The purpose of the Hazardous Occupations Safety Training in Agriculture (HOSTA) web site is to provide educators with the tools needed to certify youth to legally work in a production agricultural setting. The web site provides the following resources for educators:

- Information on the Agricultural Hazardous Occupations Order (AgHOs)
- An introduction to performance standards and overviews of the evaluation and testing instruments
- Links to on-line curriculum
- (FAQs) Frequently Asked Questions
- Ability to set up and manage student information and classes
- The option to administer written exams on-line or to print hard copies
- Suggested tractor operating courses
- Instructor/Student “Message Board”
- Many additional resources
Agricultural Tractor and Machinery Training for Youth

The Hazardous Occupations Safety Training in Agriculture Program (HOSTA) is a USDA / U.S. Department of Labor recognized Tractor and Machinery Operation safety and certification program for youth, ages 14 and 15, who desire to work for hire performing certain agricultural tasks identified as hazardous. This program, administered through the Cooperative Extension Service (4-H) and agricultural education training programs nationwide, meets the current safety training regulations prescribed under the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Agricultural Hazardous Occupations Order (AgHOs).

Background:
In 1970, the United States Congress passed a law that requires youth, ages 14 and 15, who work for hire performing certain agricultural tasks identified as hazardous, such as operating a tractor over 20 horsepower, be trained and certified. This law established a training program, administered through the Cooperative Extension Service and high school Agricultural Science and Business programs. At the time of implementation, the recommended curriculum consisted of sections of the federal 4-H tractor curriculum published in the early 1960s.

In the 38 years since enactment of this federal law, little has been done to create new, evidence-based learning resources. The 4-H curriculum was enhanced in a publication created and published by HOBAR publications, but even that curriculum has not seen a significant update in over 15 years.

Now, through the collaborative efforts of Penn State University, The Ohio State University, Purdue University, and Hobar Publications, a brand new comprehensive set of student curricula along with a Program Leader’s Guide is being made available to educators.

Your Role as an Instructor Is Important

Your role as an instructor for the HOSTA program is a serious one that will bring with it significant responsibilities. What you teach, or don’t teach, can have a big impact on future skills, behaviors, and attitudes of the youth you are teaching. At the completion of the training, youth ages 14 and 15 who have met the training requirements will be certified for employment operating tractors and some hazardous machinery.

Your instruction will contribute to reducing the potential for injury as these young people begin work.

Leader’s Guide & Student Curriculum available through:
Hobar Publications/Finney Company
8075 215th Street West
Lakeville, MN 55044
PHONE: (952) 469-6699 or (800) 846-7027
FAX: (952) 469-1968 or (800) 330-6232
EMAIL: feedback@finney-hobar.com