

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Vol.4 No. 4 April 2011

THOUGHTS from the EDITOR- It's Spring, It's SMV Season

SAFETY STAT of the MONTH

4-H ATV SAFETY DAY CLINIC

SPRING INTO FARM SAFETY! 2011 SAFETY ROUND-UP DAY CAMPS

REMINDER: KEEP BCPs UPDATED

OHIO AGRABILITY UPDATE

SPRING CLEAN-UP and SAFETY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH: FISHING & BOATING in COLD WATER

\*\*\*\*\*

### **THOUGHTS from the EDITOR- It's Spring, It's SMV Season**

#### **Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader**

Ohio farmers are currently in the process of preparing their equipment for planting, looking for dry fields, and waiting for soil temperatures to warm. What better time than now to take a few extra minutes to check equipment lighting and marking to help ensure a safe spring?

Just to review what is required and recommended for agricultural equipment while traveling on public roads:

- At all times, an Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem is required
- Headlights and taillights are required 30 minutes after sunrise and 30 minutes before sunset
- Headlights and taillights are required during day hours if inclement weather conditions exist, including fog and rain
- Additional extremity lighting is required on dual-wheeled tractors
- Amber flashers and turn signals are recommended at all times
- Ideally towed implements should have their own reflectors, lights, and an SMV emblem. However law requires these items be present when the implement blocks the lighting/marking configuration on the tractor.

In addition to lighting and marking on equipment, other items should be considered while traveling on public roads:

- Safety cables or chains should be used in any towing situation.
- Lock tractor brakes together before traveling on public roadways
- Wear seat belt while operating tractors with ROPS
- Ohio law states that only one wagon/implement may be towed behind any vehicle with two exceptions:
  - Towing with a tractor - More than one wagon/implement may be towed. While no maximum is indicated, common sense and safety should play a role in the decision.
  - Towing with a pickup or straight truck -A truck designed by the manufacturer to carry a load of not less than 1/2 ton and not more than 2 tons may tow two wagons/implements.
- Use escort vehicle when possible

Additional information on lighting and marking of agricultural equipment can be found on Ohioline, Factsheet # AEX\_598\_08 Boosting Visibility of Ag Equipment [http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/pdf/AEX\\_598\\_08.pdf](http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/pdf/AEX_598_08.pdf)

### **SAFETY STAT of the MONTH**

Emergency department visits in Ohio has increased by 142% (from 2002-2009) for sports-related concussions. Emergency room treatment costs from traumatic brain injury are higher in organized sports (\$25.8 million) than in the combined groups of pedal cycles (\$12.3 million), wheeled recreation vehicles (\$2.3 million), and recreation with no wheels (\$5.0 million).

April is National Youth Sport Safety Month - see these factsheets for more detailed information

[Fact Sheet: April 2011: National Youth Sports Safety Month - Concussion in Youth Sports](#)

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/ASSETS/E1B19DC02F7B471B8A0586ACD12C2A37/blueFactsheet.pdf>  
*Data Fact Sheet: Sports/Recreation Related Traumatic Brain Injury Among Ohio Youth, 2002-2009*  
<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/ASSETS/C88323B111634D089043E02C229F6F5A/sportsrecreport.pdf>

## **4-H ATV SAFETY DAY CLINIC**

June 18, 2011

9:00am - 2:00pm

Wayne National Forest ATV Trailhead in New Straitsville, OH

Open to Ohio's 4-H ATV enthusiasts and their families. Come discover safe-riding skills, complete a community service and environmental activity. A parent track will be offered as well.

There is a small fee of \$10 for 4-H members and \$5 per family member to attend. Lunch provided for all.

Families are encouraged to bring their own correct size ATVs and gear to enjoy a "free" one-day ride permit for the trails there at the park following the clinic.

Clinic sponsored by Ohio State University Extension, Ohio 4-H Foundation, and Wayne National Forest.

To register or for more information please contact: Kathy Henwood, Henwood.13@osu.edu, 614-292-0622

## **SPRING INTO FARM SAFETY! 2011 SAFETY ROUND-UP DAY CAMPS**

Spring has official arrived and as the weather warms up, a new season for farm safety also heats up. Each year approximately 2,000 youth across the state enjoy learning about rural hazards through Farm Safety Day Camps.

