

Hand Signals for Agricultural Safety¹

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Hand signals are an ideal communication tool when working around noisy farm machinery. To help everyone communicate in the same "language," the American Society of Agricultural Engineers has adopted 11 uniform hand signals for agricultural safety.

These signals should be learned and used by the farm family, employees and farm visitors such as feed truck drivers, chemical salespeople and Extension agents.

Using standard signals can help:

- save time
- prevent accidents
- reduce severity of injuries
- lower the risk of accidental death.

Detailed instructions for performing the 11 signals shown in are presented on the following pages. Figure 12 shows a compilation of the 11 signals.

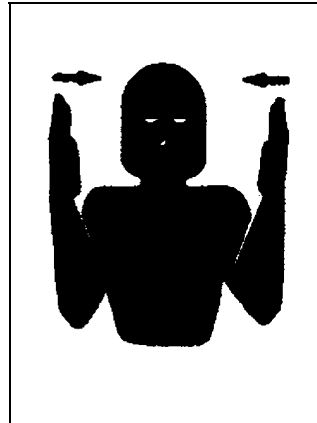


Figure 1.

THIS FAR TO GO

Place palms at ear level, facing head, and move laterally inward to indicate remaining distance to go. (Figure 1)

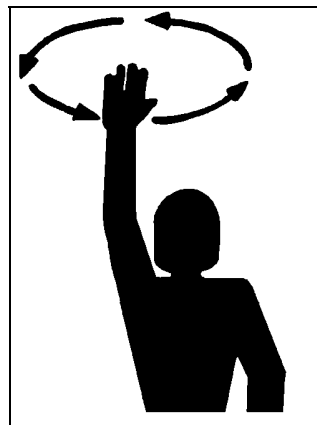


Figure 2.

COME TO ME

Raise the arm vertically overhead, palm to the front, and rotate in large horizontal circles. (Figure 2)

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Figure 3.

MOVE TOWARD ME

Point toward person(s), vehicle(s), unit(s); beckon by holding the arm horizontally to the front, palm up, and motioning toward the body (Figure 3).

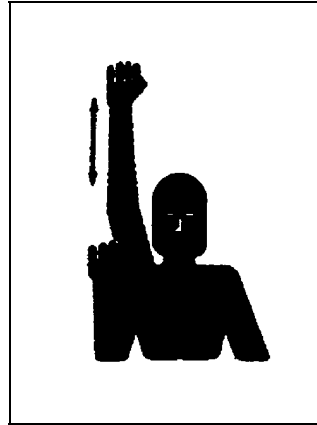


Figure 6.

SPEED UP

Raise the hand to the shoulder, fist closed; thrust the fist upward to the full extent of the arm and back to the shoulder rapidly several times. (Figure 6)

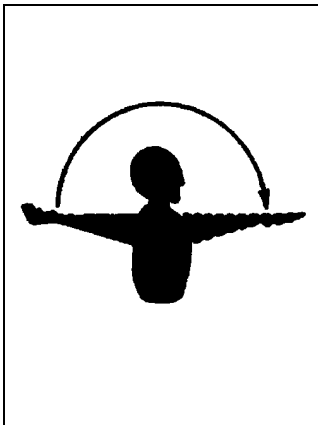


Figure 4.

MOVE OUT

Face the desired direction of movement; hold the arm extended to the rear; then swing it overhead and forward in the direction of desired movement until it is horizontal palm down. (Figure 4)

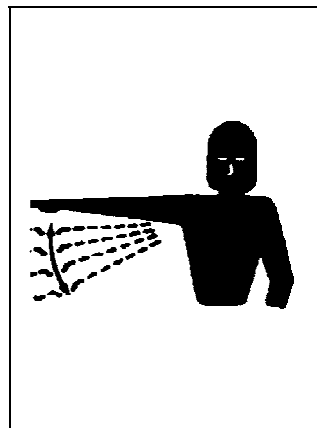


Figure 7.

SLOW DOWN

Extend the arm horizontally sideward, palm down, and wave arm downward 45° minimum several times, keeping the arm straight. Do not move the arm above horizontal. (Figure 7)

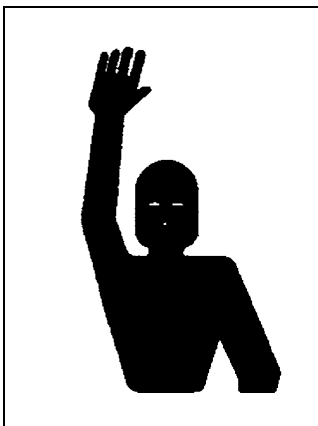


Figure 5.

