



NEWS RELEASE

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Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Certification Course Offered June 14 through 16

When working on a farm, safety is always important. There are additional concerns as youth start to work on farms for either their parents/guardians or an employer. The Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Certification program will be offered in June 14th through the 16th for eligible youth from Monroe and La Crosse counties. This safety program will satisfy the requirements of the Federal Hazardous Occupation Order for Youth under 16 and Wisconsin Law Act 455. The federal law applies to youth who are at least 14 years old but less than 16 and who intend to work on farms not owned or operated by their parents/guardians. The state law applies to youth under age 16 operating tractors on public roads for either their immediate family or for an employer. Youth under the age of 16 who intend to operate tractors on Wisconsin public roads must have this state certification. Youth must be at least 12 years old at time of enrollment for the program.

Due to continuing COVID-19 safety protocols, the course will be held at the **Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey, 17304 Havenwood Road, Sparta, WI**. The course will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Participants must attend the entire course and pass a written exam and demonstrate driving skills, including backing up, with a tractor and an attached two wheeled implement. Youth are encouraged to practice driving at home with adult supervision.

All COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed. Equipment and facilities will be sanitized in between participants. Participants must wear a mask over the nose and mouth at all times and follow social distancing rules. Hand sanitizer will be available. Participants will be sent home if these protocols are not followed.

Enrollment and payment deadline is June 7th. Participants enroll by contacting the Monroe County Extension Office 269-8722 to get registration paperwork e-mailed or mailed to them. Registration and payment is to be taken care of via US postal service, because we are implementing practices to minimize office traffic due to COVID-19. A registration fee of \$40.00 per person will be charged to cover the cost of course materials.

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