

Safety Precautions for Hayrack Rides

- Choose your drivers carefully, they should have had previous tractor driving and trailer pulling experience. Drivers must meet the same requirements as those for drivers of large vehicles pulling trailers:
 - Drivers must be an authorized and approved volunteer or extension staff member.
 - Driver must be at least 21 years old.
 - Driver must have a valid U.S. driver's license for the vehicle being driven with the appropriate classifications, restrictions and endorsements.
 - Driver must satisfactorily complete a motor vehicle record check every six months.
 - It is recommended that drivers complete training equivalent to the Iowa State University Transportation Services Large Passenger Van Driving Class.
 - Driver must agree to operate the vehicle in a safe and prudent manner and in accordance with all traffic laws and regulations.
- Place a chaperone in the wagon to supervise the passengers while in transit and to assist entering and exiting the wagon.
- Have an adequate number of chaperones/adults for the number of youth participating. Refer to Iowa 4-H recommended youth/adult supervision ratios.
- Plan your route carefully - pay attention to slopes, terrain, traction, etc.
- Travel at a safe speed.
- Trailer must have safety chains and a properly sized hitch pin or coupling.
- The tractor size should be appropriately to the load.
- Trailer must have at a minimum, guardrails at the front and rear of the wagon to prevent fall-offs.
- Lights and signals are required if used on public roads.
- Place straw bales down the center of the wagon with folks' backs to the center and feet toward the sides unless the wagon has side rails.
- Riders must not sit on the edges or front of the wagon with feet/legs hanging over the edge.
- Keep hands and feet inside of wagon at all times.
- People must sit down while the trailer is in transit.
- Stairs with handrails must be used for mounting and dismounting the wagon.
- Slow moving vehicle sign should be on the back of the trailer.
- The rack should be in good working condition--a solid deck, adequate tires, etc.
- Hayrack steps must be sturdy and have a handrail.
- Standard safety items also apply, which should be instructed by the person giving the rides such as: no smoking, no standing when the rack is moving, no hanging feet over the edge of the rack, etc.
- Hayrack ride needs at least two attendants, one to drive the tractor and one to coordinate opening of any gates, removing obstructions, etc. Concern is driver having to dismount tractor and potential outcome if tractor is unattended with passengers a tow, even for a very short period of time. Again, purpose of 2nd attendant is to attend to any extra tasks so driver doesn't have to dismount tractor.