

CAN YOU USE A MORE SUITABLE MACHINE FOR THE JOB?

Quad bikes are *not* suitable for all terrains and they are not suitable for all tasks, but they are popular runabouts on farms for jobs such as carrying small loads and towing, and because they are so manoeuvrable they can be used in small spaces and tight corners. Their excellent flotation makes quad bikes better than other vehicles in conditions of sand and mud. But quad bikes can be dangerous in the hands of inexperienced or complacent operators. They are also dangerous if manufacturer's specifications are exceeded or attention is not given to warnings.

Not all quad bikes are the same and not all operators are the same size; some machines are more suited to certain tasks or riders than others.

Operations that involve livestock need a very manoeuvrable machine that can carry small loads and be safe and comfortable in rough terrain.

In some situations quad bikes are not at all suitable. For example, if you need to muster stock in hilly conditions, use a two-wheeled motor bike or a horse.

Never use a quad bike for carrying a passenger (unless the bike has an approved second seat).

Side-by-side vehicles are better suited to carrying passengers or for towing or carrying heavier equipment. These are small vehicles designed for off-road use and have tyres similar to quad bike tyres. They often have a bench-type seat, seat belts, steering wheel and rollover protection structure (ROPS) and are designed to transport more than one person. They are also equipped with four or more low pressure flotation tyres and generally have a tray-back designed for carrying small loads.



Figure 2: The quad bike is used in a bike shift irrigation system. Below Figure 2a: Side-by-side vehicles are better suited than a quad bike for carrying a passenger or towing or carrying heavy equipment. They are safer than quad bikes.



Figure 3: Choose the best vehicle for the job.

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