

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Tractor/Farm Safety Courses will be offered at seven locations across the state in May and June.

Federal law prohibits youth under 16 years of age from working on a farm other than their parents'.

Course completion grants an exemption to the law allowing 14- and 15-year-olds to drive a tractor and to do field work with mechanized equipment. The course also is available for just the safety training if room permits.

To standardize the training, courses were moved to seven locations across the state this year instead of many local classes.

The most common cause of death in agriculture accidents in Nebraska is overturn from tractors and all-terrain-vehicles (ATV), said Bill Booker, UNL Extension educator in Box Butte County.

Tractor and ATV overturn prevention are featured in the class work.

“There is an obligation to teach safety, and these courses allow us to do that,” Booker said. “These classes will teach respect for the job and the tools involved.”

Classes consist of two, eight-hour days plus two, four-hour homework assignments. Classes are from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. An optional third day of training is available for ATV safety.

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