FRONT END LOADER SAFETY
PRE-OPERATION INSPECTION BEFORE BOARDING LOADER

- Check tires for proper pressure
- Ensure there are no cracks in ROPS system
- Make sure there is no damage to the unit
- Look for hydraulic leaks
  - Never use your hand to check for leaks
    - A pinhole size leak can break your skin and inject hydraulic fluid into the bloodstream
- Make sure the bucket is latched
PRE-OPERATION
INSPECTION BEFORE BOARDING (con’t)

- Only use tractors with wide front ends (avoid “tricycle” types)
  - Make sure the wheels are spread as wide as possible if they can be adjusted

- Make sure the counter weights are properly mounted (if applicable)

- Don’t use makeshift counterweights
BOARDING THE LOADER

- Make sure the steps and handholds are clear of mud, ice, and oil/grease
- Use 3 points of contact
- Always face the machine
PRE-OPERATION INSPECTION AFTER BOARDING

- Make sure the floor board is clear of debris
- Make sure the seatbelt is working properly
- After starting the machine make sure all controls work properly
- The hydraulic oil should be warm in order for the controls to work properly
- Tilt the bucket all the way forward to ensure that the bucket is properly attached
OPERATING THE LOADER

- ALWAYS WEAR THE SEATBELT!!

- Know the weight the loader can safely lift (owners manual or nameplate)

- Avoid jerky starts and stops
OPERATING THE LOADER (con’t)

- Avoid potholes, ditches, and drainage washouts

- When driving on hills:
  - Travel up and down, not horizontally
  - Keep the load up hill
    - Back down when loaded and drive up when loaded
OPERATING THE LOADER (con’t)

- Drive slow
- Avoid quick turns
- Load the bucket evenly
- Do not use indoors for extend periods of time
  - Make sure there is plenty of ventilation
OPERATING THE BUCKET

- Be aware of overhead hazards
  - Power lines
  - Roof trusses
  - Overhead equipment

- Keep the bucket level as you raise the load

- If using a variety of attachments remember to properly secure them before using the machine

- Always lower the bucket or forks all the way to the ground so it is sitting flat
OPERATING THE BUCKET (con’t)

- Keep the bucket low especially when loaded
  - The higher the load the higher the center of gravity

- If the load is too high to see over, drive in reverse or use a spotter

- Only raise the bucket while at a complete stop

- When maintenance requires the bucket to be in the raised position, the arms need to be locked or blocked to prevent it from falling
NEVER:

- Allow riders
  - On the steps
  - On the hitch
  - On the fenders
  - On the floorboard
  - In the bucket

- Start the machine from the ground

- Operate the hydraulic controls from the ground
NEVER: (con’t)

- Remove the ROPS
- Stand under the raised arms and bucket
- Jump off the machine
- Try using the bucket to remove fence post or tree stumps
NEVER: (con’t)

- Move a load over people
- Allow anyone under the age of 18 operate the loader
- Move more material than the machine can handle
- Operate a loader if you have not been trained on that specific model
Articulating Loaders

- This equipment turns in the middle of the machine
- Watch for the pinch hazard created by the pivoting machine
QUESTIONS