These camps are a collaborative sponsorship among Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Farm Bureau, Our Ohio, and Ohio 4-H Foundation. Farm Safety Day Camps offer communities valuable lessons about farm dangers through educational sessions that focus on rural safety. The 2011 camping season currently includes seven camps scheduled around the state.

Children tend to be curious by nature and are often unsuspecting of lurking danger—these are two characteristics that can cause harm to young people on farms, whether they live there or are visitors. In Ohio, incidents are more likely to occur to children during the spring and summer months. The educational sessions help students understand why there are rules, how quickly equipment and livestock react, and what to do in emergency situations. In addition to the educational sessions, campers and staff have fun together by interacting with one another, all in an effort to be reminded of safety.

Ohio State University Extension Agricultural Safety and Health Program, housed in the department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE), is a nationally recognized center of excellence for educational Extension programming and agricultural safety and health research.

Farm Safety Day Camp Locations:

### **Putnam County**

Date: April 12 & 13

Place: Ruth Gerding Farm

Contact: Joan Kline, 419-523-5608

### **Auglaize County**

Date: May 10

Place: Four Seasons Recreation Complex & Park

Contact: Don & Lois Baumer, 419-628-3420

### **Wood County**

Date: May (date to be determined)

Place: Agriculture Incubator Foundation

Contact: David Little, 419-833-6014

### **Morrow County**

Date: May 6

Place: Morrow Co. Fairgrounds

Contact: Becky Barker, 419-947-1070

**Camp Palmer**

Date: May 19  
Place: 4-H Camp Palmer  
Contact: Bill Goodson, 419-237-2247

**Stark County**

Date: June 16  
Place: Stark County Fairgrounds  
Contact: David Crawford, 330- 830-7700

**Monroe County**

Date: October (date to be determined)  
Place: Woodsfield Elementary School  
Contact: Bruce Zimmer, 740-472-0810

For more information about Farm Safety Round-up day camps, please contact Kathy Henwood, OSUE Agricultural Safety & Health Program Assistant, at [henwood.13@osu.edu](mailto:henwood.13@osu.edu) or 614-292-0622.

**REMINDER: KEEP BCPs UPDATED**

**OSUE County Directors, BCP Plan Owners/Managers:** Business Continuity Plans (BCP) must be updated and signed-off every 180 days. Aside from a few exceptions, each BCP has a Plan Owner and a Plan Manager. The County Director is by default the Plan Owner. If you are a new County Director and have not worked in the online LDRPS system used to complete the BCP then you will need to contact the University LDRPS Support Team at [ldrps\\_support@osu.edu](mailto:ldrps_support@osu.edu) to obtain your login and password.

Please refer to the University's webpage, <http://oit.osu.edu/hrfin/ldrps10>, for technical assistance regarding this project. Please refer to the Agricultural Safety & Health, Business Continuity Plan webpage, <http://fabe.osu.edu/empe/>, for Extension-specific guidance regarding this project.

**NEW INFORMATION & RESOURCES from OHIO AGRABILITY**

**Kent McGuire – Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator**

The Ohio AgrAbility Program promotes independence for people in agriculture who want to continue to farm after experiencing a disabling condition. Our program's goal is to provide education, resources and technical assistance to those individuals and their families so they may continue to be successful in agriculture. Two resources that can be very beneficial to farmers or their families are the Ohio AgrAbility website, and the Ohio AgrAbility factsheet series.

Ohio AgrAbility's website, [agrability.osu.edu](http://agrability.osu.edu), is easy to navigate and can provide resources and information that will be very useful to our clients, stakeholders, and anyone involved in agriculture. The website also provides links to National AgrAbility, Ohio agricultural services and assistive technologies.

The Ohio AgrAbility factsheet series is designed to provide information about farming with a specific disabling condition, prevention of secondary injuries, and agricultural safety. The series is now available online at: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/lines/farm.html#FSAFE>.

