The role of an instructor for the youth enrolled in an agricultural safety program is a serious endeavor, that brings with it significant responsibilities. What is taught will have a significant impact on the future skills, behaviors, and attitudes of the young people participating in the class.

At the completion of the Gearing Up for Safety training some of the youth in the class, those 14 and 15, will be eligible to be certified for employment operating tractors and some hazardous machinery.

This valuable instruction will contribute towards reducing the potential for injury as these young people begin work in agricultural production.
GEARING UP FOR SAFETY

This resource is designed to provide an instructor with the necessary tools for organizing and conducting a production agriculture safety training program for youth. The program meets the current training requirements under federal child labor laws when working in an agricultural setting. It can also be used to provide safety training for youth from family farms and beginning workers exempt from current child labor laws. This material covers both tractor and machinery operation, as well as safety information on ATVs, skid steer loaders, agricultural confined spaces, livestock handling, and emergency response.

The program is designed to be administered through the Cooperative Extension Service (4-H) and high school agricultural education training programs nationwide, and meets the current safety training regulations prescribed under the Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture (HOOA). A glossary containing hundreds of technical terms, each with a color image and brief description, allows quick access to definitions of new or unfamiliar terms. Also included are all of the necessary evaluation tools to assess each student’s knowledge of the curriculum materials; ability to perform a pre-operational safety inspection; and ability to safely operate a tractor through a standardized obstacle course.

Program Leader’s Curriculum Includes:

• Suggested teaching aids to be assembled prior to teaching the lessons.
• A list of the core competencies that each student should master.
• Lesson content outlines that include supplemental background information.
• Activity worksheets designed for use during classroom discussion.
• Selected review questions.
• 15 interactive and engaging PowerPoint presentations.
• Hands-on testing procedures
• A collection of more than 95 farm injury case studies that can be used for classroom discussion.

The 15 Lessons

1. General Farm and Ranch Safety Overview
2. Tractor Component Basics
3. Tractor Pre-Operational Procedures
4. Tractor Operation Basics
5. Tractor-Powered Implements
6. Self-Propelled Agricultural Equipment
7. Operating Agricultural Equipment on Public Roads
8. Repairing Agricultural Equipment
9. ATV & Utility Vehicle Operation
10. Skid Steer Loader, Telehandler and Forklift Operation
11. Confined Spaces in Agriculture
12. Grain Storage and Handling Facilities
13. Working with Animals
14. First-Aid & Emergency Response
15. General Farm and Ranch Hazards