

## **Keeping the Trailer Hooked to the Truck**

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Transporting farm inputs or research equipment with light duty trucks and trailers is a common practice at research institutions. Doing this in a safe and effective manner requires not only attention to a towing vehicle and trailer capabilities, but also the other components that connect the two into a towing system. Annual inspections of towing vehicles and trailers should also include the hitch components. Operators should select the proper components based on the manufacturer's capacity recommendations, the load to be carried and applicable state and federal codes. Daily inspection of these components, replacing or upgrading worn or undersized components and training of staff for proper operation will help reduce the risk of creating a chemical spill or accident that might also endanger other motorists.