# Tractor Safety

## Objective
Learn about the various types of farm machinery that are commonly used on a farm and how the farmer must be responsible and safe when using them.

## Getting Started
Ask the children to name different types of farm machinery and what each piece of machinery does use the below table as a prompt guide.

Write the answers on the board. When tractor is mentioned, underline it - **Tractors**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm Machinery</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tractors</strong></td>
<td>Used on farms to pull equipment such as ploughs, harrows, slurry agitators, etc.</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Tractor" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plough</strong></td>
<td>Digs up the earth to loosen the soil or before the farmer sows the next crop in their field</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Plough" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trailers</strong></td>
<td>Normally pulled by a tractor and used to carry a variety of products around the farm, such as grain and food crops.</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Trailer" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combine Harvester</strong></td>
<td>Cuts and harvests grain and cereal crops.</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Combine Harvester" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slurry / Muck spreader</strong></td>
<td>Spreads slurry across the farmer's fields</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Slurry Muck spreader" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultivator / Tillers</strong></td>
<td>Used after ploughing to break down the soil and prepare it for sowing seed.</td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Cultivator" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slurry agitator</strong></td>
<td>A slurry agitator is used to mix (agitator) slurry which is kept in the slurry tank / pit.</td>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Slurry agitator" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mowers</strong></td>
<td>Cuts grass when making hay, silage, haylage. Can also be used to keep fields tidy</td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Mowers" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topper</strong></td>
<td>Used to keep fields tidy by cutting weeds weeds and long grasses, rushes, etc.</td>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Topper" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sprayer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image10" alt="Sprayer" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diet Feeder</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image11" alt="Diet Feeder" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quad Bike</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image12" alt="Quad Bike" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sprays fertilisers or pesticides on crops to keep them healthy

Hay Turner
When grass has been cut, the turner is used to turn the grass so it can dry in the sun and be baled for hay.

A diet feeder weighs, mixes, and shares out animal feed. Mostly used for cattle feeding and in particular dairy cattle.

Baler
Used to bale hay and straw. Bales can be round, small rectangle or larger rectangle.

4 wheel motorised bike used to drive across fields. They are only not suitable for passengers and safety equipment must be worn.

Sower
Used to sow crop seeds such as barley, oats and wheat

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**Tractors**

**Types / brands**
- John Deere
- New Holland
- Massey Ferguson
- Deutz
- McCormick
- Fendt
- Claas
- Ford
- Case
- David Brown
- Landini
- Zetor
- Fiat
- Valtra
- International

*Have we missed any??*

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**Staying Safe**

1. **Blindspots – You cannot be seen**

Remind the children never to stand near a moving tractor! Visibility can be limited for farmers when sitting high up in tractors, combine harvesters, etc. They must **NEVER** play near a moving tractor or any other type of farm machinery as the farmer may not see them. Look at the picture below and note where the blind spots are located.

   **FRONT:**

   ![Viewing Area](http://www.m-cna.com)

   **BLIND AREA**

   ![Blind Area](http://www.m-cna.com)

See: [http://www.m-cna.com](http://www.m-cna.com)
2. Checklist – all farmers should check the following before using their tractor

- Engine oil – avoid engine damage;
- Tyres – good tyres give good control;
- Clean the steps into the cab of mud so no one slips
- Handbrake – prevent tractor rolling when on an incline;
- Clean cab floor – to avoid the risk of pedals jamming;
- Clean all windows for good visibility;
- Check lights and mirrors for visibility;
- Equipment, such as Power Take Off (PTO) is fitted correctly! the PTO must have a guard and the shaft must be covered.

3. What age are you?

**Under 7 Years:** you are not permitted in Ireland to be a passenger in a tractor.

**7 Years:** The age you are permitted in Ireland to be a passenger in a tractor as long as there is a passenger seat and seat belt.

**14 Years:** You may drive a tractor on the farm only and only after completing one day's safety training

**16 Years:** You may drive a tractor on the road but only after completing one day's safety training

4. What to wear:

Seat belts – The Safety Zone

Where the farmer sits in a tractor is called the cab. Tractors are very bouncy, so all drivers and passengers should wear a seat belt to keep them safe inside the tractor.

Remind the children about why they wear a seat belt in a car?

**Follow up activities** - Now test what you know with some tractor safety with lesson plans and activities, such as our white board and PC games: *Farm Yard Safety and Off to Work!*