
AG SAFETY S.T.A.T. – SAFE TACTICS FOR AG TODAY

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THOUGHTS from the EDITOR

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

It's in the air... no not the beginning of football season. But the beginning of fall harvest. So to launch the official start of harvest, one has to take in the annual Farm Science Review. It is as much a tradition to the College of Agriculture, as Brutus is to our OSU football team.

And if you do visit the Farm Science Review, feel free to stop by Alumni Park and take in the ag safety exhibits. Several displays will be under the big tent (combined with the Plant Diagnostic Team) and several will be outside in the park area. Topics include ATV safety courses, grain bin safety, and farming with arthritis. Purdue safety specialists will also be available to answer questions around their AgrAbility program.

One of our featured events of the Review will be Agricultural Rescue demonstrations by the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal, and Ohio Fire Academy Instructors. These demonstrations will highlight the importance of Ag Rescue training, which teaches the appropriate techniques for utilizing rescue equipment when responding to agricultural emergencies. The demonstrations will be daily at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. Academy instructors will be available to discuss possible Ag Rescue training courses offered at the Academy as well as direct-delivery in the communities.

Ag Rescue is a renewed interest area for our Ag Safety program. We know there is a gap for training in the rural communities, and we are partnering with the Fire Academy to be able to service this need. For additional information about community trainings, contact Scott Walker, Deputy Superintendent, by phone at 614-752-8818 or 888-726-7731 or by email at Scott.Walker@com.state.oh.us.

See you at the Review!

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY & HEALTH WEEK, SEPT 21-27

The National Safety Council has declared the week of September 21 - 27, 2008 as National Farm Safety and Health Week. This annual promotional week commemorates the hard work, diligence, and sacrifices made by our nation's farmers and ranchers.

This year's safety theme is "Farm Safety - Protect YOUr Investment." As the message implies, personal well-being is important to the long-term sustainability of the farm operation.

On average, 27 Ohio farmers lose their life each year while working on the farm. That adds up to 276 people every decade. These fatalities are caused by accidental injury.

However, behind the injuries statistics lurk an even larger number of health concerns. Hearing, respiratory conditions, vision, skin, and the musculo-skeletal system are affected daily by the hard work and harsh environments the body endures while performing farm work. Ask anyone involved in agriculture, and they will tell you that farming is physically hard work. That physical wear and tear takes it toll in many ways.

Wearing the recommended safety gear, eating healthy, and proper exercise will help reduce the physical stress of farm work. It will also provide a more efficient worker, able to take on more work!

For the most part, farming is perceived as a healthy lifestyle. However, farm living also has several environmental and occupational hazards that are inherent to the daily routines. So take the necessary precautions, and "Protect YOUr Investment!"

SEPTEMBER is NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Aletha Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator

September is National Preparedness Month. This event, sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign, is designed to increase public awareness about emergency preparedness. The event has four goals. The goals are for individuals, families, and businesses to create an emergency kit, develop an emergency plan, become informed about different types of emergencies, and get involved in community preparedness. The National Preparedness Month website, <http://www.ready.gov/american/npm08/intro.html>, provides information about the event as well as a link to each of the goals which contains specific templates, videos, checklists, and suggested items to assist with that particular aspect of preparedness planning.

The Ready website, <http://www.ready.gov>, contains preparedness information specific to various groups such as families, kids, older community members, those with disabilities, pets, businesses, and communities. To learn more about preparing for emergencies, visit the national websites highlighted above as well as the Ready Ohio website at <http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/NPM/home.html>. To test your level of preparedness, take the Readiness Quotient Quiz available at <http://www.whatsyourrq.org/>.

AMISH BUGGY SAFETY PROGRAM

Wayne Dellinger, Program Coordinator

In the early 1990's, the OSU Extension Agricultural Safety & Health Office began working with Ohio's Amish populations in the area of roadway safety. This was a result of concern in the increasing number of buggy/motor vehicle collisions. Recently, the Ohio Department of Public Safety released crash data for 2007. Last year, there were a total of 111 reported buggy/motor vehicle incidents. This is the lowest yearly total in the last 15 years. The last 5-year average is 139 crashes and the 15-year average is 138 crashes.

Each year, the Ag Safety Office partners with the Governor's Highway Safety Office to provide educational programs and resources to counties with Amish populations. Currently extensive work and collaborations are being maintained in the higher populated regions. The Ag Safety office is looking for additional outlets for the horse-drawn lighting and marking demonstrations in Ohio counties. If communities are interested in fostering roadway safety partnerships with Amish populations in their area, they should contact Dee Jepsen for details.

ATV SAFETY COURSES BEGINNING TO ROLL

Ohio's 4-H ATV program has safety courses being scheduled around the state. This 4-H ASI ATV *RiderCourse* prepares participants to increase their safety knowledge and practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor. The course includes completing a pre-ride inspection, starting and stopping, quick turns, hill riding, emergency stopping, and riding over obstacles. Riders learn about protective gear, local regulations, places to ride, and environmental concerns. This course is valued at \$75 for ages 6-15 and \$125 for ages 16 and older. With the aid of a grant from the National 4-H Council in partnership with the ATV Safety Institute (ASI), the Ohio course fees are waived. (It is an option of the course host to charge a small fee to cover facility fees, snacks, etc.).

