



# FOURTEEN COMMANDMENTS FOR TRACTOR OPERATORS

Farm Machinery Fact Sheet FM-12

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Hear Ye, Farm Tractor Operators

THOU SHALT present thyself to thy tractor fit and ready to operate it well and safely, thus reaping a handsome day's work and good health.

THOU SHALT never permit a gear to turn nor a wheel to roll until all guards and safety devices are in place to shield thee from harm.

THOU SHALT require thy small sons and daughters (and thy neighbor's offspring) to keep themselves apart from farm machinery.

THOU SHALT hitch drawbar loads low and forbid wrap-ping chain or cable about the axle, lest thy tractor wrap itself around its own axle and smother thee beneath.

THOU SHALT weight thy tractor's front to balance it if the drawbar be heavily burdened and also place upon the rear sufficient weight to effect balance when thy tractor is encumbered with a front-end loader.

THOU SHALT faithfully cause thine eyes to remain open to discern precisely where thee and thy tractor are going and, furthermore, to spy hidden obstacles and other hazards so thou canst avoid them.

THOU SHALT contain thy temper, even though the day goes foul and everything attempted conspireth against thee, as robust anger not only maketh thee look foolish and causeth thee to exclaim unkind sentiments, but also multiplieth thy prospects of coming to grief by accident.

THOU SHALT diminish thy speed on rough ground and when approaching ditches and turning comers, thereby smiting prospects of supporting thy tractor's weight with thy neck.

THOU SHALT interrupt the flow of power before exploring, reaching or poking about in thy machinery, if thou treasure thy limbs.

THOU SHALT mind thy manners on the roadway, acting courteously to highway travelers by not entering the roadway until after thou hast established that the way is clear, by always signaling what thou art contriving to do, and by decorating the rear of thy machinery with an

SMV emblem, to proclaim that thou art proceeding slowly.

THOU SHALT render thy tractor out of gear and stoutly set the brakes before dismounting.

THOU SHALT NOT permit thy offspring to perform tasks without first ascertaining if they are capable in body and temperament and are sufficiently trained to operate a tractor without risk.

THOU SHALT enlist a protective cab or frame to assist thee in surviving should thy tractor tumble over despite thy good intentions.

THOU SHALT respect thy tractor, keep it well, and not demand more than it can deliver, nor require that it labor under burdens better suited to a huskier steed least it repay thy maltreatment with low performance, mechanical troubles and accidents.

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