

WHAT ARE ROPS?

ROPS, or rollover protective structures, are protective frames securely attached to a tractor for the purpose of preventing the operator from being crushed if the tractor overturns. ROPS were not available on new tractors until 1966; it wasn't until 1985 that the ASABE (American Society for Agricultural and Biological Engineers) standards, which are voluntary consensus standards, were revised to state that all tractors manufactured from that time forward "shall" have ROPS. Many old tractors are still used today and do not have ROPS.

National ROPS Rebate Program

The Public Health Problem

Healthy People 2020 goals include promoting the health and safety of people at work through prevention and early intervention. The occupational fatality rate for farmers is approximately 700% higher than other industries. Tractor rollovers are the leading cause of occupational agricultural deaths in the United States, with approximately 96 tractor operators killed due to rollovers in the U.S. each year. ROPS, when used with seatbelts, are 99 percent effective in preventing injury or death in the event of an overturn.

The Impact

Tractor rollovers result in a needless loss of thousands of lives, both adults and children, with huge associated social and financial costs including:

- Farmers involved in non-fatal tractor rollovers will lose an average of 70 work days.
- For every rollover fatality, there are 5 nonfatal injuries; 13% resulting in permanent disability.
- The cost of rollover fatalities in the United States is approximately \$115 million annually.

The National ROPS Rebate Program

The National ROPS Rebate Program is a collective initiative launched by the National Tractor Safety Coalition. The program can reimburse farmers for up to 70% of the cost of purchasing and installing a ROPS.

Program benefits:

In average, the cost of one fatality due to a tractor rollover is nearly \$1,000,000 dollars. In contrast, the average cost of a ROPS is only \$1,200 (\$391 after the rebate). This is a small price to pay to potentially save a life and a farm.



Resources:

ROPS Retrofit Program: www.ropsr4u.org

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH): <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/93-119.html>

The Kentucky ROPS Guide: <http://warehouse.ca.uky.edu/rops/ropshome.asp>