



# FARM SAFETY CHECK

## Farm Safety Check: Towing

Winter and spring can be tough seasons for towing, with conditions including snow, ice and mud. Towing can be dangerous in a number of ways, some of which include using the wrong rope or chain, insufficient towing vehicle, and possible bystanders who can distract and may be injured in the process.

You and/or your employee(s) can use this form to complete safety checks on your farm. Use the form below to list additional safety checks you think are important when inspecting your farm. Keep the completed forms for follow-up, future reference and inspections. Additional copies of this form can be downloaded at:

<http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

Potential Hazards	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Is the vehicle capable of towing the weight of the trailer plus the weight of the load? Check the vehicle's operator's manual. Include the weight of fuel, passengers, and cargo when calculating the load.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have the appropriate braking ability? Check the breakaway cable or brake system. A trailer with more than 1,000 pounds should have it's own brake system. States may have additional regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are the tires inflated, sturdy, and the right type for the job?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have the proper towing device for the load? The material(s), length, and condition of the device all affect the appropriate breaking strength.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the tow chain, rope or cable the right length and in good condition? Select a tow chain with a length allowing adequate stopping distance between the towed object and the towing vehicle to avoid collision and rear rollover.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you using more than one vehicle for towing? Hitch each vehicle independently, not in a single file line.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you attached the towing device to the drawbar? Avoid attaching to truck bumpers, as the pulling forces may damage or take off the bumper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Before loading and unloading, is the vehicle parked on a flat surface with the parking brake set?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there a slow moving vehicle sign on the rearmost vehicle? For vehicles going less than 24 mph, the sign must be centered 2-6 feet above the road.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the area clear of bystanders, workers and other objects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the operator familiar or trained in towing? Ensure that the tractor operator is familiar with safe use of the equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name of person completing safety check: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**



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Additional Hazards	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### **Livestock Trailer Safety**

*Ag Safety And Health*

<https://ag-safety.extension.org/livestock-trailer-safety/>

### **Towing Safety**

*University of Wisconsin Extension*

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/agsafety/tractors-and-machinery/towing-safety/>

### **NIOSH Warns: Improper Hitching to Tractors Can Be Fatal**

*The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)*

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/tractor1.html>

### **Making the Connection' with a Reliable Hitch Pin**

*Agricultural Safety and Health Program - Ohio State University Extension*

<https://agsafety.osu.edu/newsletter/ag-safety-stat/machinery-maintenance/%E2%80%98making-connection%E2%80%99-reliable-hitch-pin>

### **Safe Use of Tow Ropes, Cables and Chains**

*National Ag Safety Database (NASD)*

<https://nasdonline.org/1151/d000945/safe-use-of-tow-ropes-cables-and-chains.html>

### **Wagon Safety**

*National Ag Safety Database (NASD)*

<https://nasdonline.org/1125/d000919/wagon-safety.html>

### **NFU Safety on the Farm**

*National Farmers Union*

<https://nfu.org/farmsafety/>

### **Changes to the Use of the Slow Moving Vehicle Sign**

*National Ag Safety Database (NASD)*

<https://nasdonline.org/1649/d001533/changes-to-the-use-of-the-slow-moving.html>

*The facts and information provided are suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all actions needed to ensure your safety, and are not an endorsement of any products mentioned. For additional Farm Safety Check topics and resources, visit: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>*

**To receive Farm Safety Checks via email, join the UMASH email list at <http://umash.umn.edu/join-our-email-list/>**