
7.00	4.6	3
8.00	10.8	7
9.00	1.5	1
10.00	33.8	22
15.00	13.8	9
20.00	10.8	7
28.45	1.5	1
36.95	1.5	1
39.00	1.5	1
45.00	1.5	1
47.00	1.5	1
50.95	1.5	1
Total	99.7	65

How did you advertise your program? (Indicate all that apply)

Type of advertising	Percent	Frequency
news release	24.0	80
TV announcements	22.5	75
radio announcements	17.1	57
newsletters	12.6	42
brochures	9.9	33
direct mailings	7.5	25
*other	6.6	22
Total	100.2	334

* includes school bulletins and announcements (9); word of mouth (5); letters to schools; newspaper advertisements; posters; phone calls; and posting at implement dealers.

Note: A news release was provided through the Extension News Offices to county extension faculty for use with local programs. An informational brochure related to the laws and who needed training along with age appropriate information was developed and available to programs for their use. State agricultural newspapers and the Wisconsin Agriculturalist magazine featured stories on the program.

Section VII: Other Comments

Please provide any other comments related to the Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery program.

- ◆ Was a great program and will help out in future program, Thanks
- ◆ Great program. I think we in our county do a good job of getting kids on and operating tractors. We take it serious and try to do a good job. Good state program and coordinated by Cheryl.
- ◆ Good program!!! A video I use is entitled "How to Have an Accident" - It's excellent, could use an updated version though.
A recommended video for each chapter would be good. They don't have to be long. - but to the point. These help to vary the routine - lecture, discussion, overheads, slides and video, etc.
- ◆ I appreciate the materials and newsletters keeping me informed of resources and legislation.
- ◆ Parents were very supportive of this program which is a true indicator of its importance and quality. The course manual is very well laid out, easy to follow and use.
- ◆ Excellent program for youth
- ◆ I really believe that this course should be for 12 and older
- ◆ The program was very good. I feel the students we had appreciated the information on tractor and machinery safety and the "First Care" program presented.
- ◆ My only concern is the time allotted for the program. To me the 24 hours is too long. We basically could have taught everything and practiced driving and accomplished the same in 15 - 16 hours of training.
- ◆ I think it is great for the safety of the young operator. Today's equipment even though easier to operate does require more knowledge. The youth have less practical experience, and farmers find it hard to spend the needed time. Many farm helpers do not live on farms
- ◆ If the State is pushing this Safety Class, they should teach the class.
- ◆ More activities, demonstrations or "hands on" exercises need to developed. A reaction time activity from last year was shipped to us but it didn't work. Older "students" need to be show that they can't know it all and that it doesn't always happen to the other guy who (of course) isn't as smart or quick or skilled as they are.
- ◆ Please contact dealerships (machinery) around the state and ask them to volunteer equipment to area classes when possible.
- ◆ With driving evaluation would be nice to have not only 2 wheel event, but we incorporated 4 wheel wagon as practice or you could have skid loader or some other machine. We really had a good group to initially do the 24 hour session, but you could tell they were getting "overcome" with knowledge that is why it would be OK to reduce to 12-15 hours.

Please provide any other comments related to the Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery program con't.

- ◆ The test questions need a good going over. Some of the questions were even hard for the instructors to follow.
If we could, find a better text book, this one is a little dated.
- ◆ The text needs changing - Many of the questions could be read more than one way. Questions should be easy to pick correct answer, not to confuse them with two or three that could be correct.
- ◆ Insurance companies need to be involved in marketing the course to their clients w/ children on the farm,. That will sell better than anything we can say in Extension.
- ◆ Hands on experience with proper supervision was a major part of our training. (Students of this age group need to physically & mentally experience safe operating procedures as well as on the spot corrections from instructors) Attention span of students in this age group will not allow them to endure as much lecture as adults can dish out.
- ◆ Look for opportunities to expand this program with the vocational technical college system statewide.
- ◆ It's a good program. Let's not forget that we're teaching tractor and machinery safety, not farmstead safety and the numerous other topics that can sneak in to fill the hours.
- ◆ Tired of county (Extension) office always being the bad guy on Tractor Safety - We don't make the rules, yet we are assumed to be the stick-in-the-mud when someone calls the last week of May and wants their kid in a class that ended 6 weeks ago. I'm not sure I want to spend time on a program that is so negative toward those who offer it.
- ◆ The tractor safety program is combined - two counties. The 2 Ag and 4-H Agents conduct the program. I served as coordinator, taught 2 sessions and helped administer the written and driving exam. My commitment included 6 hours of evening meetings, 8 hours of weekend meetings, and approximately 40 hours office admin. Mailings, contracts to find tractors, etc. - It's programs like these that do not allow me to have flexibility in my schedule. .
- ◆ Has the state explored the possibility of drivers education instructors working with this program?
- ◆ We have to consider students of all abilities, at our program we read the text to students. Try to use guest speaker, like implement dealers accident victims, police officer.
- ◆ Just keep up the good work and the types of materials you send, after all it is not always the youth that have an accident, we all take so much for granted and things just happen so fast and a life is lost (Thanks again)
- ◆ It would be helpful to have a class outline more detailed than the one in the Instructor's Manual.
- ◆ The text was difficult for some to understand and glean answers from.
The test was difficult to understand as far as the wording of questions.
- ◆ I'd like to have available for instruction, the ramp and remote tractor for demonstrations.

