

Roll Over Protection Structures

Background: The leading cause of deaths on farms is due to tractor accidents. A rollover protective structure (ROPS) is the cab or frame (the operator compartment) built to protect the tractor operator from injury caused by a rollover or turnover of the tractor. In Wisconsin, fewer than 50% of the tractors have this protection installed. The laws requiring ROPS to be standard on tractors didn't occur until 1985. If ROPS are used in conjunction with a seatbelt, they are shown to be 99% effective in preventing injury or death in the event of an overturn incident.

Currently the Marshfield Clinic's National Farm Medicine Center has a Rollover Protection Structures (ROPS) Rebate Program. This program was developed to encourage farmers to install ROPS on their tractors by offering a 70% (up to \$865) rebate on the purchase and installation of a ROPS. The current program is constrained due to the fact that the program runs completely on donated funds. More information can be found here: www.ropsr4u.com

Recently, 2019 Senate Bill 35 and Assembly Bill 31 were introduced and would make a grant available utilizing state funding for farmers to be reimbursed at least 70% of the cost of purchasing and installing rollover protection structures for farm tractors. This would be a voluntary program.

WFBF's Current Positions

WFBF currently does not have a policy statement addressing any aspect of rollover protection structures.

Probing Questions

Should WFBF support a state funded grant program to reimburse farmers to purchase and install rollover protection structures on farm tractors? Why or why not?

Should this program be voluntary? Mandatory?

Due to safety concerns for farmer welfare, should all farm tractors that are not currently equipped with rollover protection structures be required to do so at the farmers expense by a certain deadline?