Factsheet topics include:

[Extending Universal Design Principles onto the Farmstead, AEX-983.1-10](#)

[Secondary Injury Prevention: Farming with a Pacemaker, AEX-981.8-10](#)

[Secondary Injury Prevention: Safety for Senior Farmers, AEX-981.7-10](#)

[Secondary Injury Prevention: Ergonomics for the Farm, AEX-981.6-10](#)

[Secondary Injury Prevention: Walking and Working Surfaces, AEX-981.3-10](#)

[Secondary Injury Caused by Lifting, AEX-981.1-10](#)

[Secondary Injury Prevention: Caught-in, Caught-between, or Struck by Objects, AEX-981.2-10](#)

[Secondary Injury Prevention: Heat Stress, AEX-981.4-10](#)

[Overexertion Causing Secondary Injury, AEX-981.5-10](#)

More fact sheets in the Ohio AgrAbility series will be coming throughout the year.

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.

## **SPRING CLEAN-UP and SAFETY**

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

Spring cleaning in Ohio is more complicated this year since the winter weather has been severe. Ice storms, tree damage and flooding have given people a lot of clean-up projects to do as warm weather slowly works its way into the state. Take care to clean up debris safely to make sure you do not get hurt before the real work of spring starts. Consider the following suggestions before you head out to tackle the job:

**Take it easy and pace yourself** - It feels great to be outside after a long winter, but don't over do it. Unless you have been active all winter, your body has been pretty sedentary. Get help when you need it, the work goes faster and heavy lifting is less likely to result in injury if you work with a partner.

**Wear good boots.** - Steel-toed boots or shoes are a good idea anytime anything heavy could end up on your feet. Slip resistance is critical if you are working on slippery or uneven surfaces, and don't forget: ankle support!

**Wear safety glasses** - Flying objects may not be an issue, but when you are reaching into trees, cutting limbs and moving branches there are plenty of risks to your eyes. Safety glasses come in plenty of styles and sizes. If you need protection from the sun, shaded safety glasses are also available.

**Wear a hard hat** - A hard hat is a good idea if you are working where there are overhead or side impact hazards. When removing branches from a fallen tree sometimes the tree will twist in unexpected directions. The hard hat should fit snugly—it should stay on when you are bending over.

**Use chainsaws carefully** - If you are using a chain saw during the cleanup, remember all the safety gear that should go with it: face shield, hearing protection, and chaps. Inexperienced chainsaw users should ask an expert for direction before tackling complex jobs, such as felling trees.

**Chip wood safely** - Don't forget your hearing protection or your eye protection while using a chipper shredder. Wear work gloves that are snug. They are less likely to get caught on a piece of wood being pulled into the chipper shredder.

**Collect litter with caution** - Sometimes unmarked containers end up on properties in floodplains or next to creek banks. If you find unidentified garbage on your property, treat it with caution and dispose of it properly. Wear gloves while handling the garbage, unmarked containers may contain flammables or toxic material.

It certainly is nice to be outside after the long winter we have had. Taking some precautions when getting your property cleaned up can help make sure that you are ready for the spring and summer work that lies ahead.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIP of the MONTH – FISHING & BOATING in COLD WATER**

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

Anglers and boaters have begun preparations to enter the water! They've purchased their 2011 fishing license and boat registrations, begun restringing fishing poles, and are prepping their boats for action! The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has all the pertinent information anglers and boaters need. The Pre-Launch Checklist includes the following items:

\* Check boat registration

- \* Check safety equipment
- \* Inspect life jackets
- \* Check flares and fire extinguishers
- \* Check first-aid kit
- \* Check fittings
- \* Check for winter damage
- \* Check fuel system
- \* Check electronic gear
- \* Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafing
- \* Check boat trailer
- \* Check oil
- \* Check sailboat rigging
- \* Check charts and maps

In addition to preparing the boat, attention must be given to the individual. Individuals have a tendency to dress according to air temperature. However, the water temperature actually needs to guide this decision. In fact, in Ohio, the water temperatures are slow to rise and according to ODNR they remain “bone chilling” during March, April, and early May. Therefore, it is important to protect oneself from hypothermia, which is body temperature suddenly dropping below normal due to exposure to cold temperatures such as a river or lake. Protection against hypothermia while fishing and boating includes:

- \* Dress for the water temperature
- \* Dress in layers and avoid cotton and denim
- \* Wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket
- \* Avoid alcohol consumption
- \* Ensure boat is properly loaded and balanced
- \* Anchor boat properly
- \* File a float plan
- \* Carry a cellphone in plastic bag

For more information on watercraft safety, please visit the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft/safetytips/tabid/2883/Default.aspx>.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*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)  
\*\*\*\*\*