

ROPS Retrofit Guide

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Research shows that rollover protective structures (ROPS), when used in combination with a seatbelt, are 98 percent effective in preventing death and serious injury in the event of a tractor overturn. Nevertheless, more than a third of tractors in use today still do not have these lifesaving structures.

“We know rollover injuries are preventable,” said Mark Purschwitz, Extension professor and agricultural safety and health specialist for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. “We just need to help farmers see the importance of having ROPS on their equipment and then provide information that helps them do it.”

To that end, Purschwitz and his colleagues at UK developed The Kentucky ROPS Guide to help farmers locate retrofit ROPS for older tractors or even “gray market” tractors (i.e., non-U.S. made tractors imported without manufacturer authorization). The guide is now available online at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/rops>.

“The guide is designed for farmers, dealers and technicians, not only in Kentucky, but also throughout the United States and Canada,” he said. “It enables users to quickly determine what ROPS are available for which tractors, which companies supply retrofit ROPS, and how and where to obtain these ROPS.”

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