

PTO Table Top Demonstration

To set up for this program make sure you have the following...

- Cordless screw driver
- Small board
- Small piece of denim

Start the program by talking about what a PTO is.

- The PTO or Power Take Off takes the power from the tractor and sends it down the shaft to operate the equipment that it is attached to.
- A PTO shaft runs many things on the farm.
 - It can run a mower, generator, posthole digger, feed wagon, auger and many other things.
- The PTO shaft works by spinning around very rapidly.
 - It can rotate anywhere from 6-16 times per second.
- If you are near it, you have the potential to be wrapped up.

Explain that there are safety precautions that should be taken around a PTO.

- The first one is to shut the machinery off, never make adjustments or repairs on a spinning PTO shaft.
 - The PTO won't wrap you up if it is not running.
- Next is to make sure that all of the shields and warning decals are in place and are in good condition.
 - If they aren't, replace them.
 - Most of the dealerships will replace them at a low cost.
- Make sure to wear appropriate clothing around a PTO.
 - Do not wear loose fitting clothing.
 - Baggy pants, shirt tails, skirts, long loose belts or strings, jewelry, long hair, etc.
 - All of these things have the potential to become entangled in the PTO shaft.
- Last but not least, always stay alert!
 - *This is the best safety advice you can have for any activity.*

Next tell Cecil Rockhold's story.

On January 31, 1993, Cecil went out to do his chores. It was a cold day so he put on a lot of clothing. Cecil climbed underneath his feed wagon with the PTO rotating to try to fix a problem that he was having. As he climbed underneath, a setscrew on the shaft that sticks out about a quarter of an inch caught the hood of the sweatshirt and started rotating. He knew right away that he was in trouble. The clothing continued to twist and eventually ripped off of his body. I want you to imagine being dressed in all those clothes and having a piece of machinery twist them off of your body. Cecil is very lucky... if the clothing had not ripped,

he probably would have been choked to death. Although he was lucky, he did have severe injuries. He broke his jaw, his arm, his ribs and vertebrae in his neck. He also had severe tissue damage caused by the twisting material. He spent time recuperating in the hospital and then in therapy to regain full use of his arms. He was not able to perform his regular farming activities for three months. Cecil is one of the lucky ones...not everyone is as fortunate. We have had people in Kansas who have lost their arms and legs because they got entangled in the PTO shaft. We have also had people who did not survive their PTO entanglement.

Describe the t-shirt, 2 sweatshirts, coveralls and the hat he was wearing that day.

- Talk about the fact that for the most part, this was appropriate clothing...the coveralls are a good sturdy piece of clothing to do chores in.

Ask them if they can think of an article of clothing that could be considered loose fitting

- the hooded sweatshirt is the answer that you are looking for
- The rest of the clothing was covered by the coveralls.

Ask them if they think farmers and ranchers are ever distracted when they are working around equipment.

- We don't think about the fact that the piece of equipment that we are working with could pose a danger to us, we are thinking that I need to get this job done and move onto something else.

Move on to the actual PTO demonstration.

- Lay the board on a table. Place the denim fabric over the board.
- Position the cordless screwdriver over the fabric.
- When you say go, have them start counting while you lower the screwdriver onto the fabric. Once the screwdriver makes contact with the fabric it will begin to spin. It will only take a second or two of the fabric spinning to get your message across.

Tell them that I don't know what will happen in the PTO demonstration...

- Each demonstration is different just like each real PTO accident is different.
- Ask them to watch how quickly things happen after the PTO begins rotating.

Talk about the likely injuries someone might have and whether they would be life threatening.

Talk about what they should do if they come upon a person wrapped in a PTO.

- They would not want to disentangle the person because of likely internal bleeding.
- A person could bleed to death rapidly.
- They should call 911 and get help on the way immediately.

Conclude by reading the "You Have 2 Chances" card.