



NAGCAT TRACTOR OPERATION CHART

HOSTA Task Sheet 4.3

Core

NATIONAL SAFE TRACTOR AND MACHINERY OPERATION PROGRAM

Introduction

Farm families often provide much of the labor for the operation of the farm. Farm work may start early in a child's life as a means of learning responsibility and contributing to the productivity of the farm.

Tractor operation can come at an early age for many farm youth because tractors are a large part of how farm work is done. Tractor work can range from the simple to the complex.

This task sheet presents a Tractor Operation Chart as a guide to appropriate tractor work for young tractor operators.

Youth and Tractors

Examples of common jobs performed by youth operating tractors include:

- Mowing pastures, fields, yards and lanes
- Raking and baling hay and straw
- Towing hay and grain wagons between fields and storage
- Picking rocks and other obstacles from fields using a front-end loader
- Scraping manure from barn floors with a tractor-mounted blade
- Using the tractor to power augers and elevators during unloading operations
- Pulling old fence posts and tree stumps out of the ground with log chains

Several hazards can arise during the course of these and other jobs that involve tractor use. Many times the larger the tractor, the more complex the operation of that tractor becomes. Additionally, large and complex equipment may be attached to and powered by the tractor.

Young tractor operators do not usually have the experience needed to skillfully and safely operate large and complex combinations of tractors and machinery.

North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) Tractor Operation Chart

Farm injury prevention specialists from the U.S. and Canada have developed consensus opinion that a guide to tractor operations by age groups is a way of matching youthful capabilities with tractor operation jobs. The NAGCAT chart is presented on the reverse side of this task sheet.

You can use this chart:

- To see if you have been doing jobs with the size tractor that matches your age
- To guide an employer in determining what they can reasonably expect a person of your age to do with various types and sizes of tractors

It is common for youths to be over confident in their ability to react safely to new or unexpected hazard situations with tractors.



Figure 4.3.a. Oftentimes the youthful farm worker is willing to do more work than his or her mental and physical maturity will safely permit. Youth should never operate a tractor without a ROPS and seat belt.

Learning Goal

- To review safety recommendations in matching tractor size and tasks with the age of the tractor operator

Related Task Sheets:

Safety and Health Regulations	1.2
Injuries Involving Youth	2.1
Age-Appropriate Tasks	2.4

Refer to the specific guideline for recommended supervision	Size of Tractor →				
	LAWN & GARDEN less than 20hp	SMALL 20hp to 70hp	MEDIUM/LARGE more than 70hp	ARTICULATED	
Increased Complexity of Job →	OPERATING A FARM TRACTOR (no equipment attached)	12-13 years	12-13 years	14-15 years	16+ years
	TRAILED IMPLEMENT fieldwork	12-13 years	12-13 years	14-15 years	16+ years
	3-POINT IMPLEMENTS fieldwork	12-13 years	14-15 years	14-15 years	16+ years
	REMOTE HYDRAULICS fieldwork	14-15 years	14-15 years	14-15 years	16+ years
	PTO-POWERED IMPLEMENTS fieldwork	14-15 years	14-15 years	14-15 years	16+ years
	TRACTOR-MOUNTED FRONT-END LOADER	14-15 years	16+ years	16+ years	16+ years
	WORKING IN AN ORCHARD	14-15 years	16+ years	16+ years	16+ years
	WORKING INSIDE BUILDINGS	14-15 years	16+ years	16+ years	16+ years
	DRIVING ON PUBLIC ROADS*	N/A	16+ years	16+ years	16+ years
	PULLING OVERSIZED OR OVERWEIGHT LOAD	<p style="text-align: center;">Due to increased hazard and complexity, these jobs should not be assigned to children.</p>			
	HITCHING TRACTOR TO MOVE STUCK OR IMMOVABLE OBJECTS				
	SIMULTANEOUS USE OF MULTIPLE VEHICLES				
	ADDITIONAL PERSONS WORKING ON A TRAILING IMPLEMENT				
PESTICIDE OR ANHYDROUS AMMONIA APPLICATION*					

*Follow State/Providence Laws

References

1. [www.nagcat.org/Click on Guidelines/Select T1 Tractor Operation Chart, December 2002.](http://www.nagcat.org/Click on Guidelines/Select T1 Tractor Operation Chart, December 2002)
2. Cooperative Extension Service of your State's Land Grant University.

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Credits

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