



ROLLOVER PROTECTIVE STRUCTURE (ROPS) INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions!

Q: Why do I need a rollover protective structure (ROPS) on my tractor?

A:

- Farm tractor overturns are the leading cause of tractor related fatalities.
- A ROPS when used with a seat belt is considered the single most effective way to reduce the number of overturn fatalities.

Q: Why can't I make my own ROPS for my tractor?

A:

- In an overturn situation, the ROPS must endure tremendous force, so it must be specifically engineered and tested prior to use. The ROPS is designed to flex just enough to maintain the integrity of the tractor while remaining rigid enough to protect the operator.
- Factory built ROPS have passed government standards.
- Your safety is of the utmost importance. Factory retro-fits give you the best possible chance of surviving a tractor overturn.

Q: What if I buy a used ROPS for my tractor?

A:

- The used ROPS may not be the right model or fit for your tractor, even if it came off of the same model.
- The used ROPS may have been involved in a previous incident that compromised its integrity.

Q: Why can't I install the factory retro-fit ROPS on my tractor?

A:

- Along with precise engineering, ROPS also have special mounting hardware that must be set exactly to factory specifications.
- Your dealer has factory equipment to ensure proper ROPS installation.
- Ask your dealer to use only the factory hardware.

Q: Why do I need a seat belt installed with my ROPS?

A:

- The ROPS provides a "zone of protection" for the operator. The seat belt is the best means of keeping the operator in the protected area in the event of a tractor overturn.
- The ROPS can become a deadly hazard if the seat belt is not used.
- Make sure your dealer installs the best seat belt available.

Q: What if my dealer does not have a ROPS for my tractor?

A:

- See if they can order one from another company, or try another area dealer.
- Call NC Farm Bureau Safety at (919) 783-4310
- Seriously consider buying a newer tractor with a ROPS already installed. Your safety is worth the expense.

References:

National Safety Council. *Accident Facts*, 1997 edition, Itasca, IL

Wisconsin Rural Health Research Center. *A Guide To Tractor Roll Bars And Other Rollover Protective Structures*, January 1993.