

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

Using the set of desired core competencies, the original design team developed a detailed subject matter outline to meet the minimum instruction required by the HOOA. The outline went through an extensive review in 2018-2020 by a new curriculum advisory team and external reviewers. The 2020 version now consisted of 15 lessons that addresses the knowledge-based competencies and one unit designed to assess the student's ability to demonstrate safe operator skills. The lessons are organized such that comparable topics are presented together and in a logical sequence. Unlike prior curricula, the contents focus primarily on critical safety-related information and skills with less attention given to general maintenance and/or repair of agricultural tractors and equipment, except where these activities expose the operator to a substantial risk of injury. In other words, the GEARING UP FOR SAFETY curriculum is designed to produce safer operators and workers, not skilled mechanics or technicians.

The design team chose to make significant use of graphics, a well-documented successful teaching methodology, throughout the curriculum. The importance of graphics became even more evident when field testing of the curriculum showed a large number of youth in the target audience demonstrating lower than anticipated literacy skills.

