

Safety First!

- Remove keys from tractor and ensure tractor is in “park.”
- If tractor is being used for a demo, ensure the operator is over 18 years of age.
- Only operate tractor if sufficient supervision is present. Ensure participants are supervised and behind safety barrier.
- If auger shield is removed as part of the demonstration, tell participants that shields should always be in place when operating machinery under normal conditions.
- Maintain a good safety zone between machinery and participants.

Break the Ice

- Tell them about yourself and any experiences you have with an auger or baler.
- Ask questions – this will encourage the children to be more involved!
- For example:
 - Does anyone have an auger on his or her farm? Does anyone in your family operate an auger?
 - Do you know anyone who has been injured while using an auger? What happened to them?

Take-Home Messages

- Explain that augers are very powerful and very fast and can cause serious injuries or even fatalities.
- Explain the importance of making sure safety shields and devices are in place and in good repair.
- Explain the dangers of sticking foreign objects such as sticks or rocks into the auger.
- Inform participants of the dangers of stepping on the auger. They could slip and get a foot caught, or land with a hand in the auger. Take the time to walk around the auger, not over it.
- Demonstrate the dangers of playing with the crank.
- Examine decals to see if they are worn or missing and need to be replaced.
- When moving augers make sure they are in the lowered position so that they don't hit power lines.
- Never play with the power source for the auger. If you plug it in or unplug it you could cause problems.

- Explain the importance of wearing tight fitting clothes. Bootlaces, pant legs, torn coveralls, sweatshirts, and windbreakers are clothing items that can become caught and wrapped in the auger. All it may take for a person to become entangled in an auger is one single thread, string from a hooded parka or torn pant leg. As the items begin to wrap extremely fast around the auger they pull the victim directly into the auger.
- Do not play around the auger at any time. You could accidentally trip and fall into the auger. Little hands can easily fit between some of the auger shields.
- Never play with the controls for the auger. You could accidentally turn it on. Explain to older children how to turn the auger off in case of an emergency. Encourage kids to talk to their parents about this topic.

Interactive Activities

Cucumber on a stick

- This demonstration shows just how easily an auger can cut and grab. Tape a long cucumber onto the end of a stick. Ensure it is well fastened and the end of the stick does NOT go into the auger. Please note: Do not use your hand to hold the end of the cucumber as you guide it into auger.
- Turn auger on and slowly lower cucumber into auger. Explain how the auger easily chops the cucumber into small pieces and this is what could happen to your hand or foot.
- Ensure the participants are standing behind a taped-off safety zone.