Please provide any other comments related to the Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery program, con't.

- ◆ We very much appreciate the opportunity to be able to apply for the safety grants which allowed us to purchase the audio-visual materials we needed.
- ◆ Great idea - keep it up. We would be willing to pay extra \$ for a package deal - one w/ video, overheads, a step-by-step guide - ready to use lessons - that would be a great help especially to those non-teachers of the course - it takes a lot of time to get all of the instructional material ready - talk to some of the people who have already done it and get them to share their instructional materials - then putting a packed like this together would not be very expensive.
- ◆ I believe that this is a very good course, but needs some fine tuning to add some more organizational structure. As I mentioned earlier, the student manual is very dated in appearance and has some text and graphic problems. We tried with the videos and field days to make the class more interesting. But as you can see from the student evaluations that are attached, more needs to be done.
- ◆ It should also be remembered that some students who take the course will not be from farms. Their parents are concerned that they learn how to safely use a small hop arm, garden, or lawn tractors/ equipment. We tried to keep our classes broad as possible to accommodate these students.
- ◆ We also believe that the course should stress more how to recognize unsafe situation and avoid or change them to be safe.
- ◆ A good program. Need to become careful not to remove too much flexibility in delivery of the course.
- ◆ Legislature should reduce required hours to 15 - 18. We need time to offer makeup sessions - with a 24 hours requirement, there is not time to offer make -up sessions.
- ◆ Appreciate all the help we got from the "U" in coordinating this!:
- ◆ Being involved with the Mechanical Science 4-H program has been very helpful to me as a tractor safety instructor. Thanks to that program - these really have a good relationship
- ◆ Overall the program and it's acceptance was good here in our county. But I'm sure we would have had 2X the number of students - keep it simple for compliance the more difficult the more people will resist changes in the law. It was a problems structuring the former class info - the 24 hour format. Attending 24 hours was a problem for some youth as the class stretched on for such a long time. (See our brochure). I'm still not sure about certifying youth (requiring them to attend 24 hours) to operated tractors and machines. I liked our old approach - certify youth for tractor operation for on farm/roads off family farms (working for others) Parents can do what they want with instructing their own children on their own farm - i.e. operation of machinery, but perhaps children under 16 should not operated machine off the family farms! For safety, liability sake. I believe there are enough youth 16 and over and adults in the community to operate machinery for others. We don't need to hire too young of youth to operated big, powerful machinery. We taught this same course for 25 plus years. We had tougher tests and a similar driving experience in 10 hours.

Please provide any other comments related to the Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery program, con't.

- ◆ Please keep sending the types of material for safety and the videos and we work through the Ext office & 4-H Agent
- ◆ There are too many logistics that commit many Extension resources. There may be a better organization such as the Dept of Transportation or private companies could do a better job of training and testing the participants.
- ◆ Text should be redone; hours examined; video time vs instruction time balanced
- ◆ Have at least 2 instructors one for classroom and one for tractor operation.
- ◆ Safety training is the most important lesson that we can teach our youth. It is very hard to live with the results of an accident knowing that is some simple precaution was taken, the accident or death could have been avoided.
- ◆ The training could be and probably should be an on-going effort. When I worked in a dealership, any customer clinic that I put on included a safety demonstration of some type.