



Hayrides are a common 4-H activity that can be an enjoyable and memorable experience for youth. 4-H Clubs and Groups are encouraged to use an agriculture tourism business to participate in hayrides. If an organization/facility is not available or if the cost will restrict participation, 4-H Clubs and Groups may organize a hayride on a private farm/property if the following guidance is followed:

Driver Requirements

- The driver must be a Wisconsin 4-H staff member or volunteer 21 years of age or older and an authorized driver by the University of Wisconsin - Madison. *Note: If the tractor and wagon are not going to be operated on a road, the 4-H volunteer does not need to be an UW-Madison Authorized Driver.*
- Owner/operators of tractor must confirm their farm or homeowners' policy will extend to use of tractor for hayrides. Combined Single Limits of \$1,000,000 of Farm Vehicle and General Farm/Home liability insurance is recommended.

Tractor Requirements

- The tractor should meet all state and local safety requirements and display proper identification.
- The tractor should have rear view mirrors that give a full view of the wagon.
- The tractor must weigh more than the gross weight of the fully loaded wagon it will tow. This is necessary for adequate traction and braking.
- Check the hitch and make sure safety chains are in place and functional.

Hay Wagon Requirements

- The hay wagon must have racks or railings and seating.
- Before use, inspect the wagon for hazards, such as protruding nails, missing guardrails, and wet straw or hay. Use hay bales rather than loose hay and make sure the bales are secure.
- Never pull more than one wagon at a time.

The Route

- Choose the route carefully. Make sure it does not have steep grades or other hazards that can affect the stability of the tractor or hay wagon.
- Keep travel on roadways to a minimum.
- Inspect the route for hazards ahead of time and either fix or avoid them. There should be no debris or obstructions that could cause a jolt or jarring ride for participants.

Operation and Supervision

- Restrict operation of the tractor to a low speed, like that of someone walking.
- Have a minimum of 10-1 youth to adult ratio on the hayride
- Prior to operation, instruct passengers to remain seated while the tractor is in motion, always keeping arms and legs inside the wagon.
- On the day of the hayride, check weather sources to confirm that conditions are appropriate. The ground should be free of ice, wet mud or debris that would cause slippery conditions. If inclement weather strikes, postponing or canceling the event will be easier if a backup plan or activity has already been considered.