

\*\*\*\*\*

**AG SAFETY S.T.A.T. - SAFE TACTICS FOR AG TODAY**

Vol. 6 No. 10 October 2013

\*\*\*\*\*

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR – ***October is Fire Prevention Month***

A SECOND ON SAFETY

OHIO AGRABILITY CONDUCTING COUNTY WORKSHOPS

“U-PICK” SAFETY – ***Safety Tip For Visitors To The Farm***

MACHINERY MAINTENANCE – ***Fire Extinguishers On Farm Equipment***

INJURY PREVENTION– ***Preventing Back Injuries When Lifting***

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - ***Fire Prevention Week – October 6-12***

\*\*\*\*\*

**THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR –**

**Dee Jepsen - State Agricultural Safety and Health Leader**

October has been historically designated as Fire Safety or Fire Prevention month dating back to the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. This deadly blaze destroyed half of the city in two days. This month’s Ag STAT will feature several fire prevention articles to share with your local readers. Fire safety is a topic that we all must stay prepared for – no matter where we are. Fires can strike while in the home, at work, on the farm, or in the great outdoors.

**A SECOND ON SAFETY**

Each day in the U.S., approximately 243 agricultural workers suffer work-related injuries. Five percent of these injuries result in permanent impairment. Slips and falls are the leading cause of injuries on farms. This harvest season make sure you're wearing proper footwear, and keep tractor and combine platforms clean and clear of potential trip hazards.

**OHIO AGRABILITY WANTS TO CONDUCT A WORKSHOP IN YOUR COUNTY!**

In an effort to reduce injuries and help aging farmers remain productive in agriculture, Ohio AgrAbility will be conducting “**I’m not as young as I used to be!**” farming and gardening workshops throughout Ohio. The workshops will feature topics on safety for older farmers, assistive technology used for farms and gardening, and tricks of the trade for aging limitations. At this time, Ohio AgrAbility is looking for location sites to conduct the workshops this winter in each of the nine OSU Extension EERAs. For more details about hosting a workshop contact Kent McGuire, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health, at [mcguire.225@osu.edu](mailto:mcguire.225@osu.edu) or 614-292-0588. For more information about the Ohio AgrAbility Program visit [agrability.osu.edu](http://agrability.osu.edu)

## **“U-PICK” SAFETY – SAFETY TIPS FOR VISITORS TO THE FARM**

**Kathy Mann – Agricultural Safety and Health Program Coordinator**

It is the season for visiting pumpkin patches, hay-rides, corn-mazes, u-pick produce patches, and soon will be the time to go pick out your Christmas tree. These activities bring many visitors to the farm, who have little experience with the hazards that exist on a farm. The safety of these visitors along with employees should be of utmost concern.

### Tips for Owner/ Operators:

If you are the owner or operators of one of these Agritourism locations here are a few reminders:

- Plan hayride and sleigh ride routes so they do not cross public roads or highways.
- Ensure that any tractor pulling a hay wagon weighs more than the gross weight of the heaviest wagon it will tow.
- Tow only one wagon at a time.
- Train workers in first aid and CPR through a local certifying agency.
- Workers should be able to recognize visitors who show signs of weather-related-distress or the onset of a possible medical condition and take appropriate action.
- Invite your local fire department to do a site visit to ensure that your operation provides appropriate access for emergency response vehicles
- Have an emergency response plan with detailed information pertaining to emergency contacts, actions to take during various emergencies such as fires and inclement weather, and location of first aid kits and fire extinguishers.

For more information, visit the following website

<http://www.safeagritourism.com/Home.aspx>

### Tips for Visitors:

If you are going to visit one of these operations please remember to:

- Obey any posted rules for the operation.
- Obey smoking policies, which could include a “No Smoking” policy on the grounds, or designated smoking areas.
- Use hand wash stations when exiting petting zoo areas to prevent the spread of germs.
- Stay seated at all times during hayrides or sleigh rides.
- Stay out of restricted areas such as around machinery, open water and chemicals
- Follow communicated directions in the case of inclement weather.

Agritourism is a fun and exciting way to enjoy farm life and agricultural areas! While these businesses have plans in place to ensure their visitor have an enjoyable, relaxing time visiting, they need your help, as a visitor, to stay safe.

## **MACHINERY MAINTENANCE – Fire Extinguishers on Farm Equipment**

### **Dewey Mann – Safety Research Associate**

Fires on farm equipment are not uncommon on both older and newer machines. Fire extinguishers in a tractor/combine cab can be a nuisance, but when properly secured and located within easy reach of the machine operator, can be an effective tool in smothering small fires.

Fire extinguishers should be checked periodically, at least monthly, to ensure they are properly charged. If using a dry powder extinguisher, the canister should be turned upside down regularly to prevent the powder from becoming packed in the bottom of the extinguisher.

When using trucks in farm fields (i.e. pulling combine header carts, etc.), remember that exhaust pipes can reach 1000°F, and the catalytic converter can reach over 1600°F.

These extreme temperatures can ignite dry vegetation and crop stubble.

If a fire is discovered, call your local fire department FIRST; time spent trying to battle the blaze will mean a delay in response, and could result in the fire becoming much more serious.

Time is usually of the essence during the rush of harvest, and safe practices such as proper refueling can be overlooked in an effort to save time. Safe fueling practices should include:

- Never refuel equipment with the engine running
- Allow hot engines to cool 15 minutes prior to refueling, or refuel early in the day before harvest begins

Preventative maintenance will reduce the likelihood of fires on machinery:

- Keep bearings and other moving parts well lubricated (follow recommendations of operator's manual and increase frequency of lubrication based on operator experience)
- Remove crop residue from areas known to produce heat (around engine, behind guards and around pulleys)
- Use drag chains and monitor build up of static electricity.

Fires can't always be avoided. But farm operators can be prepared when they arise and minimize the property damage by having charged fire extinguishers in tractors, combines, and field trucks.

### **INJURY PREVENTION – Preventing Back Injuries When Lifting**

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

In agriculture, farmers are always carrying objects from one location to another. The objects may range from a bag of seed, equipment parts, buckets of feed to livestock, or to bales of hay. Approximately 25 percent of Ohio work related injuries are from overexertion when lifting. Not only can a back injury initially be devastating to the productivity of the farmer, but can lead to a lifetime of discomfort. Secondary back injuries are common because farmers will continue work tasks, without adequate restrictions, while recovering from the initial injury.

- It is highly important to respect the back by following proper lifting techniques.
- Have a plan before picking up an object. Know the best route to the desired destination while avoiding slipping hazards.
- Determine if one individual can carry the load safely, if the load is too heavy or awkward, get help from someone else or use equipment to carry the load.
- Bend at the knees, keep good posture and lift with your legs, not your back.
- Hug the load keeping it as close to the body as possible.
- Try lightening the load if possible by making multiple trips.
- Lifting from a raised surface and depositing onto a raised surface will limit bending all the way to the ground.
- Avoid tasks that involve bending or twisting the back.

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

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Fire Prevention Week – October 6-12**  
**Kent McGuire – OSU Ag Safety and Health**

It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 6-12 the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) wants to remind residents to '**Prevent Kitchen Fires.**' During this year's fire safety campaign, local fire departments will be spreading the word about the dangers of kitchen fires--most of which result from unattended cooking—and teaching local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place.

According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries. Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*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)

\*\*\*\*\*