



Agricultural Safety Message to Rural Citizens in Alabama

Agriculture remains one of the most hazardous occupations in America. The agricultural safety training program at Auburn University supported by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has witnessed a reduction of farm work–related fatalities in Alabama from an average of 12 in 2001 to fewer than three since 2004. Commercial agriculture, including horticultural businesses, have responded to the safety training effort with associated benefits, but citizens living in rural Alabama on acreage requiring farm tractor use are currently the most vulnerable to tractor fatalities. Citizens who are living on rural acreage, called acreage owners, currently account for approximately two-thirds of all agricultural work–related fatalities using farm tractors in Alabama since 2004. If you are one of Alabama’s acreage owners and or use a farm tractor you are encouraged to access the ACES Web site for farm safety training at <http://www.aces.edu/farmsafety>. There is a fact sheet on safe tractor operations, ANR-1260, that you can click on and copy to help make you or a friend, neighbor, relative or loved one understand how to work safer when using farm tractors. If you need special assistance, please call the safety coordinator, Jesse LaPrade. He wants to hear from you. His contact information is on the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Web site shown above.