STOP

Raise the hand upward to the full extent of the arm and back to the shoulder rapidly several times. (Figure 5)

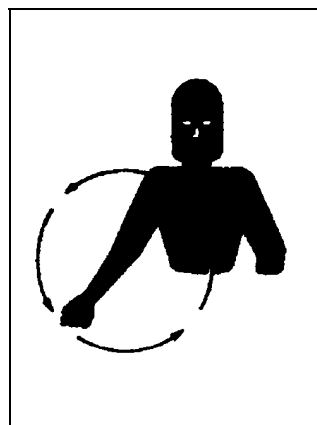


Figure 8.

START ENGINE

Simulate cranking of vehicles by moving arm in a circular motion at waist level. (Figure 8)

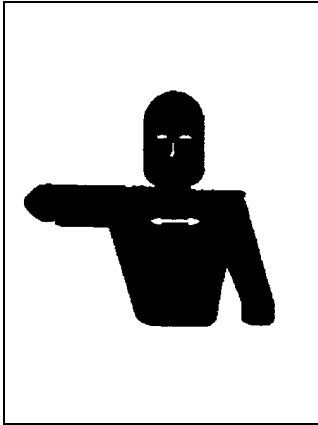


Figure 9.

STOP ENGINE

Draw either hand, palm down across the neck in a "throat-cutting" motion. (Figure 9)

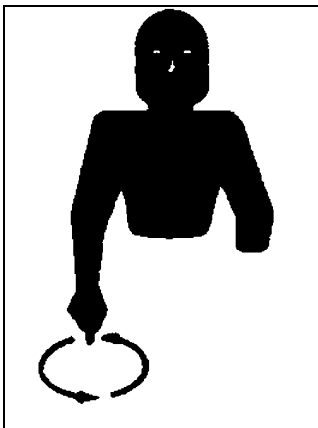


Figure 10.

LOWER EQUIPMENT

Make circular motion with either hand pointing to the ground. (Figure 10)

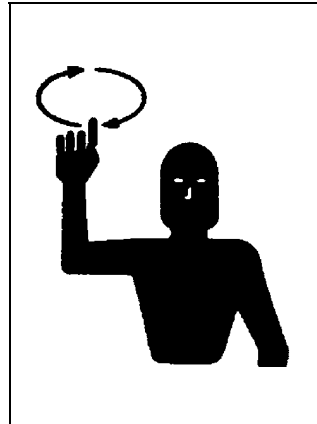


Figure 11.

RAISE EQUIPMENT

Make circular motion with either hand at head level. (Figure 11)

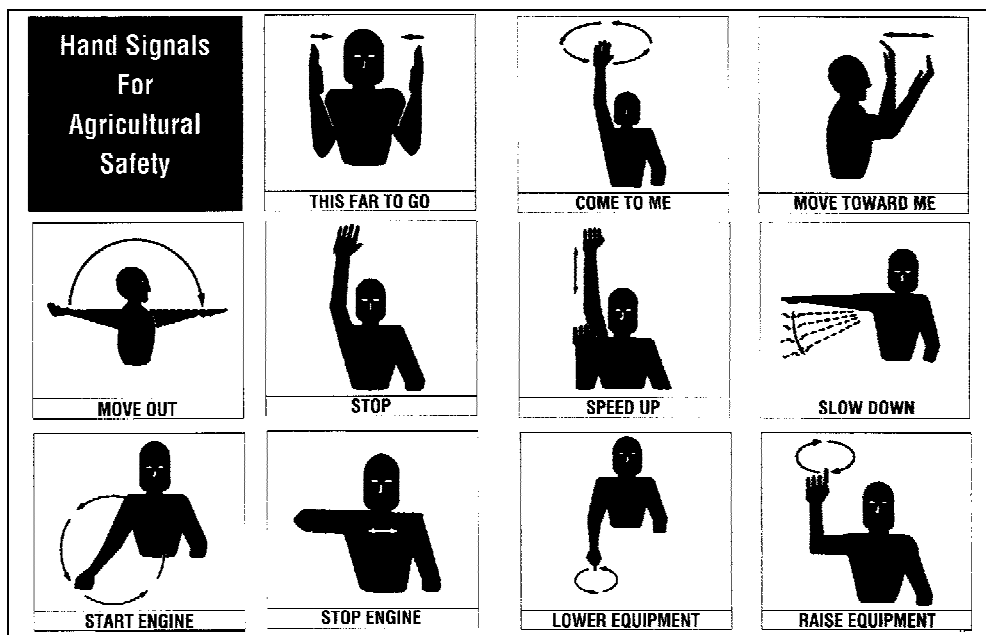


Figure 12.