Tractor safety
TRACTOR SAFETY

THE following terse hints on tractor safety have been prepared by the National Safety Council of Australia following upon a marked increase in the number of farm accidents. Statistics of farm accidents are not separately recorded in Australia, but figures from Britain and the U.S.A. indicate that a large percentage of the fatalities which have occurred on farms are due to lack of care in operating machinery.

General Precautions.
Read and act on maker's operating instructions.
Wear close-fitting clothes, avoid scarves or flapping garments.
Keep in place shield and safety guards provided by the makers.
Only operators should ride on the tractor.
Don't carry "joyriders"—especially children.
Keep children away from machines.
Do not continue to operate a tractor while sitting in an awkward or uncomfortable position.
If a radio is fitted, never let it distract your attention.
Stop engines before servicing or fuelling machines.
Take special care should it be necessary to make adjustments with the engine running.
Apply brakes, lower blades, scoop bowls and attachments before leaving machine.

Fuel and Fire.
Stop engines before fuelling.
Keep naked lights and fires away from fuel.
When re-fuelling, avoid spilling fuel.
Keep a metal to metal contact between the filling hose, or can and the fuel tank.
Check for leaking fuel which may be a fire danger; have any faults repaired.
If re-fuelling with cans, keep them clear of battery terminals.
Keep on the tractor a fully-charged fire extinguisher of the type required by law.
Comply with the law in the fitting of spark arrestors. Keep the arrestor cleaned and well maintained and, if necessary, be prepared to replace it each season.
Don't throw matches or cigarette butts to the ground. Put them in a suitable container.

Starting.
Read the makers' instruction books and become familiar with the machine controls and instruments. Follow the maker's advice.
Place all controls, gear levers, and power take off in the neutral position before starting the engine.
Use the self-starter from the seat. If it is necessary to start by the crank handle, keep thumb on the same side of the handle as the fingers and pull upwards.
Don't run the engine in a closed shed. Carbon monoxide in the exhaust gases has neither colour nor smell, but can kill in an enclosed space.

Brakes.
Keep brakes adjusted; see that the brakes on both wheels are adjusted evenly on a wheel tractor.
Fit independent brakes on trailers.
Always latch the brake pedals together when driving the tractor in high gear.
Apply and fasten brakes before leaving machines.

Reversing and Turning.
When reversing, be sure your vision is never obscured.
Watch out for children.
Reduce speed before making a turn or before applying the turning brakes.
Remember that the danger of the tractor's overturning increases four times when the speed is doubled.

**Speed and Safety.**

Drive at safe speeds always.
Drive at speeds low enough to ensure complete control, especially over rough ground. Cross ditches at right angles.
Keep firm hold on steering wheel.
When breaking new ground, be sure the way is clear through bracken and brush before proceeding.
When travelling on a road or highway, tractors and implements should comply with the Motor Car Act, particularly with regard to lighting and width of tow.
Be particularly careful and watchful when negotiating level crossings. Stop—
and change into low gear before crossing.
Be careful not to follow too closely behind other tractors or implements.
When travelling, see that equipment is well clear of the ground, but does not obstruct your vision.

**Hillsides and Slopes.**

Be careful on hillsides as tractors can be rolled over.
Engage the clutch gently when going uphill or pulling out of a ditch. Make sure the clutch can be disengaged promptly.
Approach descents cautiously. Keep the tractor in low gear when going down steep slopes. Watch out for jack-knifing with towed equipment.
Set tractor wheels to the widest setting possible for the job and watch for holes, particularly on hillsides or when turning, which might overturn the tractor.
When one-way ploughing on hillsides, throw the soil uphill thus ensuring that the wheel is in the furrow.
Special care should be taken on ditch banks, uneven ground and when using the buck-rakes on silage stacks.

**Towing and Pulling.**

Don't snatch at loads as tractors can be overturned. Take up slack steadily.
Keep cables, chains and pulling gear in good order.
Take care when dragging looped chains or cables. Keep other people clear of all towing gear.

