



Farm Safety Update

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Tractor Rollover Protection Pilot Grant Program

MS17.119

State Appropriations

- FY 17: \$250,000
- FY 18: \$150,000

Eligible Applicants

- Minnesota farmers and schools that retrofit tractors built before 1987 with ROPS that meet or exceed [SAE International Standard J2194](#)

Grant Amount

- At least 70 percent of the cost of purchasing, shipping, and installing a rollover protection kit – a roll bar and safety belt – limiting an applicant's cost per tractor to no more than \$500.

Completed retrofits: 392 tractors

293 different farmers, 1 school

63 counties with at least one retrofit

Average cost share payment: \$1,090

Average farmer share per tractor: \$344

- Most common tractor models
 - John Deere 4020 (125 tractors)
 - John Deere 3020 (63 tractors)

- Statutory authority was for a pilot program
 - The language expired June 30, 2019
 - To extend the program would require funding as well as reinstating the statutory language

In addition to tractors – grain bins and silos present significant safety risks for farmers and farm workers

- Statistics are often estimates, many farm accidents go unreported because most employee safety reporting, inspections, etc. are limited to entities with at least 10 employees
- Purdue University's Agricultural Safety and Health Program estimates that approximately 30% of incidents go unreported.

5-year national average is 27 confined space fatalities per year

Grain bins involved in 15 of the 27 fatalities in 2018

- *Source: 2018 Summary of US Agricultural Confined Space-Related Injuries and Fatalities, Purdue University Agricultural Safety and Health Program*

Based on media reports, MN had at least 8 confined space fatalities in 2019

What makes 2019-2020 especially dangerous?

- 2019 harvest was very late and very wet
- High moisture content of stored grain which could lead to additional clumping and mold
- High farm stress levels that contribute to mistakes

Thank you!

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