

Developing Safe Farming Practices



**Farm
Advisory
Service**

Guide 5B: Machinery Maintenance and Training

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Many serious incidents on farms involve machinery, often during maintenance or as a result of poor maintenance. It is important that everyone involved in operating and maintaining machinery is trained to be aware of the hazards and the correct procedures to prevent incidents.

MAINTENANCE:

Follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedules. When you are planning to carry out maintenance operations follow the 'Safe Stop' procedure (see Guide 5A) and make sure:

- workers are trained to do the job
- adequate tools, instructions, and manuals are provided for maintaining, adjusting, cleaning and unblocking machines
- safe working practices are devised and used
- make sure brakes are applied and wheels chocked
- all movement has stopped before removing any guards
- stored energy is released safely before you start work
- prop raised bodies and do not rely on hydraulic systems for support

Power take-off (PTO) and power take off drive shafts. Check that the guard is:

- made to a recognised standard such as BS EN ISO 5674
- the correct size and length for the shaft, both when closed and when extended
- a non-rotating type, with the restraining device in place
- checked regularly and properly maintained: clean and lubricate guards in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- supported when not connected, do not rest it on the drawbar or drop it on the ground and do not suspend it by the restraining device
- safe from damage – don't turn too sharply and link arms may need adjusting

Remember
'Safe Stop'

Always
Disengage the power drive first

Never
Clear blockages from a PTO-driven machine while it is running



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TRAINING:

Safety training is all about preventing farm accidents. It is important to work towards implementing safer practices on the farm and to gain implement-specific skill sets.

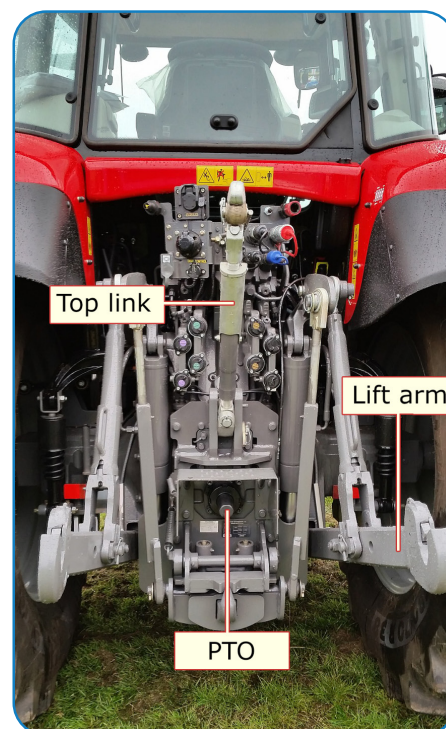
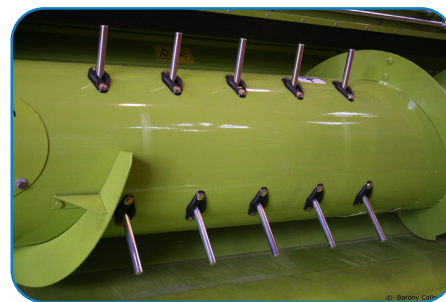
What training is required?

- Take account of the capabilities, knowledge and experience of workers
- Temporary/casual workers will be unfamiliar with the workplace and will be more at risk
- Young employees are particularly vulnerable to accidents, so their training should be a priority
- Some people's skills may decline over time, so consider refresher training
- New machinery and equipment may require new skills
- Inexperienced employees need supervision following training

Training methods:

- on-the-job training delivered by experienced workers
- sessions with qualified instructors
- attending local colleges or training centres
- computer-based learning

Recognised standards of formal training are normally required for using chainsaws, tree work, applying pesticides, all-terrain vehicles, forklift trucks or telescopic handlers, sheep dipping and first aid.



https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg270.htm	Farmwise – Your essential guide to health and safety in agriculture
www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/maintenance-1.htm	Safe maintenance
www.nfuonline.com/cross-sector/farm-business/transport/transport-news/farm-vehicle-health-check-scheme/	Farm Vehicle Health Check
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais40.htm	PTOs and PTO drive shafts
www.lantra.co.uk/our-courses	LANTRA training courses
www.nfyfc.org.uk/thecurve	Farm safety training through YFC (Young Farmers' Club)
www.yellowwellies.org/resources/	Safety Guides: Young farmers / Parents / Temporary workers