

## Tractor Safety Program

### Summary:

1. The need for this course is written within federal ( [CFR 570.70](#) and [CFR 570.72](#)) and [state](#) statutes. This course is offered to youth between 12–16-year-olds in the state of Wisconsin. Wisconsin is the only state that offers certifications to 12- and 13-year-olds. Youth that are 14- to 16-year-olds are eligible to receive a federal certification stating that they can operate a piece of equipment for their family farm or their employer. For completion of the program youth must complete the written exam with a 70% score, complete and pass the driving exam, they must have 24 hours of instruction, youth 12+ receive the Wisconsin certificate signed by the course instructor, youth 14+ receive the Federal certificate signed by the course instructor and certifying authority.

### Steps to Develop a Youth Tractor and Machinery Program:

1. Certified Instructor (anyone with an Agricultural Education degree/certification)
  - a. They do not have to be an active teacher as long as they still have their certification
  - b. Most often a high school agriculture teacher or technical school instructor
2. Site for the program
  - a. Space for an in-class portion
  - b. Outdoor setting for driving exam and for teaching the functions of the equipment
  - c. Possible additional location for the safety/first aid portion of the program (firehouse)
3. Insurance policy that covers all sites on which you will be hosting the program
  - a. [Statewide Insurance](#)-linked is a sample policy from a county who used this policy earlier this year. However, make sure you talk with your own agents for what fits your counties needs the best.
  - b. [Liability waiver](#) for participant parents to sign
4. Curriculum (Gearing Up for Safety)
  - a. This can be accessed on the Purdue University website [here](#).
    - i. Exams, worksheets, quizzes, and teaching aids can be found there.
    - ii. Extension also has a [google drive](#) with additional materials in which you can request access to.
5. Setting a cost for the program
  - a. Things to consider in the price: space rental (if applicable), insurance, equipment, staffing for the program, meals, shirts, SMV Triangle or safety vest, writing utensils, snacks, and printed materials.
  - b. Consider asking local businesses for sponsorships for materials, scholarships for students, or for lunches.

- c. Consider working with the local FFA chapters.
  - d. Price ranges for the course are \$40-\$230
6. Grant Funding
- a. County Farm Bureaus or the local Rural Mutual Agent are qualified to apply for a grant through Rural Mutual.
  - b. Grant applications will be available January 1<sup>st</sup> and will close February 28<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Grants are limited to \$600 per program, if selected Rural Mutal is required to be listed as a lead sponsor.
  - d. Grant announcements will be made in mid-March.
7. Recruiting Students
- a. Share course information with the [Extension Tractor Safety Program Coordinator](#) so they can add the information to the [Youth Tractor Safety](#) website.
  - b. Advertise per typical methods used by the Farm Bureau
  - c. Consider reaching out to 4-H clubs and local FFA chapters for potential participants
8. Record Retention
- a. Maintain youth participation records (Spreadsheet with a password on it is probably the best way to keep track of the participants)
  - b. Any youth that needs a certificate replaced will be referred to the original program they attended.
    - i. The certificate can be found in extensions google drive

**Counties that already are involved in Tractor Safety Programs (this list may not include all county participants):**

Hosted: Dodge, Jefferson, Washington, Door (Co-Hosts with NTWC)

Sponsor: Racine (Burlington FFA), Calumet, Waushara (provides lunch and SMV signs), Adams (SMV signs), Green (sponsored some participants)

**Things to consider in the future:**

A central database where everyone who hosts a tractor safety program can track all the participants. As of right now, the certified instructors must track their participants in case, they need a replacement certificate or when they turn 14 to acquire their federal certification. The database must be a secure site because of the youth participants' information.

There has been a drop in the number of tractor safety programs being hosted in the state. This is due to the liability. Those that hosted and taught programs in the past are starting to fear the liability of offering it. This is mainly due to the lack of protection that the instructors have. Moving forward, amending the state legislation to add a line to the original tractor safety legislation that would include a protection for the instructor that would not hold them liable for an accident that occurs after a student has been certified.

For further information please contact:

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