

Mowing Dikes

AgSafe Safe Work Procedure

1. Complete your pre – start inspection
2. Whenever the mower is being transported from one location to another it **MUST** be in the transport position. For Side arm mower transportation position is the arm is folded up and the mower head is vertical to the ground. This position ensures that the unit has the minimum width to avoid obstacles and also keeps the center of gravity as low as possible and as centered on the tractor as possible.
3. When driving the mower to a location keep as close as possible to the center of the dike. Driving too close to the edge of a dike could cause a roll over which could be fatal. Any dikes that are in poor condition should **NOT** be mowed.
4. Be aware that the dual tires stick out on one side and the mower head sticks out on the other. When driving the mowing unit be sure you have lots of clearance on both sides from any obstructions.
5. There is no need to be any closer than the width of the mower head from the edge of the dike (approx. 3feet). Not all of the dikes edges are stable even though they may appear so, keep the wheels of the tractor in the main travel tracks of all dikes at all times. If you cannot reach the bottom of the dike with the mower do not attempt.
6. Always mow the top of the dike first, this clears the edge from all of the grass and weeds that grow there, and you can keep the mower in a safe position.
7. Work down the dike one pass at a time. Lower part is always the last to be mowed.
8. **ALWAYS** watch for obstacles and obstructions.

9. Make sure the split brakes are locked together. Do not use the split brakes on the dikes, they are far too narrow to safely use this feature for turning the tractor. Also remember that if a tractor is traveling in reverse and the breaks are applied with a heavy weight hanging off the back of the tractor the torque of the axle is capable of causing the front of the tractor to come off the ground. In extreme cases this could cause the tractor to roll over backwards. If the split brake were to be accidentally applied the front of the tractor could come off the ground and veer suddenly to the side. This could cause the tractor to go off the dike. It is extremely important to ensure the brakes are locked together when driving on the dikes.

10. Make sure that before you turn around the arms are folded into the transport position. If the arm is not folded in there will not be enough traction on the front tires to turn efficiently. The ONLY time the mower head should be extended is when mowing.

11. When mower is not in use it should be taken off the tractor and placed on its stands. If you need to lift the mower be sure to use the proper lifting points.

Please use the following **Safe Work Procedures** as a guideline to building your own safe work procedures.