

Personal Column
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Remember Safety during Fall Harvest!

Producers and families of northcentral Kansas are in full swing with the 2025 harvest of our fall crops! Stay tuned and I will share about the importance of SAFETY first and foremost!

The most recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows the agricultural sector is **still** the most dangerous in America. Farmers are at very high risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries, and farming is one of the few industries in which family members, who often share the work and live on the premises, are also at risk for injuries.

Harvest season can be a very stressful time for farm families, so it is important to remember these simple guidelines to keep everyone safe.

- Make sure that anyone operating the combine and other harvest machinery, has been trained to use it and is aware of potential hazards.
- Before approaching machinery for maintenance or inspection, make sure it is shut down with the engine off, the key removed, and all moving parts stopped completely.
- Keep bystanders away from harvesting equipment and never allow extra riders. One seat means one rider.
- Remember for everyone to share the road! When it is necessary to move heavy, slow-moving equipment on public roads, try to pick a time with light traffic flow to minimize contact with traffic.
- Make sure all the appropriate safety lights work properly and safety reflectors are visible to other motorists.
- Always use a Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem on vehicles that travel less than 25 miles per hour.
- Be sure and take breaks often to prevent fatigue and stress which can prevent accidents.

Contact me if you have further questions on harvest safety in your crop fields at any of our Post Rock Extension District offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.