

Hand Signals for Agricultural Safety

Thomas L. Bean

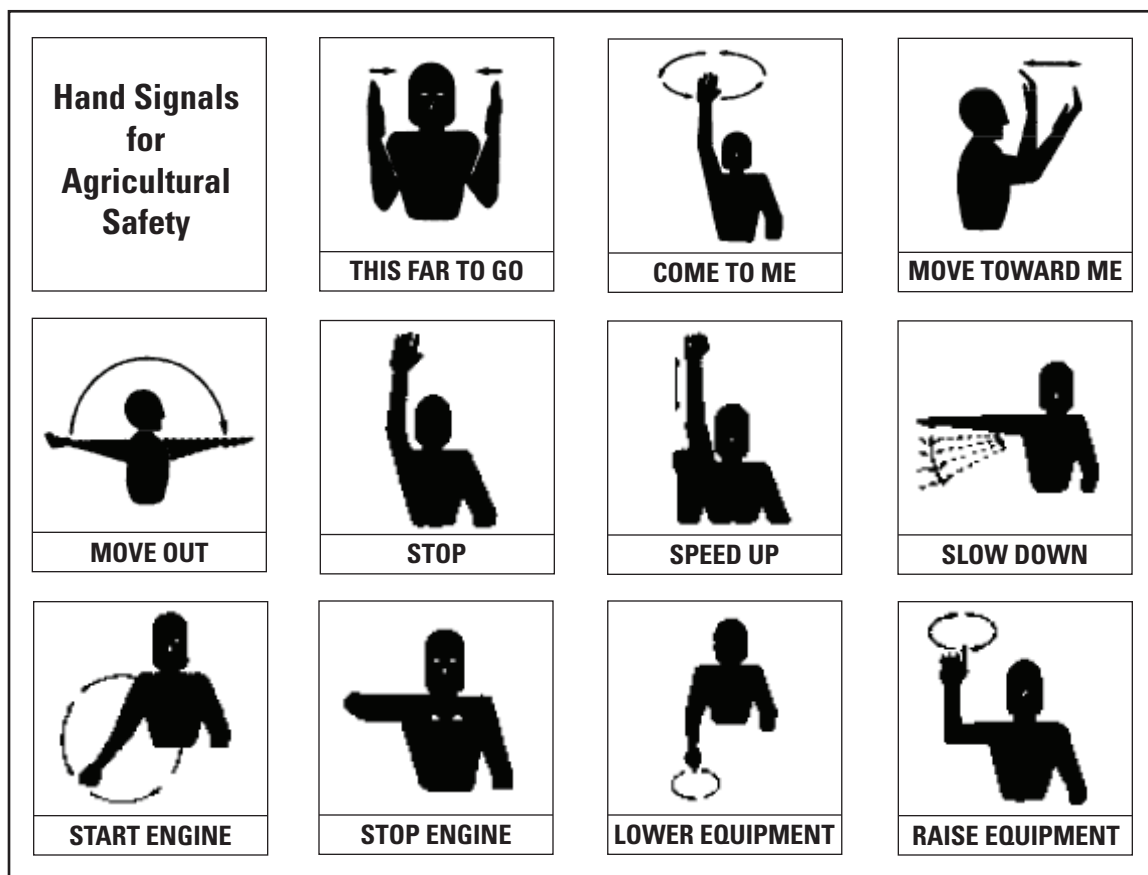
Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

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 and Biological 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 educators.

Using standard signals can help:

- Save time
- Prevent incidents
- Reduce severity of injuries
- Lower the risk of incidental death.

Detailed instructions for performing the 11 signals shown here are presented on the back of this fact sheet.





THIS FAR TO GO

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



COME TO ME

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



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.



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.



STOP

Raise the hand upward to the full extent of the arm, palm to the front. Hold that position until the signal is understood.



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.



SLOW DOWN

Extend the arm horizontally side-ward, palm down, and wave arm downward 45 degrees minimum several times, keeping the arm straight. Do not move arm above horizontal.



START ENGINE

Simulate cranking of vehicles by moving arm in circular motion at waist level.



STOP ENGINE

Draw either hand, palm down across the neck in a “throat-cutting” motion.



LOWER EQUIPMENT

Make circular motion with either hand pointing to the ground.



RAISE EQUIPMENT

Make circular motion with either hand at head level.

Reviewed by Randall Reeder, Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

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Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension
TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868