



ROPS Effectiveness – Barriers & Motivators

Tractor rollovers have a high potential for causing a fatality or a seriously disabling injury when they occur. The good news is that prevention efforts have a high “payback” value because the best way to protect yourself in the case of a tractor roll-over is to pair a ROPS with seatbelts. This life saving combination is 99% effective.

There are numerous studies confirming the effectiveness of ROPS, however there seem to be several barriers to farmers’ retrofitting their older tractors with ROPS. The most common barriers are the costs associated with retrofitting, lack of hills on their property, the time it would take to retrofit, availability of a retrofit, and the notion that their experience would avoid a rollover.

The most common motivators that encourage farmers to retrofit include existing ditches and hills on the farm as well as the concern around liability.

The ROPS Pilot Project is a key element of the Canadian AgriSafety Program. It is expected that this pilot project will begin to break down the barriers and provide effective motivators for farmers to install ROPS.

It will provide designs that are:

- Affordable
- Easy to get
- Easy to build
- Easy to install
- SAFE
- Meet regulation and liability requirements

The ROPS Pilot Project will address regulations and liability, develop engineered drawings, conduct trial builds and installations, and provide the testing of farmer built structures. Trials will take place in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, British Columbia, and Manitoba.

The *Low Cost Roll-Over Protective Structures Intervention Project* is one part of Agrivita Canada Inc.’s Canadian AgriSafety Applied Research Program, lead by a national team of researchers from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI), the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA), the University of Alberta, the Injury Prevention Centre (IPC, formerly ACICR), and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA).

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