

# HIRING YOUTH FARMWORKERS UNDER THE AGE OF 16



AgHealth  
Central States  
Center for Agricultural  
Safety and Health

University of Nebraska  
Medical Center™

Are you considering hiring a teenager to work on your farm or agribusiness? If so, make sure you know the laws and regulations of employing youth.

## I want to hire a teenager, what do I need to know?

Several operations in ag are identified by the Federal Government as being hazardous for children under 16 years of age, including:

- Operating tractors larger than 20 horsepower
- Connecting and disconnecting implements to tractors
- Operating large farm implements (such as combines, balers, and mixers)

Youth under 16 years of age must complete the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) and received certification in order to legally perform these tasks as an employee, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture.

## How can a teenager get the NSTMOP Certification?

Each summer, we partner with the University of Nebraska Extension to offer the NSTMOP certification. The training consists of a Hands-On Safety Day (that can be completed in person or online) and an in-person 2-day Tractor and Equipment Safety Certification Course event. Participants must complete both parts of the training in order to receive certification. The course is open to anyone 14 and older at a low cost.




### Learn more:

Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit [go.unmc.edu/tractor-safety-training](https://go.unmc.edu/tractor-safety-training) to learn more about this course and find upcoming dates.



## GET IN TOUCH

402-552-3394  
[go.unmc.edu/cs-cash/cs-cash-contact](https://go.unmc.edu/cs-cash/cs-cash-contact)  
 [go.unmc.edu/cs-cash](https://go.unmc.edu/cs-cash)

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## Does my own child need a certification to work on our family farm?

In Nebraska, there are no legal requirements for a child working on their family's own farm. However, we highly recommend that youth working on any farm get the NSTMOP certification so they have a strong understanding of safe tractor operation and other safety practices on the farm.



## TRACTOR EQUIPMENT SAFETY CERTIFICATION COURSE

Annual "tractor safety" training courses are scheduled every year across Nebraska in May and June. This certification course is designed to train students how to avoid common tractor and equipment related hazards. Students will complete the first day of the course either by attending a hands-on event or online through the eXtension Foundation Campus website. After successfully completing the hands-on event or the online course and testing, the required driving test will be offered in a 2-day event at multiple locations across Nebraska.

Teens 14 or 15 years of age who work on farms, or others who are interested in learning about safe farming practices, are encouraged to register for the certification course. Students under age 14 are not eligible for certification, but the hands-on event is open to everyone in the community. Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Students will:

- Complete the Hands-On Safety Day (in person or online), then
- Complete the 2-day on-site Tractor Equipment Safety Certification Course, including training and driving exam

The onsite driving training and exam will include a driving test and equipment operation and ATV safety lessons. Students must demonstrate competence in hitching and unhitching equipment and driving a tractor and trailer through a standardized course. Instructors will also offer education about safe behaviors and laws for ATVs, utility-task vehicles (UTVs), and other off-road vehicles (ORVs).