Below is a list of locations holding a fall course. Please contact the course host for location and other registration information. Participants can range from age 6 through adults.

Location	Date	Course Host contact information
Ottawa Co. 419-898-3631	Sept 20	Kathy Booher- Ottawa Co. Extension Office
Holmes Co. 330-674-3015	Sept 20	Kate Schumaker- Holmes Co. Extension Office
Darke Co. 937-448-2740	Sept 27	Janet Rhoades- Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
Lorain Co. 440-326-5851	Oct. 4	Alicia Fager - Lorain Co. Extension Office
Fairfield Co. 614-292-0622	Oct. 18	Kathy Henwood- OSU Ag. Safety Office
Wayne Nat'l Forest 740-354-7879	Oct 25	Regina Kuhn- Scioto Co. Extension Office

Still to come: Muskingum Co., Highland Co., and Coshocton Co.

If you would like more information about the 4-H ASI RiderCourse OR if you would be interesting in hosting a course in your community, please contact Kathy Henwood with the OSU Ag. Safety Office at (614) 292-0622 or henwood.13@osu.edu.

MONTHLY ARTICLE: TRENCH SAFETY in AGRICULTURE

Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator

Working the soil is an essential part of farming but when the work involved requires excavation, such as that needed for tile installation, the work being performed is more appropriately considered construction than agriculture. So even though the work might be taking place on a family farm and safety regulations may not apply, a knowledge of what workers in other industries are doing to stay safe will be useful.

Excavation is one of those work activities that is not very well understood by most people. Buried utilities are one of the hidden hazards of digging trenches. Calling the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) at 1-800-362-2764 can greatly reduce the risk posed by those hidden dangers. Not all companies with utilities in the area are represented by OUPS, but in that case the contact information for those local companies will be provided.

By far the most dangerous aspect of digging a trench in the ground is that it might cave in on top of the people working in them. Statements like "the walls looked stable" or "we had been working in there for days without a problem" often accompany trench failures and accidents. Safety standards are based upon known hazards and recognized preventative measures. Knowing whether a certain excavation might collapse is not guesswork and simply noting the visual appearance of the soil surrounding the cut is not enough. Trenches as shallow as five feet require protection because just being surrounded by a few feet of collapsed soil is enough to trap a worker who is unable to self rescue and if the soil presses against the diaphragm, breathing will probably be impaired. Even if the worker can stand above the lip of the excavation, bending over in the trench to perform work puts the worker well below the surface level and greatly increases the level of danger.

Once trenching reaches five feet deep there are two methods available to make the work safe. Trench boxes are commonly found on construction sites and although these are very effective at providing protection to workers

most farmers do not have any laying around and they are not the sort of thing that can be easily fabricated. Unfortunately the decision about when to provide protection and which type would work best requires a person who is able to determine the soil type. A farmer probably understands a lot about soil and what it needs to produce well but may not be able to tell how stable it is or how likely it is to bury someone.

Soils can be either stable rock, and class A, B, or C. If a person is not available who has been trained to evaluate the soil its best to assume it is type C since the protection required for this type is the greatest. And if trench boxes are not available shielding and sloping the trench are the only other options available. Shielding requires very specific types of wood and construction, and the farmer would have to consult trench construction manuals to do it well. Sloping might be the most viable option for agricultural excavations.

Sloping the excavation in type C soil has one major drawback and that is the greater amount of soil that must be removed to eliminate the risk of cave-ins. For every foot in depth of soil removed, one and a half feet of soil must be removed to the sides so that the trench edge slopes downward to the bottom of the trench in a 1.5:1 ratio. The farmer will end up with a V shaped cut in the soil. An option is to cut banks or benches out so that the effective slope is still 1.5:1, but it has the advantage of providing level work areas along the direction of the trench and an easier way to get into and out of the trench.

Considering the annual death toll of over one-hundred people in excavation accidents, it is important that today's land owner consider proven methods to make earth moving work in the fields as safe as possible. Where trench boxes are not available and shielding trench walls is not practical, effective sloping is an industry standard that can help the person work in an environment that is safer for everyone involved.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH

Aletha Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator

To assist local fire departments in quickly assessing the best approach for managing an on-farm emergency or disaster, it is helpful for them to be familiar with the farm. Methods for familiarizing local responders with individual farms include the farm owner developing an emergency plan, storing that plan in an easily accessible place such as a tube attached to the outdoor light post, and hosting the local responders for a tour of the farm. Many fire departments will assist farm owners with developing their emergency plan as well as house the emergency plan in a binder at the fire department. Having the plan on-site at the fire department will save valuable time, as the dispatcher will be able to provide information to the crew while they are en route to the farm. This type of planning helps to decrease loss to the farm and increase safety of the responders. Please contact your local fire department for help in developing a farm emergency plan, providing them with a copy as well as the location of the plan stored on-site, and to schedule a familiarization tour.

Ag Safety S.T.A.T. - Safe Tactics for Ag Today is an e-mail newsletter prepared by Dee Jepsen, Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist and team members from the State Safety Office, in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering at OSU. The primary goal of this monthly newsletter is to help you stay connected to everyday safety news and activities that may be used in your own newsletters or programs. If you have safety-related questions or program ideas that you would like to share, please contact Dr. Jepsen at jepsen.4@osu.edu
