

FARM EQUIPMENT LOADING/UNLOADING CHECKLIST

Loading and unloading farm equipment is a dangerous process that requires great attention to complete safely.

Below is a checklist to aid in the process:

- Inspect the trailer, paying special attention to the condition of the decking, anchor points, hitches, wheels and tires. Do not move the implement until problems are corrected.
- Make certain the trailer is properly secured and chained to the truck hitch or fifth wheel.
- Ensure that the truck and trailer are parked on level, stable ground and secured from rolling, utilizing wheel chocks if available.
- If using ramps, measure them or measure the ramps to ensure they are both wide and long enough for the load. Make sure that the ramps are secured to the trailer to prevent ramps from moving as the implement is loaded/unloaded.
- Clean the trailer deck and ramps of any loose debris.
- Review the process with the driver, spotter, or any personnel necessary for the loading/unloading.
- Clear the area of people not involved in the loading/unloading process (truck drivers, spectators, etc.).
- Ready the implement for movement, removing tie-downs, blocks, wedges, and parking brakes as necessary.
- Slowly move the implement from point A to point B, utilizing a spotter to see what the operator cannot. Be sure to wear a seat belt if available.
- Once the load has reached its designated point, resecure it, utilizing tie-downs, blocks, wedges, and parking brakes.
- Do a final inspection of all equipment, anchor points, and vehicles before dismissing team members.
- Make sure the implement is secured according to regulations for heavy machinery listed in 49 CFR 393.130 before leaving.

For information on load securement see Drivers Handbook on Cargo Securement.

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