When using a chain or cable to tow an implement, pull only in line with the centre line of the tractor and pull from the maker's tow bar.
Be careful where or how you stand between the tractor and implement and when moving the tractor backward or forward.
Exercise special care when making sharp turns and fit longer hitches when necessary.
When pulling in reverse, use front towing hook.

**Stopping and Parking.**

Apply brakes, lower blades, scoop bowls and attachments before leaving machines.
Remove ignition or starter keys when not using the unit.
Be warned; diesel engines when in gear have been known to start on slight movement of the tractor.
Do not leave a tractor on a steep slope. But if it can't be avoided, park side on and leave in low or reverse gear.
Never dismount from the tractor whilst it is in motion. Apply the parking brakes.
Close the hand throttle, brake both wheels simultaneously and disregard the clutch when making an emergency stop.
If you must dismount from a tractor whilst the engine is running, always make sure that the transmission gear shift lever is in the neutral position. Where a fly-wheel master clutch (hand lever operated) is fitted, see that it is positively engaged.

**When Stationary.**

Operate the clutch and power take-off from the tractor seat.
Always see that the tractor is well grounded and checked before using it for belt work.
When clearing a clogged cutter-bar, make certain that the drive is disengaged.
Do not fasten logs to the wheels of a bogged tractor; either dig the wheels out, jack them up, or tow the machine out.
Keep pitchforks and other tools away from belts and moving parts of machines.
Do not put on or remove belt when pulley is in motion.

**Servicing.**

Stop the engine before greasing, servicing or fuelling.
Be careful in removing the radiator cap if a pressurised cooling system is used, or if the motor is overheated. Chock the wheels before jacking up. Before crawling under the machine, use safety packing as well as jacks.

**Hitching of Implements.**

Fit attachments correctly—avoid makeshift methods. Always use the draw bar or three point linkage or other correct position for attaching equipment. Avoid using temporary slings around the axle housings. Do not alter the manufacturer's positioning of the draw bar. When a power implement is attached to the tractor, be certain that all power drive shielding is in place.

**Logging and Earthmoving.**

Tractors used in the logging industry should be fitted with adequate canopies. Never back tractors against trees to winch logs, particularly if the trees have dry heads. When pulling logs, be careful of dry or rotted timber. Never use a dozer blade to push a tree with a dry head, unless the machine has an adequate canopy. Do not use wheel tractors for direct pulling out of trees; use block and tackle, or winch. When it is necessary to raise the blade of a bull-dozer to make adjustments, place adequate packing under the blade. Block up dozer-blades or scoop bowls before changing cutting edges. Chock tailgate before attempting to clear obstructions from scoop bowls. Stop engine to adjust winches and power control units. Be careful on slopes and hillsides to avoid jack-knifing. Lower scoop bowls and blades before leaving the machine. Do not leave loose wires or cables on machines. Wind the loose ends of ropes or cables on to their respective power control unit or winch drums and tie the ends securely.

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**PEDIGREE SEED**

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. L. F. Kelly), has advised that supplies of pedigree seed of wheat, oats and barley will be available for distribution from the forthcoming harvest at the Department’s Research Stations. Varieties available this season will be:

**WHEAT.**

(Midseason)—Baroota Wonder (hay variety); Bencubbin, Bencubbin 48 (rust-resistant); Eureka (rust-resistant); Kondut.

(Early Midseason)—Moora.

(Early)—Gabo (rust-resistant); Wongoondy (rust-resistant); Insignia 49 (rust-resistant).

(Very Early)—Bungulla.

**OATS.**

(Late)—Algerian.

(Midseason)—Avon; Dale.

(Early)—Ballidu; Kent.

**BARLEY.**

Beecher; Prior.

Prices per bag of three bushels inclusive of rail freight to farmer’s siding will be:

- Wheat, 60s.; Oats, 40s.; Barley, 55s.; Barley (pickled seed), 58s.

Prompt attention to orders will be ensured if the following directions are observed by intending applicants:

1. Make early application direct to the Department of Agriculture, St. George’s Terrace, Perth.
2. Give clearly full name, postal address, and siding to which the seed is to be railed.
3. As soon as possible after receipt of account, remittance should be forwarded. Statements are sent out in order of receipt of the application. No definite reservations can be made until the seed is paid for.

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