



Tractor Terminology

Here are some basic tractor terms defined.

If you're embarrassed to walk into a tractor dealership because you don't know a PTO from a ROPS, memorize this short list of tractor terms:

PTO (Power Take-off): A drive shaft at the back end of the tractor used to power attachments or implements; the implement will have matching power take-off shaft that attaches to the tractors allowing it to draw power from the tractor's engine.

FEL (Front-end Loader): A large bucket-like implement attached to the front of the tractor to lift materials such as rocks, dirt, etc.

Ballast: Added weight that serves as a counter balance for a heavy load, such as one you're carrying in your FEL. Usually found in the rear of the tractor.

HST (Hydrostatic transmission): Alternative form of power transmission (gear-driven transmission is another form) that functions most like the automatic transmission in your automobile.

ROPS (Roll-over protective structure): A frame on open station (non-cab) tractors that provides a safe environment for the operator in the event of a rollover.

Excerpted from Montana Tractors' Tractors & Implements 2007. Montana Tractors encourages new tractor buyers to read their guide (available in print or online), which includes a glossary of key tractor terms and phrases as well as FAQs.