

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Vol.3 No. 11 November 2010

THOUGHTS from the EDITOR-

SAFETY QUOTE of the MONTH

ALL PERSONNEL: FLU SHOTS COVERED at RETAIL PHARMACIES for MEDICAL PLAN MEMBERS

ALL OSUE COUNTY OFFICES – EMERGENCY & DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE PLANNING

MOVING GRAIN SAFELY

ARTHRITIS in AGRICULTURE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: QUICK COLD WEATHER REMINDERS!

\*\*\*\*\*

**THOUGHTS from the EDITOR-**

**Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader**

In case you didn't see it, USA Today (11/3/2010) wrote a feature story on tractor fatalities, and promotion of ROPS (tractor roll bars). In fact the truth about tractor rollovers being the leading cause of farm-related deaths for the nation is also true for Ohio statistics. The tractor is the number one, injury-causing agent on Ohio farms. And, rollovers account for 63% of those tractor fatalities.

However, national attention to an industry-old problem is nothing more than a "good news story" if there is no action. Having ROPS on all farm tractors is the first step, and wearing a seat belt while on a ROPS tractor is the second step. So, how do we teach tractor safety to our veteran farm workers? How do we emphasize the hard truth that the tractor is one of their most dangerous pieces of equipment?

Tractors are used in many situations, and include drivers of all ages. If you would like a tractor safety presentation for your local audiences, please contact the State Safety Office. There is a Safety To-Go Box on Tractor Safety. The kit comes with speaker notes, and a Power Point presentation. The 4-H Family Guide also promotes two different tractor safety resources, and our office recommends the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program for training operators of all ages. And finally, our office provides surveillance information to educators who are interested in knowing their county farm-fatality reports; having this information will help guide your local educational efforts targeting specific training needs.

Have a safe and happy fall.

**SAFETY QUOTE of the MONTH**

Many receive advice, only the wise profit from it.

**ALL PERSONNEL: FLU SHOTS COVERED at RETAIL PHARMACIES for MEDICAL PLAN MEMBERS**

From OSU Your Plan For Health: "Faculty and staff, their adult dependents and members of affiliated groups who are on a university medical plan also have the option of receiving their seasonal flu shot free of charge at a retail pharmacy in the Express Scripts network across the state. Call your preferred pharmacy to inquire about vaccine availability, hours or the need for an appointment, and to confirm they are in the Express Scripts Vaccine Network. To obtain your flu shot, you must present your OSU Health Plan medical insurance card and a valid driver's license. The cost of the flu shot will be covered fully by the university with no copay to you." For more information regarding flu shots please visit: <https://hr.osu.edu/osuhealthplan/flu/index.aspx>.

## **ALL OSUE COUNTY OFFICES – EMERGENCY & DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE PLANNING**

To help communities prepare for the safety and welfare of all types of animals in the event of an emergency or disaster, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) now has the **Animal Response Plan Development Tool Kit** available on their website. Each county EMA office is the lead agency for the development and implementation of their county's Animal Response Plan and the OSUE county office is included in the plan as one of the many support agencies. To familiarize yourself and staff with this planning tool, please visit <http://ema.ohio.gov/> and click on Animal Response Plan Development Tool Kit listed under Emergency Management. You may also contact your county EMA office to learn what is contained in your county-specific plan. For more information on agrosecurity planning, please contact Aletha Reshan at 614-292-9455 or [reshan.1@osu.edu](mailto:reshan.1@osu.edu).

## **MOVING GRAIN SAFELY**

### **Tim Butcher, OSHA Coordinator**

Whether it's by gravity wagon, truck or auger, farmers are moving grain. Looking out for a few safety tips can help make the end of this season a better one.

-If a gravity wagon is the way you are moving grain, make sure the brakes on the towing vehicle are up to the task. Even if you plan to follow the law and stay under 25 mph, that fully loaded wagon is going to push you going downhill and you may need more brake than you thought.

-Is it time to replace that SMV? Has time and sunlight taken its toll? Is it still reflective? The days are getting shorter and if you are on the road in less than perfect light, that SMV is critical to keep you and the motoring public safe. Consider whether you need flashing lights. Magnetic portable lights are available that are long lasting and more than bright enough.

-If taillights are required on the equipment you are using are they ASAE-approved? Has anyone checked them lately? All bulbs eventually burn out, if you are not checking them, law enforcement will.

-When using a grain auger is it adequately guarded? Can tools or a foot inadvertently get through protective screening? Contact your equipment dealer to see if improved guarding is available.

-If you are using a portable auger, do you know where the overhead power lines are? Do you know that electricity can arc to a conductor like an auger and that actual contact is not necessary for electrocution to happen? Maintain a minimum of 10 feet of clearance between conductors and overhead power lines.

Thinking ahead to take care of some of the possible safety concerns that come up while moving grain can help make sure you end this season in good financial as well as physical shape.

## **ARTHRITIS in AGRICULTURE**

### **Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator**

Arthritis affects approximately one-third of all adult farm operators and is considered one of the leading causes of disability by customers of the USDA AgrAbility Project. Arthritis is especially detrimental to farmers and their families because of the nature of their work. Mounting and dismounting equipment, climbing grain bins, baling hay, feeding livestock, and using heavy tools and machinery all require strength and mobility, which are lessened by the affects of arthritis. Arthritis can reduce strength and mobility for performing even the most routine chores around the farm or home. The most common types of arthritis are:

- Osteoarthritis- (cartilage deterioration)
- Rheumatoid arthritis- (genetic auto-immune disease)
- Bursitis- (inflammation of joint bursae)
- Tendonitis- (inflammation of tendons)

A farmer or farm worker may continue to live a productive life in agriculture if he is willing to commit to controlling his arthritis through proper diet and exercise, modifying tasks at work, and respecting the physical limitations of his body. Since there is no known cure for arthritis, education and awareness of management techniques are considered the best practices for treating the disease. **The Ohio AgrAbility Program is working with Arthritis Foundation Chapters throughout Ohio to provide education and support programs to our rural agricultural areas. For more information about arthritis, your local Arthritis Foundation Chapter, or Ohio AgrAbility, the following links can be very helpful.**

[www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)  
[www.arthritis-ag.org](http://www.arthritis-ag.org)  
[www.agrability.osu.edu](http://www.agrability.osu.edu)

For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program, please contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at [mcguire.225@osu.edu](mailto:mcguire.225@osu.edu) or 614-292-0588.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH – QUICK COLD WEATHER REMINDERS!**

### **Aletha I. Reshan, Emergency Management Planning and Education Program Coordinator**

With recent temperatures in the 70s across Ohio it is easy to put off preparing for the cold weather that will soon be upon us. Now is the time to do a quick readiness inventory!

- \* Do all family members have appropriate cold weather gear such as waterproof footwear and outerwear? What about hats, gloves, and scarves?
- \* Are doors, windows, shingles, gutters, siding, chimneys, sidewalks, and steps in good repair?
- \* Are snow shovel and blower in good working condition? Is there ice melt treatment on hand?
- \* Has the furnace, woodburner, flue, portable heaters, and other heating equipment been cleaned and prepped for winter?
- \* Has the car been winterized and tire treads checked?
- \* Are there cold weather and first aid items, such as blankets, water, energy bars, small shovel, sand, and flares in vehicle?
- \* Are smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers in working order?
- \* Do all family members carry an updated emergency contact list?
- \* Does your family have a current emergency preparedness plan and an evacuation plan?

For more information on being prepared for emergencies and disasters, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/>.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*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](mailto:jepsen.4@osu.edu)  
\*\*\*\*\*