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The Economics of Rollover Protective Structures

Tractor rollovers have a high potential for causing a fatality or a seriously disabling injury when they occur. Prevention efforts have a high “payback” value.

In spite of the payback value of using ROPS, North American farmers still say that the cost of retrofitting is one of the main reasons they don't install ROPS. Cost, however, is not the only barrier. Availability of the right fit for your tractor is essential if a retrofit is to be successfully installed.

Affordable and available ROPS plans are clearly warranted because retail ROPS are about \$1000. Custom ROPS offer cost benefits. This study will look at whether we can successfully remove some of the cost of building ROPS and make these plans readily available to farmers.

Engineered ROPS fabrication design drawings will be provided to farmers as a price reducing method. User friendly engineered ROPS drawings for the most common older tractors are being developed to test the reliability of building them with typical farm shop equipment.

Tractor rollover events account for 25% of farm-related deaths. The ultimate goal is to reduce the number of fatalities caused by tractor rollover events by providing a cost effective alternative.

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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