



# IRSHC Safety Harvest

July/August, 1999

## IRSHC Cosponsors New Scholarship Willsey Scholarship assists students who have lost a parent in a farm-related accident

The Indiana Rural Safety and Health Council has long been involved in the battle to prevent farm-related injuries and fatalities. Now IRSHC, along with Mrs. F.R. (Helen) Willsey, is lending a helping hand to some of the survivors of farm-related tragedies. It is only fitting that IRSHC should help sponsor a scholarship that is named after one of the organization's strongest past supporters, F.R. "Dick" Willsey. Scholarships will be provided to Purdue students who have lost a parent due to a farm-related accident or injury.

### The Willsey Legacy

In 1946, Dick Willsey became one of the original three Safety Specialists employed by the Land Grant University system to address the tremendous human and economic losses associated with agricultural injuries and fatalities. He continued as Purdue's Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist for the next 30 years and established the program as a leader in the field. His programs reached practically every farm and rural family in the state and were modeled throughout the country.

Dr. Willsey was a strong believer in focusing on children and youth as a key to developing long-term solu-

tions to the problem of unintentional injuries. He worked tirelessly to incorporate safety education into 4-H and FFA programs both at the state and national levels.



F.R. "Dick" Willsey

The scholarship in Dick Willsey's memory carries on his legacy of helping reduce the destructive impact of farm-related injuries. Students receiving the Willsey Scholarship will have certainly suffered emotionally, and it is likely that they will have also suffered financially due to loss of one or more parent.

### Scholarship Criteria

The priority for use of the Willsey Memorial Fund will be the award-

ing of scholarships to any full-time undergraduate student at Purdue University who has had a parent lose his or her life as the result of a farm-related injury. Preference will be given to residents of the state of Indiana. The maximum award will be \$1,000 per year, and a recipient may receive the award more than once.

If earnings from the endowment allow, or no undergraduate student scholarships are awarded, proposals may be considered from graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in the field of agricultural safety and health to support their participation in national meetings of relevant professional societies.

### Additional Information

It is anticipated that the first Willsey Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2000. If you would like more information about the scholarship, are interested in applying, or would like to contribute to the Willsey Memorial fund, please contact Bill Field at (765) 494-1191.

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# Don't "Flip" Over Roadside Mowing

By Bill Field, Purdue Agricultural Safety & Health Specialist

Tractor-related accidents are the most common source of agricultural work-related injuries, and they often result in a fatality. One activity frequently associated with tractor injuries is mowing roadsides or ditch banks. Often, older tractors with less stability and that do not have roll-over protective structures (ROPS) are involved. In fact, over two-thirds of tractors sold before 1985 did not come equipped with ROPS.

ROPS do not prevent roll-overs, but are designed to protect the operator in the event of a roll-over. In over twenty years of data gath-

ered by Purdue's Agricultural Safety and Health Program, not a single fatality was identified on a ROPS-equipped tractor that overturned.

If you mow ditch banks, roadsides, or other steep areas, consider only using ROPS-equipped tractors that also have a seat belt. Never allow extra riders, and avoid areas that are too steep. Consider planting permanent ground cover in such areas to reduce the need for mowing.

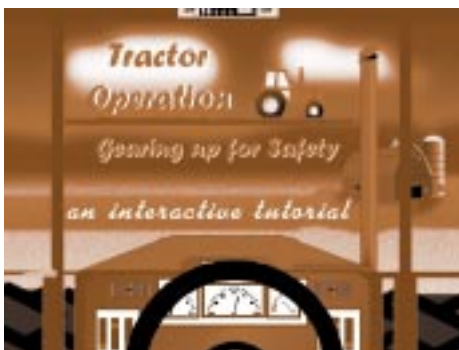


Many older tractors can now be retrofitted with specially designed ROPS kits. Check with your local dealer about cost and availability. It's a great investment for you and your tractor!

## Tractor Safety CD Hits the Road

The subject of tractor safety can be pretty boring, especially to active high school students, and especially if they're trying to learn from a dry text book. Purdue Professor Roger Tormoehlen is changing all that. He and his team of computer experts have developed a new, interactive tractor safety training CD that makes learning almost as fun as trying out a new John Deere.

*Tractor Operation: Gearing up for Safety* is full of high quality pictures,



colorful graphics, video clips, 3-D animation, and even audio bites such as the sound of a running tractor. Users of the program can learn tractor safety facts in five crucial areas: *rollovers and ROPS, extra riders, hitching and unhitching, worker/machine environment, and hand signals*. In addition, there's a review section that can be taken when all other sections have been completed.

After choosing a subject, students are given a variety of multiple choice questions or exercises to test knowledge in that particular area. To move to the next screen, the user must complete the given task correctly.

There are also video clips, such as simulated tractor rollovers or runovers, to illustrate the point at hand. In addition, 3-D animations

add to the learning. For example, in one section, the student is asked to click and drag a tractor weight icon to the front of a tractor image; the screen then changes to show how the weight would affect the center of gravity on a real tractor.

Though designed for middle school and high school aged youth, the program can be used with a variety of other audiences. In testing the CD with high schools students, it was found to be significantly more effective in relaying concepts than comparable printed or worldwide web materials.

For a preview of this tool, check out [www.four-h.purdue.edu/youth/Handsig.html](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/youth/Handsig.html) on the worldwide web. The price of this CD is \$10. For more information on ordering, contact IRSHC at (765) 494-5013.